

Stepping on Democracy



Pharaohs fall in finals



FOOTBALL SPRING TOURS & GAME

There will be prizes, giveaways and games. Bring 2 canned goods for entry and in support of the Second Harvest Food Bank and WSSU Student Food Pantry.

• See Opinion/Forum pages on A6&7 •

• See Sports on page B1 •

THE CHRONICLE

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, March 31, 2016

Ready for the challenge



Candidate Lynne Johnson

Bolstered by landslide victory, candidate prepares for the November General Election

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Even Register of Deeds Candidate Lynne Johnson said she was surprised by the results of her primary race.

"To be honest, I was hoping for a close race," she said. "I was just

blown away by the margin, I really was."

Far from a close victory, she garnered 69.81 percent of the vote.

CAMPAIGN 2016

Her opponent in the Democratic primary, current Register of Deeds Norman Holleman, got only 30.19 percent. She attributes her victory to her many supporters.

"I am thankful that I had so many people who supported me, and I

believe they wanted a change and were ready for a change," she said.

Johnson, 55, grew up in Wilson, N.C. She came to Winston-Salem to attend college at Winston-Salem State University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1982. She had a friend working at the Register of Deeds who asked if she was interested in working there. She accepted and started in 1986 in an entry level deputy register of deeds position in the real estate intake division. She said she initially took the job for its good pay and benefits, but also found that she enjoyed the work.

See Ready on A2



Photo by Todd Luck

HB 2 opposition crowds City Council

Attendees at Monday's City Council meeting hold up signs showing their opposition to House Bill 2 and Gov. Pat McCrory, who signed it into law. **SEE THE STORY ON PAGE A8.**

City Council considers Southeast Plaza funding, Business 40 path

Also explores possibility of a new Woughtown Street library

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

During the the Monday, March 28 City Council meeting, many matters were discussed.

The City Council voted unanimously to make a change to the funding for forgivable loans received by Southeast Plaza for renovations. Part of the loans used for the project more than six years ago were federal Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) funds, which the city discovered would require paying prevailing wages retroactively to all laborers on the project. This would be difficult to do since several contractors on the project are no longer in business. The UDAG funds have now been

substituted with Revitalizing Urban Commercial Area (RUCOA) funds and Economic Development Project funds.

Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke said she was impressed by what she'd seen at the plaza, which is on Woughtown Street and home to stores like Compare Foods.

"The developer should be complimented because most of the spaces were occupied," she said.

In October 2010, Southeast Plaza was among five project areas the City Council approved RUCOA funding to rehabilitate. The plaza received a \$200,000 low-interest RUCOA loan, two forgivable RUCOA loans totaling \$1,209,000 and a UDAG loan for \$250,000.

Private investment in the project totaled \$7.2 million, when Southeast Plaza Investor, LLC (SEPI) asked for additional funds from the city. Plaza owner Jose Isasi's request for funds to do additional rehabilitation was controversial, as he promised that SEPI would invest another

See Funding on A2

Forsyth County Commissioners honor Parmon

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Forsyth County Commissioners honored the late Earline Parmon with a resolution during its Monday meeting.

Parmon, who passed away March 15, was a local activist and politician. The resolution listed her long history, including serving 12 years as Forsyth County commissioner beginning in 1990, being elected to represent District 72 in the N.C. House of Representatives in 2002, and becoming the first black senator from Forsyth County when she was elected to the N.C. Senate in 2012. She left the Senate in 2015 to work as outreach director for U.S. Rep. Alma Adams.

"Her legacy had been her efforts to help the voiceless," the resolution read.



Photo by Todd Luck

County Commissioners Everett Witherspoon and Walter Marshall hold the resolution honoring Earline Parmon.

A copy of the resolution was presented to County Commissioners Everett Witherspoon and Walter Marshall. The original resolution will go to the Parmon family.

Marshall said his friendship with Parmon went back long before they served together as county commissioners. He first met her in the 1970s and started working with her to register voters in 1982. He said she was a great county commissioner who he worked closely with, supporting things like the Downtown Health Plaza.

"We had an agenda for East Winston," he said.

Marshall said many of the voting rights the state gained and are now being fought over in court, like same day registration, were things Parmon fought for in the General Assembly.

Witherspoon is Parmon's godson and described her as a modern day freedom fighter.

"She had a passion for fighting poverty, health out-

See Parmon on A2

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