

Close to the  
**Edge?**



**Rivalry**

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# THE CHRONICLE

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## Urban League: Black W-S lags

**A 25-page report measures how black residents are doing compared with white residents**

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

Each year since 1976, the National Urban League has released a report known as the "State of the Black America" to spark conversations and promote equality in economics, employment, education, health, housing, criminal justice and other

areas of concern. Since the first report was released 41 years ago, the "State of Black America" has provided hard evidence, including complete data sets, and expert analysis statistics on how blacks compare with whites in America. While it's always good to know where black Americans stand on the national level, last month James Perry, executive director of the Winston-Salem Urban League (WSUL), ignited the local conversation when he released his collection of data, "The State of Black Winston-Salem."

The 25-page report has been in the works since 2015, and measures how black residents are doing compared with

white residents in areas of health and wellness, social justice and civil rights, education equity and economic and asset equality.

During an exclusive interview with The Chronicle last week, Perry discussed the report and what it means. The Chronicle also reached out to other leaders in the community to discuss the data.

Perry said the data in the report is guided by the Urban League's mission to uplift disadvantaged communities and improve their opportunities. Data sets in the report were compiled from several different places, including the National Urban League, U.S. Census Bureau, City of Winston-Salem, Project Impact and the

Winston-Salem Police Department.

### Health & Wellness

The data set on health focuses on several categories: uninsured rates, death rates due to disease and food insecurity. The reports also show statistics on the



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Photo by Todd Luck

Vendor Courtney Mack chats with Ravonda Dalton-Rann, who runs the Liberty Street Market, at the market's reopening on Saturday.

## Caucus: Senate gutted funding

BY CASH MICHAELS  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

In the aftermath of reports that the Republican-led General Assembly did not appropriate \$200,000 proposed by Gov. Roy Cooper for the long planned Freedom Monument project to honor black contributions to North Carolina history, comes word that the state Senate actually cut funding to the N.C. African American Heritage Commission, a part of the N.C. Dept. of Resources, in effect attempting to cripple the commission going forward.

Speaking on behalf of the N.C. Legislative Black Caucus about the General Assembly's failure to fund the Freedom Monument, planning for which began under Republican Gov. Pat McCrory at least as far back as 2015, Sen. Angela Bryant (D-Halifax), in addressing the current status of the project, revealed what Senate Republicans initially did.

"While funding for the monument was a priority for the Legislative Black Caucus, we were not successful in securing funding this cycle — instead we were relegated to fighting to continue the staffing for the African American Heritage Commission, which was cut in the Senate Budget, and restored in the House Budget, and the final conference report," she said.

Bryant later says there



Sherry Leach-Speas with granddaughter Kariah Leach at their table at the Liberty Street Market on Saturday.

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## 'It's a beautiful thing'

**Liberty Market reopens with urban farmers**

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

The Liberty Street Market reopened with a variety of urban farmers from the community on Saturday, July 8.

The market consists of two shelters the city built on a lot it owns at 1591 N. Liberty St. The market originally opened in October 2014 with a variety of farmers and other vendors, but closed the following year after low vendor and customer turnout. Since then, the city has rented it for various events to local churches and organizations like the Second Harvest Food Bank. Saturday marked the return to a regularly scheduled vendors market as eight local farmers sold produce.

It's under new management as the city has contracted with Ravonda Dalton-Rann's R and Company, LLC, which is being paid \$1,800 a month to manage the market for a six-month trial period. All revenue from vendor and rental fees go to the city.

Dalton-Rann said she's grateful to the city and Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke, who is over the Northeast Ward, where the market resides, for the opportunity to revitalize it.

"I think the future is going to be outstanding," said Dalton-Rann.

The new market opened with a variety of locally grown produce from the community, including corn, squash, peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers and collards. Residents of the nearby Cleveland Avenue area plan to have a regular table there to sale produce from a nearby community garden they maintain. Among them was 90-year-old Mattie Young, the longtime president of

## First Freedom School comes to Winston-Salem

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

Students from elementary schools across the county are getting a taste of the college life this summer thanks to Wake Forest University (WFU) Anna Julia Cooper Center, several local organizations and a partnership with the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools.

CDF Freedom Schools is a summer program that seeks to build strong, literate, and empowered children prepared to make a difference in themselves, their families and communities. Freedom Schools plays a major role in helping students curb summer learning and close achievement gaps. While CDF Freedom Schools have been helping students in need since 1995, this year is the first time the program has been offered locally.

Danielle Parker-Moore, director of the Freedom School at Wake Forest, said along with helping students improve their reading skills, the program also helps build confidence.

Freedom School began on Monday, June 26, and will end on Friday, Aug. 4. The program serves students in grades three through five. The program model curriculum supports children and

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