

I have a...



Win for Glenn

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THE CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, January 11, 2018

NAACP chief promotes black businesses

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

During its first meeting of the new year, the Winston-Salem Black Chamber of Commerce invited the leaders of two of the most influential organizations in the city to discuss their organization's vision and strategic plan for economic development in the black community.

Alvin Carlisle, president of the local NAACP chapter, said when he took over leadership early last year, one of the things that was vital for him was to help advance black businesses in the area. He said, "I'm unapologetically passionate about advancing the plight of colored people.

"One of my missions as president was to be involved in the advancement of black businesses. I

think the game-changer for black communities is when we have black businesses engaged," Carlisle continued. "Around the time of Reconstruction, we had to do business with each other because that's all we had. Unfortunately we've lost that passion and our economic base."

As he continued to discuss the importance of black-owned businesses in the area, Carlisle said we must treat minority-owned businesses like newborn babies. He said just like a newborn, small businesses take time to develop and it is important that we give business owners that time.

"I believe that it is important that black people become compassionate about becoming that family member that takes care of our businesses until they grow," Carlisle said. Since taking the reigns



Photo by Tevin Stinson

Last week the Winston-Salem Black Chamber of Commerce invited Pastor Alvin Carlisle and James Perry to discuss their organizations and economic development in the African-American community.

of the local chapter, executive board have hosted several "Small Business Days" at the chapter headquarters on Oak Ridge

Drive. These events, which are free to all who participate, are designed to promote business owners who don't have a physical space to sell and promote their products or services. The week before Christmas, more than a dozen minority owned businesses participated in a holiday version of the Small Business Day event.

Carlisle also announced he is in conversations with The Chronicle to feature a Black Business of the Month. Carlisle said although conversations are still in the early stages, he hopes to start highlighting black-owned businesses in the area very soon.

Before discussing some of the initiatives his organization has to support the local economy, James Perry, CEO and president

See Business on A8

Public Arts Commission brings diverse art to the city

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

An artistic tribute to Larry Leon Hamlin, a water tank mural and a citywide portrait initiative are projects currently being commissioned by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Public Art Commission.

The 10-member Public Arts Commission was appointed in 2016 by the Winston-Salem City Council and the Forsyth County commissioners to facilitate local public art. The Commission's first two projects went up last year. One was the 11-foot tall steel book sculpture by Alabama artist Deedee Morrison that now stands in front of the Central Library on Fifth Street. Just down the street at the Benton Convention Center, the Commission's other project can be seen as the works of 11 artists are on permanent display there. The variety of work includes Dennis Well's 13-foot tall portrait of the late Poet Maya Angelou made out of her own quotes, ceramic sculpture by Randleman potter Joseph Sands, photographs by Owens Daniels of Winston-Salem and large abstract paintings by Charlotte artist Nico Amortegui.

"The whole point of public art is to bring not only awareness to the arts but to also give artists a voice and a vision," said Commission member Endia Beal, who is an artist and director of Diggs Gallery at Winston-Salem

See Art on A8



Photos by Todd Luck

(Above) This large painting by Charlotte artist Nico Amortegui can be seen through the windows at the front of The Benton.



(Left) This metal sculpture by Deedee Morrison greets visitors to the Central Library.

N.C. LEGISLATURE

N.C. NAACP leery of GOP special session

BY CASH MICHAELS
FOR THE CHRONICLE

On Wednesday, Jan. 10, supporters of the N.C. NAACP came from all across the state to rally at the N.C. General Assembly to protest why they believe the state legislature is back in session weeks before they're officially scheduled to come back.

"The independent judiciary is under attack in North Carolina," says Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, president



Spearman



Berger

of the N.C. NAACP, "... and the people understand that this attack is a threat to our democracy."

Thus, the reason for "Fair Courts Day of Action."

A coalition of social justice groups, led by the N.C. NAACP, Democracy North Carolina and Progress NC, reacted to bills either passed or introduced by the Republican-led legislature in 2017 that gerrymanders the state's judicial districts, targeting black judges by packing them so they would compete against each other (passed), or would cut judicial terms from the state Supreme Court to Superior Court from eight years and four years, down to just two years (proposed), or even institute a merit selection system where state lawmakers appoint the judges they want to the bench (also proposed).

See GOP on A8

Night, weekend service added to some bus routes

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA) has added night and weekend service to many bus routes for 2018.

WSTA and Winston-Salem City Council members held a press conference last week to highlight the route changes, which went into effect Jan. 2. The changes are in response to rider feedback to



WINSTON-SALEM TRANSIT AUTHORITY

last year's total route overhaul, which was designed to make them more efficient. The new

routes were adjusted last year for some communities that lost service in the overhaul. With these new changes, 11 routes are gaining either night service, weekend service or both.

"The public wanted more service, specifically night service and Saturday and Sunday service," said WSTA General Manager Art Barnes. "And the City Council was so gracious, after looking at all this information, to underwrite this service."

See Bus routes on A4

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