

# Sour grapes?



# CIAA Champs!



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# THE CHRONICLE

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EXCLUSIVE

## Morgan proud of High Court win

BY CASH MICHAELS FOR THE CHRONICLE

If there was one undisputed Democratic winner from North Carolina's Nov. 8 general election, it was Wake Superior Court Judge Mike Morgan, who unseated Republican Associate N.C. Supreme Court Justice Robert Edmunds, 54 percent to 45.6 percent.

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"I feel tremendously wonderful about it," the new justice-elect, 60, said Sunday morning during an exclusive phone interview with *The Chronicle*. "The voters of North Carolina have given me a resounding victory and are allowing me to serve the state at the highest level of the North Carolina Supreme Court. So I'm very pleased, very proud and very humbled at this opportunity."

Compared to many other marquee race results on the ballot election night,



Associate Justice-elect Mike Morgan

"resounding" is certainly an appropriate description of Justice-elect Morgan's victory.

According to final unofficial numbers in the Morgan-Edmunds race, the Democrat won with 2,134,015 votes statewide, bolstered by 1,383,585 One Stop early votes between Oct. 20-27, and 676,836 ballots on Election Day, as well as a number of mail-in absentee ballots and provisional votes.

Justice Edmunds was over 300,000 votes short across all categories.

Some observers have been particularly curious about how, and why Morgan was able to do so well against Edmunds, while every Democratic appellate court candidate, even the incumbents, fell to a Republican opponent.

Unlike the Court of Appeals races, the N.C. Supreme Court race was not partisan labeled on the ballot, so neither Judge Morgan or Justice Edmunds were identified with their respective parties under their names. Some observers believe this

See High Win on A6



City native Sharon Starling looks at the selection of locally grown fresh fruit at the Village Produce & Country Store on Saturday, Nov. 12.

Photos by Tevin Stinson

## New store brings fresh food to Ogburn Station community

BY TEVIN STINSON THE CHRONICLE

Paula McCoy and her husband, Jerry Anderson, are looking to put an end to the fresh food drought in the inner city. Last Saturday, the power couple held a grand opening event for the Village Produce & Country Store in the Ogburn Station neighborhood, at 4219 N. Liberty St.

"We knew this area was considered a food desert, so we wanted to do something to change that," said McCoy. "We felt like this was exactly what this community needed."

A program that included a litany prayer and blessing was held with a ribbon cutting as part of the grand opening.

"Food desert" is a term commonly used to describe communities with little or no access to healthy food, including fresh fruits and vegetables. In Forsyth County, more than 20,000 people earn less than the low-income threshold and live more than a mile from a supermarket.

Statistics show that without access to a supermarket, people tend to shop at convenience stores and eat less

See Fresh on A10

## Scores say goodbye to ex-columnist Mildred Peppers

For 17 years, she wrote Sunday school lesson for *The Chronicle*

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY THE CHRONICLE

The beloved Mildred S. Peppers passed away last Monday, Nov. 7 as she lost her latest battle with cancer. Peppers wrote the Sunday School Lesson for *The Chronicle* for 17 years. She retired from her position in Oct. 2015 to the chagrin of many readers.

Peppers graduated from Winston-Salem State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in history. While there, she pledged Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, where she affectionately became known as "Skinner." Peppers later met Ronnie "Pepp" Pepper and their love story soon began.

The couple's union produced "The Girls," Frances Valencia, Blanche Yvonne and Joneice Conchetta.

"She not only is a role model for my sisters and I but she is a role model to her church and her community," Joneice stated to *The Chronicle* when speaking of her mother.

Peppers dedicated her life to educating youth by serv-

See Peppers on A2



Peppers

## Passengers scrutinize new bus routes in meetings

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Transit Authority held its first meetings last week to answer passenger questions on the new bus routes that go into effect on Jan. 2, 2017.

WSTA is in the midst of the biggest overhaul of bus routes in its history, with 30 newly drawn routes and more than a 1,000 bus stops. The new



WINSTON-SALEM TRANSIT AUTHORITY

system does not require passengers to ride to the Clark Campbell Transportation Center to transfer, which most of the current routes now require. Night routes have been doubled and the overall

amount of routes has also been increased. Transfers are still free, and bus fare is still only a dollar.

The first meeting was held at Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center on Thursday, Nov. 11. WSTA's Tina Carson-Wilkins presented a quick overview of the new routes. She also went over the green signs that will be at the new bus

See Routes on A2

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