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Chronicle reporter receives 2 awards from N.C. Press Association

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Chronicle and its staff have received numerous awards for reporting, photography and design over its 46 years of publication. This year its senior reporter, Tevin Stinson, earned two awards. He received first place in Ledes (the opening sentences in an article) for his story "Local board of education scheduled to make decision on reopening for schools" for this lede: "In the blockbuster film 'The Matrix,' Neo, played by Keanu Reeves, is offered the choice of a red pill and a blue pill by Morpheus, who was played by Laurence Fishburne. Take the red pill and you supposedly reveal the 'unpleasant truth' about society or take the blue pill and remain in 'blissful ignorance.' While their decision won't involve colorful capsules or special effects, just like Neo, today, Oct. 1, the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools (WS/FCS) Board of Education is faced with their own tough decision when they vote whether to allow students to return to classrooms or continue virtual learning for at least nine more weeks."

Stinson also received a third place award for News Enterprise Editing for his series of stories on the wrongful conviction of



Senior reporter Tevin Stinson sits down with Sheriff Bobby Kimbrough. Stinson received two awards at the N.C. Press Association's annual convention held virtually last week.

Ronnie Long. Submissions were for the period of Oct. 1, 2019, to Sept. 30, 2020. The Chronicle has been a long-time member of the N.C. Press Association and competes in Division B with newspapers of similar size. This year the Division B category had 20 newspapers from around the state in competition for awards.

James Taylor, The Chronicle's publisher, said, "Tevin Stinson is a well-rounded reporter who

knows his way around both the community and the newsroom. Mr. Stinson's character matches his journalistic ability and it is an honor to be able to serve with him at The Chronicle."

"It feels good to know my hard work is paying off," Stinson said.

The news department consists of Editor Bridget Elam, Associate Editor Judie Holcomb-Pack, Graphic Designer Gregg Penn, Sports and Religion Reporter Timo-

thy Ramsey, and Senior Reporter Tevin Stinson. Speaking about Stinson, Elam said, "Tevin's recognitions are well-deserved. He embodies the tenants to being a true journalist. His hard work and dedication to reporting news in our community deserve the highest of honors. We are proud that he is a part of our team."

"Although we are considered a small newsroom, our team is big in heart and expertise. Our passion to

bring news that's relevant to our community is a driving force that propels us toward excellence. The Chronicle has the perfect combination of expertise and talent and it shows when we can compete with larger media outlets and continue to win awards for our journalism."

Winning awards is nothing new for The Chronicle. Last year photographer Alphonso Abbott Jr. and graphic designer Gregg Penn won awards

for best use of photos and graphics. Abbott's photos are often used on our sports page. In 2018 our graphic designer, the late Ron Rogers, was honored for his political cartoons.

Due to the pandemic, the N.C. Press Association convention was held virtually this year and included workshops, speakers, business session and the awards ceremony. Complete information on the convention can be found at www.ncpress.org.

Local woman organizes network to help bring resources to local tent cities

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

While scrolling through her Facebook newsfeed a few weeks ago, Arnita Miles came across a video that showed a homeless tent city that had formed on Akron Drive and the hazardous conditions the people were living in. "When I saw the conditions out there, I knew I had to do something to help," Miles said. And that's exactly what she did.

That night Miles went to the tent community lo-

cated near the Rainbow Laundromat, spoke with the people living there, and promised she'd be back. She came back the next day with her close friend and provided a few blankets. The next day she returned and was able to provide a hot meal. By day three, word of what Miles was doing started to circulate around town, and by the end of the week dozens of people, local churches, businesses, and non-profit organizations started reaching out to Miles, asking how they could help.

"People from the community have donated everything - toiletries, blankets, coats, socks. We've had hot meals twice a day since day three," Miles said while discussing "Tent City Akron."

"It's been a blessing to see how the community has rallied together to help. People from all walks of life have come and donated and we're not an official group with a title or anything like that, we're just people who care about the community."

According to a report



Photo by Tevin Stinson

Volunteers help clean up the tent community located on Akron Drive.

by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, in recent years the number of tent cities has been on the rise. A tent city in Charlotte recently gained national media attention after more than 150 homeless people were given 90 days to vacate the property near the city's

downtown area. Tent City Akron formed about a year ago near the Rainbow Laundromat and 10 to 12 people call the wooded, grassy area home. The land where the encampment is located is owned by the N.C. Department of Transportation and last week, people

living in Tent City Akron were told that they had to clean up the property by the end of the month or receive a nuisance and abatement order. Miles responded by partnering with local community organizations, HOPE Dealers Outreach and Enough is Enough, to host a clean-up day last

weekend.

On Saturday, Feb. 27, dozens of volunteers rolled up their sleeves and helped residents clean up. Frankie Gist, who is the founder of HOPE Dealers Outreach, said when he saw what Miles was doing, he immediately reached out and asked how he could help. Gist, who organized a march and rally downtown last summer in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, said, "We should have the same energy we had this past summer around this issue. The same people that had that energy in the summer have to have that energy today."

Monday, March 1, marked Miles' 17th straight day at Tent City Akron. Most days she arrives around noon and doesn't leave until after 5 p.m. Miles said after she saw that video and issued that clarion call to the community to help the residents of Tent City Akron, she knew the people would answer. "I had faith in the community and I knew the

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