

SB Bound



Sweet revenge



WSSU BASKETBALL

Women's Basketball

FEB 20 7:00pm
Play for Key - Bristol College Game

FEB 20 7:00pm
Chapel Hill - Southern Poly

Men's Basketball

FEB 19 7:00pm
Wake Forest - Wake Forest

FEB 20 7:00pm
Chapel Hill - Southern Poly

• See Opinion/Forum pages on A6&7 • • See Sports on page B1 •

THE CHRONICLE

Volume 43, Number 22 — WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — THURSDAY, February 4, 2016

Change concerns SNAP backers

BY JONATHAN DREW
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Advocates for the poor are concerned about rule changes threatening food stamp benefits for 110,000 people in North Carolina if they don't meet work requirements.

The change in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program affects able-bodied people ages 18 through 49 with no dependents. It requires them to work, volunteer or attend education or job-training at least 80 hours

a month to receive food aid. If they don't, their benefits are cut off after three months.

"What's problematic about this policy is that it's not a test of one's willingness to work," said Tazra Mitchell, a policy analyst at the left-leaning nonprofit North Carolina Budget and Tax Center. "It applies regardless. No matter how hard they're looking for a job, if they don't find one in three months, their food aid is gone."

The requirements date back to a 1996 federal welfare reform law, but they were

waived for nearly every state during the recession that began in 2008. North Carolina is among 21 states where the waiver ends this year.

Across the country, an Associated Press analysis shows nearly 1.1 million adults stand to lose their benefits this year if they do not find a way to meet work requirements. The number affected in North Carolina is among the largest, following Florida's 300,000 and Tennessee's 150,000.

The waiver expired in January in 23 North Carolina counties, while the rest will

lose the waiver by July 1.

In Forsyth County, Margaret Elliott, executive director of Crisis Control Ministry, said, "Crisis Control will be prepared to assist those individuals who face a cutback in food stamps, but we realize that a food pantry is not the long-term solution to this problem." Crisis Control's food pantry served 7,098 people in 2015, and about 60% of these clients receive food stamps.

North Carolina's unemployment rate

See Change on A9



Dr. Robert Brown receives ceremonial head wear from King Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi.

Triad leader installed a chief of Nigerian kingdom

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
FOR THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO — Helping others has been instilled in Dr. Robert "Bob" Brown since he was child. His grandmother, who raised him, taught him to help any and everyone whenever he could.

That helped lead him to become royalty on Friday, Jan. 29, when he was installed a chief of the Ikorodu kingdom.

Brown has helped many individuals from the country of Nigeria come to the United States to further their education as well as many philanthropic works throughout the country.

One of those individuals whom Brown has helped is Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi, the King of the Nigerian city of Ikorodu. As a way to show Brown his gratitude in all he has done, Shotobi and the citizens of



Dr. Robert Brown sits as he is celebrated at his Coronation Ceremony on Friday, Jan. 29. Ikorodu came to Greensboro to install Brown as a Chief of the Ikorodu kingdom.

The ceremony was filled with individuals from the nation of Nigeria, as well as native Nigerians who have made the United States their home.

The national anthems of both the United States and Nigeria were played to start the evening off, followed by a brief introduction of the ceremony's distinguished guests. A routine by the dance troop "Spirit of David" from Bennett College set the tone of joy and celebration for the night's event. Dr. Brown accompanied by his wife then entered the room to a standing ovation and roaring cheer from the audience in attendance.

A history of Dr. Brown's career was given and many of the charitable deeds he has performed over the years were chronicled. Shotobi then took the microphone and gave a

See Chief on A10

Judge now pondering Voter ID case

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

A federal judge is now weighting the evidence and arguments in the N.C. NAACP vs. McCrory trial that began last July.

The main argument of the plaintiffs against a new photo ID requirement that will go into effect for the first time this year was delayed after the General Assembly altered the law to allow for exemptions for voters who have a reasonable impediment to getting a photo ID.

Although they acknowledge the change, attorneys representing the NAACP and the U.S. Justice Department argue that a photo ID requirement places discriminatory burdens on minority voters. During closing arguments on Monday, Penda Hair said over the 18-hour time period they were allowed to argue their case, they presented more than enough evidence that proves the photo ID requirement would make it hard for minorities to vote.

As she stood before U.S. District Judge Thomas Schroeder, Hart mentioned blacks and Hispanic voters have to overcome a number of obstacles to obtain a photo ID, such as transportation, and financial issues.

She also discussed how the statute differs from similar laws in South Carolina and Georgia. The N.C. law only allows voters to use IDs issued from the N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles, while other states allow citizens to use any photo ID issued in the United States including work or school identification cards.

"The Department of Motor Vehicles is a dysfunctional organization," she said. "We all have had our issues with the DMV. They placed hurdles in front of people to make it hard to obtain photo IDs, even ones that are free."

Attorney representing the state, Thomas Farr, said because the law hasn't been implemented yet, there is no proof that it will have a negative impact on minority voters. Farr also said the plaintiffs didn't have any evidence to back their claim.

"The plaintiffs' argument makes for some good sound bites, but that's pretty much it," he continued. "I have not heard one shred of evidence that proves the photo ID requirement would keep blacks and Hispanics from voting."

Farr also argued that only a small percent of black and Hispanic voters don't have a state issued photo ID. During



Rev. Barber

See ID on A2

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