

Moving Targets

See the Opinion / Forum pages A6&7



Spring football



See Sports on B1

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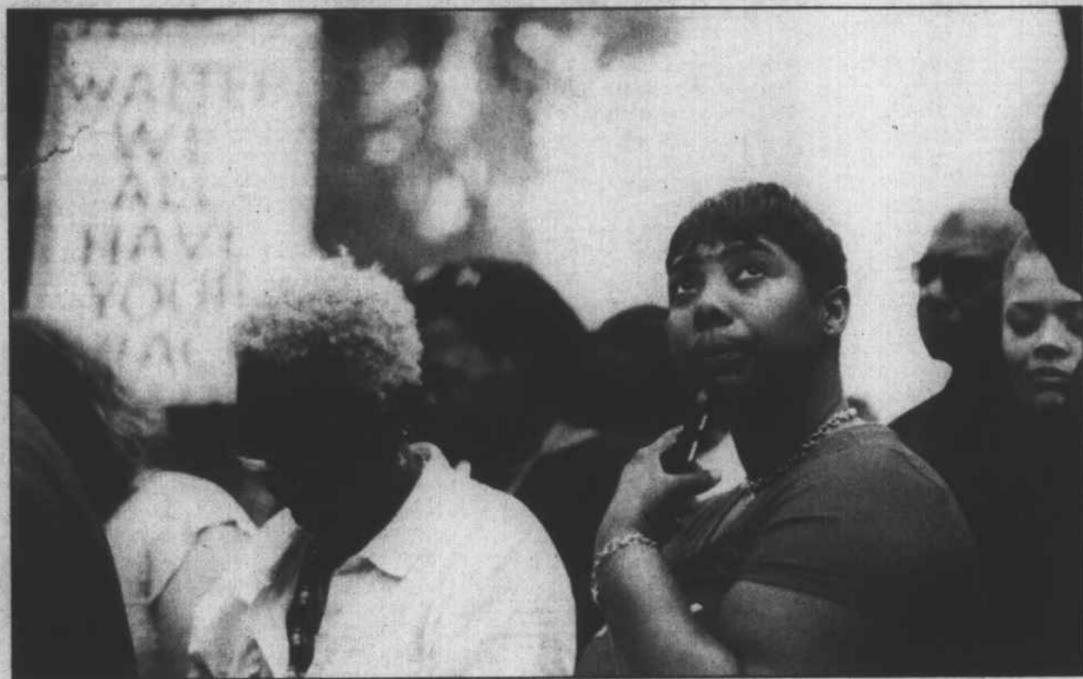
THE CHRONICLE

Volume 41, Number 31

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, April 16, 2015

VIGIL FOR WALTER SCOTT



AP Photo/David Goldman

Angela Caraway, of Raleigh, N.C., looks up during a moment of prayer during a vigil at the scene where Walter Scott was fatally shot by a white police officer after he fled a traffic stop, Sunday, April 12, in North Charleston, S.C. The officer, Michael Thomas Slager, has been fired and charged with murder.

Sharpton praises response to fatal SC police shooting

BY PHILLIP LUCAS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. — Demonstrators in the North Charleston area say they will press local officials for broader civilian oversight of the city's police force after the shooting death of Walter Scott.

The Rev. Al Sharpton called for unity Sunday, April 12, at a vigil on the grassy vacant lot where Scott, 50, was killed. Other speakers invited people to the state Capitol this week for discussions on proposed legislation on body cameras for officers in the state.

Black Lives Matter leaders said in an open letter that they want people to begin recording police officers as part of a project titled #WeAreWatchingYou.

A 73-year-old Oklahoma volunteer sheriff's deputy who authorities said fatally shot a suspect after confusing his stun gun and handgun was booked into the county jail Tuesday.

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During a sermon at a North Charleston church Sunday morning, Sharpton said swift action taken by a white mayor and police chief in the South could set the tone for handling future questions of police misconduct across the country.

"It's not about black and white. It's about right and wrong," Sharpton said. "What this mayor did is what we've been asking mayors to do all over the country: Not do us a favor, just enforce the law."

The tone of the local community's response has been different than other instances of unarmed black men being fatally shot by white police officers, including the violent demonstrations from people in Ferguson, Missouri, after Michael Brown's death.

Sharpton preached at the Charity Missionary Baptist Church and commended Mayor Keith Summey and Police Chief Eddie Driggers — both of whom were in the congregation and at the vigil.

The shooting was captured on video that was taken by a witness. Scott was shot after fleeing a traffic stop by then-officer Michael Slager. The officer initially said Scott was shot after a tussle over his Taser, but the witness video that later surfaced

See SC Shooting on A2

Ellison voted chairman of Forsyth Co. Democrats

BY DONNA ROGERS
THE CHRONICLE

Eric S. Ellison, an attorney in Winston-Salem, has been elected chairman of the Forsyth County Democratic Party. He replaces Susan Campbell.

Ellison, who said he has worked with elections for 22 years, expects to lead the party in preparing citizens for the 2016 North Carolina Voter ID law, especially African-Americans, who will most likely be adversely affected by the law.

He has started working already, three days after being elected chairman on Saturday, April 11.

This week he spoke to The Chronicle outside the county Democratic headquarters, where a phone bank has been set up to contact voters who possibly could be affected by the new law.

"This election cycle is critically important to the African-American community," Ellison said. "The African-American community could potentially be particularly harmed by this voter ID law."

Ellison said his experience working with elections has prepared him for the challenge.

"For me, I stepped up because I thought it was an opportunity to make sure our community is able to address this problem," he said. "I think this is historical."

Ellison mentioned the movie "Selma," which portrayed the efforts of civil rights workers to get the 1965 Voting Rights Act passed in Congress because so many African-Americans had been denied their right to vote. Their efforts were successful.

"Now, 50 years later, we're going back to Selma," he said, because of the North Carolina Voter ID law, which forces people to provide government-issued identification in order to vote.

Ellison has been involved with the Forsyth County Democratic Party since 2002. He has served as party attorney, party third vice chair, chair of Forsyth County Young Democrats, campaign manager for Hartsfield for District Court Judge Campaign, Triad attorney for Obama for America and executive committee member for Valene Franco for Judge Campaign.

Other officers elected at the party's convention on Saturday, April 11 are:

*First Vice Chair, Marilynn Baker, who has extensive experience in marketing and business strategy, and com-



Ellison

See Democrats on A4

School Board member maintains that Hanes and Lowrance schools were safe

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School Board Member Elisabeth Motsinger said that she was concerned about the school system moving Hanes and Lowrance Middle Schools in the middle of the school year for what she amounts to fear-mongering.

"Obviously the safety of our children is the utmost importance to me, but to close the school when we have data that

clearly says the school is safe for students and to spend those kind of resources when we have real needs in our district that are going unmet, doesn't make any sense," she said. "This will end up costing the district millions of dollars. The data absolutely says that the room air was safe and always have been safe."

At the March 24 meeting, the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School Board heard the final report on the vapor-

intrusion testing from Will Service, an environmental toxicologist with Mid-Atlantic Associates. The company collected indoor air samples from 45 locations within the schools, and no contaminants exceeded residential screening levels in any of the locations.

According to WS/FCS

documents, sub-slab soil vapor samples were collected from 31 locations to test for containments that maybe under the building. The chemical PCE was detected at levels exceeding screening levels in 14 samples. Those levels were compared to state targets for health risks, with only one of the 14 exceeding the target.

In February, the

Winston-Salem/ Forsyth County School Board voted to move the students from the school because of a vapor intrusion from chemicals in the soil, although a consultant determined that those vapors were not at significant levels.

The board voted 7-2, with Motsinger and David Singletary dissenting, on Feb. 11 to move Hanes and Lowrance Middle Schools off their current site in response to concerns about safety at the site.

That move took place on March 2.

Hanes Magnet school was moved to two different places.

The sixth-graders were moved to Smith Farm Elementary, while the seventh- and eighth-graders moved to the former Hill Middle School, which hadn't been used since the school merged with Philo Middle in 2012-2013.

Splitting Hanes up is a temporary move, according

See Safe on A10



Motsinger

'Maya Angelou chose to love me,' Tavis Smiley said of his friend

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Author, broadcaster and publisher Tavis Smiley encouraged residents to find their path by walking it themselves as he spoke to more than 100 people Thursday night who packed the auditorium of the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) to talk about his personal journey with the late Dr. Maya Angelou, chronicled in his book "My Journey with Maya."

"I remember when she died. I remember look-

ing out of the hotel window in New York and just wanting everything to just stop," he told the crowd of the woman he thought of as a mother figure. "We are who we are because somebody loved us. I am who I am in part because Maya Angelou chose to love me."

Smiley is the author of 16



Smiley

books, the host of Tavis Smiley on PBS, The Tavis Smiley Show and Smiley & West from Public Radio International, and the daily radio show, Tavis Talks, on the Tavis Smiley Network.

He is the founder of the Tavis Smiley Foundation that focuses on promoting young leaders through workshops and conferences.

The event was designed to celebrate Angelou, who died on May 28, 2014. She

See Tavis on A2

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