

Inside:

for **Seniors** only!

Volume 45, Number 38

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, May 30, 2019

THE CHRONICLE

• See Opinion/Forum pages on A6&7 •

• See Sports on page B1 •

WSPD solicits community's help to solve string of senseless shootings

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Police Department is calling on the community to help find the culprits behind a string of violent shootings in recent weeks that have led to multiple injuries and the deaths of Jalen Chavon Cockerham and Fred Douglas Hawkins III.

During a press conference last week, Chief Catrina Thompson gave details on three separate violent shootings that are believed to be connected. The first occurred around 1:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 7. The Winston-Salem Police Department (WSPD) received calls of a shooting in the downtown area near Nova Lounge on North Cherry Street. Upon arrival, officers found multiple victims suffering from gun shot wounds.

Thompson said they later determined that seven people had been shot during the incident, at least three different handguns were used, and nearly a



Fred Douglas Hawkins

dozen spent shell casings were collected from the scene. Two of the handguns were later recovered by the WSPD and one person was arrested and charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Thompson said, "Thanks to the efforts of local medical providers, the victims in this incident all survived and are continuing to recover from their injuries."

Six days later, on Sat-

urday, April 13, shots rang out in the 2400 block of Ivy Avenue. Detectives later learned that while a children's birthday party was being held, gunshots began to echo through Bloom Park. More than 50 spent shell casings were recovered from the scene and it was determined at least five firearms were discharged during the incident.

Despite the heavy ex-



Jalen Charon Cockerham

change of gunfire during the second incident, no one was injured. Thompson noted two firearms have been recovered and a warrant has been issued for a person of interest in the case.

The third senseless shooting occurred around 11 p.m. on the night of Saturday, May 18. Officers were dispatched to the 4200 block of Cody Drive after receiving informa-

tion that multiple people had been shot. It was later determined that a cookout was being held when gunfire erupted, sending nearly 100 people in a scurry to find safety.

Investigators on the scene determined at least six people were shot during the incident including 23-year-old Jalen Cockerham, who died on the scene. Twenty-six-year-old Fred Hawkins III, who

was also shot during the incident, died less than 72 hours later.

According to Thompson four firearms were used and more than 80 spent shell casings were recovered from the scene.

"Detectives have worked virtually around the clock since this incident occurred on Saturday night. In the days that followed, detectives have seized five guns and made one arrest for possession of firearms by a convicted felon," continued Thompson. "We believe the three events I just described took less than two minutes to occur. In those two minutes, at least 13 people were shot. Two of these people lost their lives."

"A minimum of 16 firearms were discharged and more than 140 shots were fired."

The weapons used during these three incidents range from semiautomatic pistols and rifles to revolvers. Thompson said ballistic evidence gathered at the crime scenes and other evi-

See Shooting on A2

TVVA bids farewell with annual Veterans Name Reading Ceremony

Triad Vietnam Veterans Association disbanding after more than three decades

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

For the past 30 years, the Triad Vietnam Veterans Association (TVVA) has celebrated Memorial Day by reading the names of the 499 military vets from Winston-Salem and Forsyth County who paid the ultimate sacrifice protecting our country and who are honored at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial (LJVM) Coliseum.

And on Monday the organization held the ceremony for the last time. TVVA is planning to disband this year.

Founded in 1978, the TVVA was formed to give a voice to Vietnam



Photos by Tevin Stinson

Mayor Allen Joines addresses the crowd during the annual veterans name reading ceremony, May 20.

veterans who didn't feel welcomed after returning home from combat.

Since its inception, TVVA has helped veterans across the Triad in need and raised more than \$40,000 for several charitable organizations in the area, including the Ronald McDonald House. TVVA also sponsors the city's annual Veterans Day Parade held downtown.

After serving the community for three decades and honoring our local fallen heroes since 1981, 2019 will be the organization's last ceremony. With only five members, President Richard Speas said they felt it was time to call it quits. He said although TVVA is disbanding, the friendships and bonds they've built over the years will live on forever.

Before reading the names of the veterans, current TVVA members talked about how the organization helped them cope when they returned home. Army Veteran Len Larson said at a place in time where he felt no one understood him, TVVA gave him someone to talk to.

"I joined shortly after returning home from the war and it gave me somebody I could talk to. Someone who has never been in the service doesn't understand the camaraderie between us guys who served, especially during war time," Larson said.

U.S. Navy and Army Reserve Veteran Joe Zimmerman said he was lucky enough to find the Triad Vietnam Veterans Association in the late 1980s and the members have been like a part of his family ever since.

"This organization has meant a lot to me and also my wife. Just a great group

of people," he said.

Mayor Allen Joines was also in attendance during the TVVA farewell ceremony on Memorial Day. Joines, who has attended the name reading ceremony every year since he was sworn in as mayor in 2001, said it was sad to see TVVA go. He said, "It's sad to see an end of an era. For 30 years the Triad

Vietnam Veterans Association has carried out this event.

"What a great service this organization has provided for our community, to our veterans and those who've died who we honor here today. To Walter Emory, Richard Speas and all the members of the Triad Vietnam Veterans Association, I salute you."



Richard Speas, president of the Triad Vietnam Veterans Association.

www.wschronicle.com

033*002*****3-DIGIT 275
WTTXS-E-RES & SERIALS MGMT
DAVIS LIBRARY CB # 3938
PO BOX 8890
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27515-8890 90

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 Bethania Station Road • Winston-Salem

