

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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THE CHRONICLE

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Marshall: Minorities need fairness

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

As Forsyth County moved forward on its first allocation of voter-approved bond funds, Commissioner Walter Marshall said he wants minority contractors to get their share of the work.

Marshall made his remarks as the commissioners approved measures to implement the first \$107.5 million from the bond referendums approved by voters in November.

He said that minority subcontractor participation in



Marshall

past bonds has been low and he wants to see that change.

"This time around, I'm going to make sure if they don't get it, it's because they don't qualify," Marshall said about minority contractors.

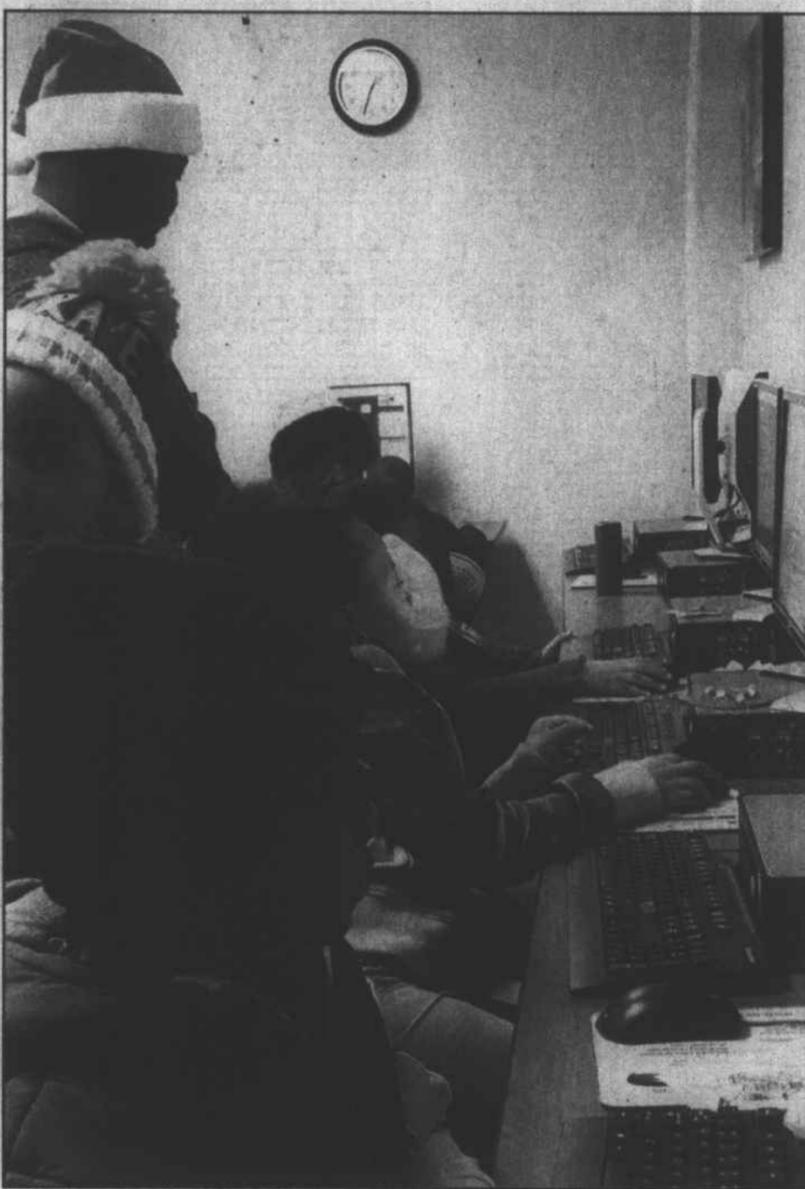
The county follows state goals on the amount of minority and women business enterprise (MWBE) participation that a bidder must have among its subcon-

tractors. The highest bidder that doesn't meet these goals is often excepted if it meets the standards for "good faith efforts" to recruit minorities.

Commissioner Everette Witherspoon felt the county's standards were low compared to the city and other local governments.

Both commissioners were pleased with the minority participation in the extensive renovation of the Central Library by Frank L. Blum Construction Co., which Marshall said he worked with to make sure minority con-

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Photos provided by the Winston-Salem Urban League Young Professionals

'Twas the fun before Christmas

Parents and children were invited to the Winston-Salem Urban League Young Professionals' Toy Giveaway, held at the Winston-Salem Urban League, 201 W. Fifth Street, Winston-Salem, on Dec. 17. Families eligible to participate pre-registered and were involved in other of the Urban League's programs throughout the year. Above, children who came to The Toy Giveaway were able to play computer games. SEE STORY ON PAGE A5.

N.C. NAACP threatens suit

BY CASH MICHAELS
FOR THE CHRONICLE

The N.C. NAACP says that it is "planning to sue" the Republican-led NC General Assembly once again, alleging that it committed "violations of the [1965] Voting Rights Act [and] the Equal Protection Clause" when it stripped incoming Democrat Gov. Roy Cooper of various appointment powers during what it believes was an "illegal" extra special session of the state legislature last week.

Democrat Gov-elect Cooper has also vowed to go to court if needed.

"[These] Republican extremists have a special kind of low, and a thirst for power to lie the way they do," the Rev. Dr. William Barber II, president of the N.C. NAACP, charged on MSNBC Saturday. He maintained that the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, in a recent ruling, found that the 2016 N.C. legislature was "unconstitutional" because its 2011 legislative maps were racially gerrymandered. The federal appellate court ordered that when the N.C. General Assembly officially went back into session in January, that it redraw the 2011 maps that, thus far, have been used for the 2012, 2014 and the recent 2016 general elections, by March 2017.

Once approved by the federal court, then special primaries are to be held in either late August or early September 2017, followed by special elections for

state lawmakers in November 2017.

This also means that lawmakers will also have to run for re-election the following year, in 2018.

The only reason why the U.S. Fourth Circuit did not order the 2011 maps to be redrawn prior to the 2016 elections is because there wasn't enough time.

Rev. Barber and others maintain that despite the special session originally called by Gov. Pat McCrory to deal with disaster relief in the wake of devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew, and the forest fires in western North Carolina, it was not lawful for Republican legislative leaders to authorize an unannounced extra special session for the purpose of removing key appointment powers from Democrat Gov-elect Roy Cooper (House Bill 17); rerouting appeals cases to the full 15-member state appellate court (which is now majority Republican) instead of the now Democrat-majority state Supreme Court.

"[Republicans removed] the right to appeal directly to the State Supreme Court, requiring every case to be heard 'en banc' that is, by the full court, in the Court of Appeals first, seats now held by a majority of Republicans," said attorney Anita Earls, executive director of the Southern Coalition for Social Justice.

The legislature also created an eight-member state Board of Elections, and removed several key powers from the state Board of Education, transferring them to the new Republican superintendent of Public Instruction. That Republican is Mark Johnson, who was on the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools Board of Education when he was elected in November.

Civil rights activists were outraged. "These are desperate losers, power mad white men, going beyond anything the Democrats ever did, willing to destroy

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Part of Maple Street renamed for Earline Parmon



BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The late Earline Parmon, a local lawmaker and community organizer, now officially has a road bearing her name.

A ceremony was held on Thursday, Dec. 15, to rename Maple Street between 16th and 17th streets Earline Parmon Drive. After leaving the

General Assembly in 2015, Parmon worked as outreach director for Rep. Alma Adams. The congresswoman was among the speakers who paid tribute to Parmon.

Adams said Parmon wasn't just an employee, but also a friend and prayer partner. She said Parmon was greatly devoted to her faith, her family and the community she served.

"When she was for you, she was for you, she stood with you all the way," said Adams, who also served with Parmon in the General Assembly.

City officials and Parmon's family attended the ceremony. Parmon's daughter Tracy Parmon Ingram said her mother made her mark on history.

"Even though my heart

is at this point still grieving, we, as her family, thank her for her legacy," she said. "She left something great for us to follow."

Mayor Allen Joines called Parmon a "great conscious for us." City Council Member D.D. Adams described her as a "giant of a woman" who had a great influence on

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