

Pressure



Spring league

• See Opinion/Forum pages on A6&7

• See Sports on page B1

THE CHRONICLE

Volume 44, Number 39

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, May 31, 2018

Tonia Walker leaving WSSU

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) Chancellor Elwood L. Robinson announced Tuesday that Tonia Walker has resigned as director of athletics. Her resignation is effective today, May 31.

Walker has served as the director of athletics since April 30, 2014, and has been part of the WSSU athletics program since 2000.

"While this is a bittersweet moment for me, I have to do what is best for my personal and professional lives," Walker said. "I am confident that the transition of onboarding coaches and the direction of the strategic plan will move Ram Athletics to its next era. Now is the perfect time for me to move forward. Though I am departing, I will hold a special place in my heart for the students and friends I have met here. It is my sincere hope that WSSU continues to build upon the legacy I have started."

As athletic director, Walker has guided the Rams to six NCAA Division II tournament appearances, 15 CIAA



Tonia Walker speaks at the press conference on May 21 at which she announces the new WSSU head basketball coach.

Championship titles, nine CIAA Divisional titles, and eight CIAA Coach of the Year honors. In 2015-16, she was named the CIAA Athletic Director of the Year and the National Association for

Collegiate Athletics Administrators 2016 Administrator of the Year. She was also responsible for launching the She's Got It Covered: Bond. Score. Win.; and the Winston-Salem Classic. Her commitment

to academic excellence has resulted in the highest departmental cumulative grade point average over the past two decades.

Additionally, student-athletes amass more than 3,000 hours of community service each year.

"When I came to WSSU in 2015, I was both excited and proud to serve at an institution with a female athletic director," Robinson said. "Currently, WSSU is one of just two schools within the CIAA with a woman at the helm of its athletics program. I wish Tonia well in her future endeavors and appreciate all her hard work. While we will certainly miss her, I know she is leaving us well-positioned to continue our tradition as a powerhouse in the CIAA. With a new head basketball coach on board, this is a time of change and opportunity – a new era for WSSU."

The university will launch a national search to find a successor as soon as possible.

Until then, George Knox, assistant athletic director for compliance, has been appointed as interim athletic director.



Children enjoy the amenities of Winston Waterworks water park on Friday, May 25.

Photo by Tevin Stinson

Water park a dream come true for advocate

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

After years of attending meetings and urging city and county officials to bring a swimming pool to her neighborhood, Marva Reid's dream came to fruition last week when Winston Waterworks water park officially opened on Friday, May 25.

Reid, who serves as the president of the East/Northeast Neighborhood Association, said her journey to bring a swimming pool to East Winston started more than 15 years ago. She said when she was growing up in the neighborhood swimming was a part of her childhood and she wanted to bring that back so another generation can enjoy.

"It was a long time coming over 15 years but I'm grateful to everyone for their support. Thank you for seeing the vision that the people in the East Ward had," continued

Reid. "... We have to remember to care about our kids and that they need to learn how to swim and save their lives.

"Having a dream is great but to see dream become reality it's awesome," she said.

Located at the corner of Waterworks and Winston Lake roads, the water park is unlike any other in the city and probably the state.

Built with \$5 million in bonds, approved by voters in November 2014 bond referendum, the water park includes a pool, a lazy river, a spray ground, and a water slide. The facility also has a changing room, restrooms and a concessions stand.

When discussing the project, Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Director William Royston said historically there were several pools moved from East Winston neighborhood and it was time to bring something new to the community.

See Water Park on A4

Carter G. Woodson, IDR among those seeking funds

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

County commissioners heard a preview of the upcoming \$433.9 million budget, and requests to be added to it from organizations such as Carter G. Woodson School and Freedom Tree at IDR (Institute for Dismantling Racism), during its meeting last week.

An all-day budget session is planned for today, with additional workshops next week. A public hearing on the budget will be held on June 4 at 2 p.m. with a vote on June 7 at 2 p.m. The budget will go into effect on July 1.

County Manager Dudley Watts gave commissioners a brief presentation on the balanced 2018-19 continuation budget that keeps current services funded. This includes a 2.3 cents property tax increase per \$100 of property valuation to cover the debt from \$115 million in limited obligation bonds for the construction of a new courthouse. This brings the total county property tax to 74.65 cents per \$100 of property valuation. Debt for voter approved bonds for education, library and parks facilities account for 7.98 cents of the property tax.

Watts' budget summary said there is also the option of deferring the tax increase until next year or putting a referendum on the November ballot for a quarter cent county sales tax earmarked for the courthouse.

The budget included \$125.9 million for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, which is below the system's request for \$126.1 million. Overall personnel-related costs totaled \$145 million and included continuing the pay performance plan and funds for compensation and classification adjustments for various positions pending the completion of a pay study.

Watts said that the budget is tighter than expected,

See Budget on A5



Watts

Racist tweet ends 'Roseanne'

FROM VARIOUS NEWS REPORTS

CBS News and other media outlets are reporting on Tuesday that ABC canceled "Roseanne" after the star of the show, Roseanne Barr, issued a racist tweet about former Obama White House aide Valerie Jarrett, who is a black woman.

In the tweet, Barr compared Jarrett to an ape.

Stellar ratings and an apology weren't enough to mitigate Barr's racist comments. ABC Entertainment President Channing Dungey confirmed the network has decided to cancel the "Roseanne"

reboot following Barr's tweet. In 2016, Dungey made headlines when she became the first African-American to run the entertainment division of a major broadcast television network.

Dungey said in a statement, "Roseanne's Twitter statement is

abhorrent, repugnant and inconsistent with our values, and we have decided to cancel her show."

Bob Iger, chairman and CEO of The Walt Disney Company, which owns ABC, shared Dungey's statement on Twitter and added the com-

See Roseanne on A4

*****003*009*****FIRM CRL0T 0054A**C007
ADMINISTRATION
FORSYTH CNTY PUB LIB
660 W 5TH ST
WINSTON SALEM, NC 27101-2705 60

We Rent U-Haul Trucks!

Professional self-storage.

MOVE IN SPECIAL
\$25
for first month

ASSURED STORAGE
of Winston-Salem, LLC

(336) 924-7000

www.assuredstoragews.com

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm Sat 9am-3pm

Gate Hours: 5am-10pm

4191 Betrandia Station Road • Winston-Salem

