

OPINION

THE CHRONICLE

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Celebrating
41
Years
of
Community Journalism

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Our Mission

The Chronicle is dedicated to serving the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by giving voice to the voiceless, speaking truth to power, standing for integrity and encouraging open communication and lively debate throughout the community.

November announcements bring good news for women

In the last few days, announcements about projects concerning women have come from the White House and Wake Forest University and The Women's Fund in Winston-Salem. The announcements show that organizations have pledged more research on women's issues and developed projects concerning women, and that's a good thing.

The Women's Fund is a Winston-Salem Foundation initiative that is funded by membership fees and awards grants to groups and projects aimed at improving the lives of women. At its 10th annual luncheon on Tuesday, Nov. 17, The Women's Fund awarded grants to five organizations that were responsive to the issues and recommendations outlined in its 2010 report "Through a Gender Lens: The Economic Security of Women and Girls in Forsyth County."

In October, the Fund released an updated report titled "A Second Look Through a Gender Lens: The Economic Security of Women and Girls in Forsyth County." The new report showed progress in the graduation rate for girls from 2009 to 2014, and a teen pregnancy rate in Forsyth County that has dropped by more than half. But poverty remains a problem.

The five organizations that received the awards are:

- *El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services, which was awarded \$24,500 for economic empowerment of women in the Latino community.

- *Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County, which was awarded \$15,664 for a home maintenance workshop pilot program for women.

- *Imprints Cares, which was awarded \$29,997 for programs to prevent teenage pregnancy and to support teenage mothers.

- *Old Town Elementary School, which was awarded \$7,550 for "Full STEM Ahead," an after-school STEM club for girls who attend Old Town Elementary.

- *Planned Parenthood South Atlantic, which was awarded \$30,000 to implement the Contraceptive Choice project, which will educate low-income teenagers about contraceptive methods.

President Obama formed the White House Council on Women and Girls on March 11, 2009, when he signed an Executive Order creating it. He said that the purpose of the Council is "to ensure that each of the agencies in which they're charged takes into account the needs of women and girls in the policies they draft, the programs they create, the legislation they support."

On Friday, Nov. 13, Wake Forest University announced that it is among a group of 24 colleges, universities and public interest organizations that collectively announced \$18 million in commitments to support and improve academic research about women and girls of color. The announcement came during a daylong summit on "Advancing Equity for Women and Girls of Color," co-hosted by the Council and the Anna Julia Cooper Center at Wake Forest University.

Wake Forest's commitment includes more than \$1.4 million in ongoing support for the Anna Julia Cooper Center's research focused on intersectional scholarship, established scholars and junior scholars whose work focuses on women and girls of color, and post-doctoral fellowships for scholars researching related questions related to gender, race and place.

Wake Forest University Provost Rogan Kersh said: "Women of color will constitute more than half of all women in the United States by 2050, but they are infrequently the central subjects of scholarly inquiry."

The White House Council on Women and Girls project involving the academic institutions will help rectify that.

These announcements propel women to the forefront of work by organizations and academic research in an effort to improve the quality of life for women in Forsyth County and the nation. When the quality of life for women improves, the life of the family improves, especially in single-parent homes.

The focus on women in October brought disease and violence to the forefront. We applaud these recent announcements, which bring hope to women in November.

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THAT'S NO UFO. THAT'S THE TALK ABOUT RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE FOR W-S CITY WORKERS.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Group applauds Barber for receiving prize for creative citizenship

To the Editor:

[On December 8, 2015, Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, president of the North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP, will receive the annual Puffin Nation Prize for Creative Citizenship. The prize is awarded annually "to an individual who has challenged the status quo through distinctive, courageous, imaginative and socially responsible work of significance," to support their continued work and inspire others.]

Rev. Barber is a tireless champion for civil rights and racial justice in North Carolina, the South and across our nation. He has committed his life to the pursuit of equality for all people, and has a visionary outlook on social justice advocacy. In North Carolina, Rev. Barber has united a movement to raise a moral critique on state and federal policy makers who stand in the way of progress. This vision of change has taken storm across the nation. The Puffin/Nation Prize is an incredible testament to Rev. Barber's work building inclusive coalitions in the name of justice and the work of the Moral Movement. All of us at Advancement Project are proud to share our congratulations as he celebrates this achievement.

Rev. Barber bridges generations of civil rights advocates through his focus on fusion politics and multi-tactic organizing. He has marched, he has testified, and he has united people across all backgrounds and faiths, races and ages, who believe in a better vision of our world — one with greater equality for all.

Penda D. Hair
Advancement Project Co-Director
Washington, D.C.

Advancement Project is a multi-racial civil rights organization.

Founded by a team of veteran civil rights lawyers in 1999, Advancement Project was created to develop and inspire community-based solutions based on the same high quality legal analysis and public education campaigns that produced the landmark civil rights victories of earlier eras.

Congratulations, 'chief,' on service award from QEA

To the Editor:

Congratulations Chief [Chronicle Publisher and Owner Ernie Pitt]!

What a well-deserved award from Quality Education Academy. You have continued to serve this community with pride and dignity. I am proud to be able to call you friend.

The Chronicle has been a voice for the voiceless for more than forty years. It has brought the community together so many times, but if there was ever a need for a counter-discourse, The Chronicle provided the people a chance to challenge the status quo. Community involvement is the life-blood of this newspaper. Each week, it gives us an opportunity to sit on one another's front porches.

Peace and blessings,
Felecia Piggott-Long

Set example by joining the Emancipation Association

To the Editor:

The W-S/FC Emancipation Association is to be commended for its efforts to accomplish its goals and objectives. Over the years it has

been accomplishing much with very little financial resources.

It is past the time that citizens in the community step up and do a better job of supporting this organization.

One would think that churches, various organizations, businesses, leaders and all who claim to love and support education, equality, freedom, justice and unity would voluntarily add their names to the list of members and contributors of/to this noble organization.

For me, it has been somewhat disappointing to see so many names of individuals who are active in groups listed above (and others) absent from the membership role and list of contributors to the Emancipation Association.

Adults, what signals are we giving to the young folk? Let's do a better job of being role models, by walking the talk! Dec. 1, 2015 is the deadline for membership dues \$10. per person) and \$25 or above to be listed as a contributor. Names will be listed/published in the next newsletter!

Write check to: W-S/FC E.A. and send to Mrs. Larn Dillard, 2246 East Firstst St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101. Thanks for your generous support!

Rudolph V. Boone Sr.
Immediate Past President
W-S/FC Emancipation Association

Mayor Joines deserves support for his leadership

To the Editor:

My support for Mayor Allen Joines goes without question. I'm thankful that Winston-Salem has been successful in reducing the number of homeless people under Mayor Joines' leadership. Mayor Joines shows support of the less fortunate in this city and supports pay increases for our teachers. When our citizens call him with concerns about things happening in their community, he responds without reservation.

Winston-Salem is thankful to have a Mayor such as Allen Joines.
Beaufort Bailey

We Welcome Your Feedback

Submit letters and guest columns to letters@wschronicle.com before 5 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication date.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and include your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep letters to 350 words or less.

If you are writing a guest column, please include a photo of yourself, your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep guest columns to 550 words or less. Letters and columns can also be mailed or dropped off at W-S Chronicle, 617 N. Liberty St., W-S, NC, 27101; or sent via our website, www.wschronicle.com.

We reserve the right to edit any item submitted for clarity or brevity and determine when and whether material will be used.

We welcome your comments at our website.

Also, go to our Facebook page to comment. We are at [facebook.com/WSChronicle](https://www.facebook.com/WSChronicle).

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