

Hey, hey
gonna be a
showdown



Hall of famers



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THE CHRONICLE

Volume 45, Number 5

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, October 4, 2018

Gospel Fest draws large crowd



Minister Mike featuring FOCUS had the crowd on their feet, dancing, clapping, and enjoying an authentic quartet sound on Sept. 30 at Gospel Fest.

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

The first day of Gospel Fest drew a large and diverse crowd at the Dixie Classic Fair this past Sunday, Sept. 30. The variety of acts included something for people of all ages.

The presentation is known for its soul warming variety of gospel music and performances. It is presented by The Chronicle.



Members of the audience celebrate the gospel music that saturated the air on Sept. 30 at Gospel Fest.

The performers included: St. Paul Church Mass Choir, Radical Reverence, Divine Innocence, Heavenly Chordz Productionz, Jeremiah Salter & Nu Elevation Worship, Karlton Jones and Minister Mike featuring FOCUS.

See Gospel Fest on A6



Teacher Tripp Jeffers asks the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education for a plan on supplements during its meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 25.

Teachers demand school board action on supplements

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education assured teachers that it was working to increase supplements during its meeting last week, after a viral video put a spotlight on the issue.

During its meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 25, the board passed a budget with a one-time \$300 teacher bonus. The bonus costs nearly \$2.6 million with nearly \$2.3 million coming from fund balance and

\$305,750 from budget savings.

This did little to placate the disappointment among teachers in the audience that the budget didn't contain action on teacher supplements. The state funds teachers' base pay and sets that amount uniformly among counties. County-funded supplements are what set teacher pay apart between school districts, making some more competitive than others. Forsyth County is the fourth largest school system in the state but has dropped from

See Teachers on A2

Commissioners to vote on giving part of proposed sales tax to schools

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

At the request of the Board of Education, the county commissioners plan to vote today, Oct. 4, on allocating part of the quarter cent county sales tax to local schools.

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education is under pressure to find a way to increase teacher pay supplements after a viral video showed a conversation between Superintendent Beverly Emory and county commissioners, where they told her the school board can "just ask" if it needed more money for supplements from the county's budget. This didn't happen. According to Emory and the school board, they have been working on other ways to increase supplements.

This has included a conversation with the county about the quarter-cent sales tax that it's placing on the November ballot. The tax is supposed to cover the debt service from building a new Hall of Justice.

The tax, which does not apply to groceries or gas, is expected to pull in \$3-4 million annually beyond what it takes to cover the debt. Emory and County Manager Dudley Watts discussed devoting almost 40 percent of that excess revenue to the school system. Last week, the school board told Emory to ask county commissioners to make that official so it could be used for supplements. She sent an email to Watts with the request and it was discussed in the commissioners' briefing last week.

It was well received by the commissioners. All firmly said they supported the idea, except Commissioner Richard Linville who wanted to see more concrete details before he voted on it. Even Commissioner Everette Witherspoon, who opposed the tax because he says it's

See Sales tax on A2



Martin



Witherspoon

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

A portrait of National Black Theatre Festival (NBTF) founder Larry Leon Hamlin now towers over visitors to the Benton Convention Center.

The 12-foot-tall portrait was unveiled during a ceremony Friday, Sept. 28, and is a permanent part of the art that hangs on the walls of the busy convention center. Hamlin, who passed away in 2007, founded the North Carolina Black Repertory Company, the first professional African-American theater company in North Carolina. In

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Larger than life

Larry Leon Hamlin portrait unveiled at The Benton

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