

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Healthbeat

Hospital's new leader

The Board of Trustees of High Point Regional has appointed Ernie Bovio as president and CEO.

He will succeed Jeff Miller, who retired March 31 after 26 years of service to the organization. Bovio will begin serving as CEO in early May.

Prior to joining High Point Regional, Bovio has served as CEO with Baylor, Scott & White Health, where he oversaw three hospitals and 22 clinics in the Hill Country & Round Rock Regions in Texas for the last nine years.

Bovio comes with more than 18 years of health care management experience. He has also held leadership positions with Tenet Healthcare as CEO of Trinity Medical Center, Paracelsus Healthcare Corporation as COO and Duke University Health System and Medical Center as director of Strategic Planning and Business Development. He began his career with The Sisters of Charity Health Care System in Houston, Texas.

"I am looking forward to joining UNC Health Care and the High Point Regional team," said Bovio. "I am honored to be selected to succeed him and lead High Point Regional through the ever changing and challenging times we are facing in health care. My family is as excited about being part of the High Point community as I am. We are looking forward to the move!"



Bovio

Sumpter is new Potentate

The Oasis Shriners - which has more than 6,000 members in the 50 Western North Carolina counties and is headquartered in Charlotte - have named David Sumpter as its new chief executive officer or Potentate.

Sumpter is a graduate of Sewanee and the University of Tennessee School of Law. He served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War and is an attorney in Murphy. He notes that his inspiration to serve as a Shiner comes from the children that the group serves.

The Shriners own and operate hospitals in cities across the United States for children with orthopedic conditions, cleft lip and palate, spinal cord trauma and burn injury. Shiner Hospitals treat children regardless of a family's ability to pay.

Out of the local 195 clubs, the Oasis Shriners are the largest contributors in the international Shrine organization. Last year alone, the Oasis Shriners sponsored a large number of fundraising projects including golf tournaments, car auctions, car races and dinners and raised \$1,251,000 to provide treatment for 124,000 patients under age 18.

New CHS leader named

Children's Home Society of NC, which has placed more than 15,000 children into loving, adoptive homes since 1902, has promoted Brian Maness to president and CEO. He previously served as vice president of Strategy and Development at CHS.

Maness brings 12 years of experience to his new position. He succeeds Ken Tutterow, who passed away unexpectedly in January.

"Brian brings experience in varied leadership positions and a deep knowledge of the Children's Home Society. He has made numerous important contributions during his 12 years with the agency," said Burns Jones, chairman of the CHS Board of Trustees. "Brian shares Ken Tutterow's passion and vision for CHS, which will enable him to help develop Ken's vision for the organization. We are excited about furthering this vision for our organization that Brian and so many others will help craft in the coming years."

Maness is committed to fostering innovation within children and family services. He has been instrumental in implementing new and innovative programs, such as Family Finding, which helps children in the child welfare system connect with extended networks of biological relatives, and Child Specific Recruitment, which tailors adoption recruitment efforts for children in foster care to the specific needs of the child.

"I am dedicated to building on the great history CHS enjoys, and also to helping the organization evolve to deepen our presence in communities across the state with the greatest need," Maness said. "I am so grateful to be supported in this effort by the CHS staff and Board of Trustees, who are so committed to our mission and who work tirelessly to support children and families."



Maness

A&T's Nsonwu helps the UN

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Among the distressed peoples of the world, few groups are more vulnerable than refugees. And among refugees, few are more vulnerable than children, especially children on their own, without families.

Since 2011, the United States has experienced a surge in the number of unaccompanied children coming from Central America's Northern Triangle - El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras - and Mexico. In fiscal 2013, there were more than 40,000. More than 21,000 came from the three Central American countries, compared to 4,000 in 2011.

With the cooperation of the United States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees set out to learn why. The result was a report, released this month, "Children on the Run: Unaccompanied Children Leaving Central America and Mexico and the Need for International Protection."

For help with that analysis, the U.N. agency consulted with Dr. Maura Busch Nsonwu, assistant professor of social work and interim director of the social work bachelor's degree program at N.C. A&T State University.

Dr. Nsonwu has worked with the U.N.'s refugee agency on a number of projects over the past three years. Her research focuses on refugees and human trafficking. She had conducted qualitative studies, so she had the necessary expertise. But this study had two dimensions unlike anything she had encountered.

The project was a daunting one. The U.N. researchers had interviewed 404 children. In a typical academic study, researchers from different institutions can share data openly among their team members. But they typically don't have to consider the sensibilities of the U.S. government and four Latin American governments on an especially sensitive aspect of a major political issue.

According to the report, while recognizing differences between the situation in Mexico and in Central America, the common denominator was that all four countries are producing high numbers of unaccompanied and separated children seeking protection at the southern border of the United States.

Dr. Nsonwu's analysis, along with the entire research project, was to determine the connection between the children's stated reasons, the findings of recent studies on the increasing violence and insecurity in the region, and international protection needs.

"This was absolutely huge," she said. "It challenged me as a researcher, but this project was a wonderful opportunity to be involved in ground breaking work with an agency that is so highly respected."



Dr. Nsonwu



(Above) IFB Employee Tameka Monroe speaks with the Eye Bank's Dean Vavra and Katie Hall. (Below) IFB Employee Demarius Bowens checks over donor registration information.

IFB employees sign-up as eye donors

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

On Wednesday, March 19, blind and low-vision employees at Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind registered as eye donors with the North Carolina Eye Bank in recognition of March as National Eye Donor Month.

The North Carolina Eye Bank supports research to restore sight, and this research gives promise to everyone who is blind or visually impaired. The donor drive sent an important message that everyone is eligible to become an eye donor, even if they have profound vision challenges.

"When I was approached about becoming an eye donor, I was hesitant because I've been blind since I was 21," said Anastasia Powell, an IFB employee who registered during the drive. "What changed my mind was



learning about the important research made possible by the NC Eye Bank. The doctors don't know what caused my blindness, but hopefully by donating my eyes, researchers will find the reason for my blindness and help someone else. Donating my eyes is an opportunity to give back and help enhance the quality of someone else's life."

"The North Carolina Eye Bank is committed to

helping all North Carolinians with vision challenges, not just those whose sight can be restored through corneal transplants," said Dean Vavra, executive director of The North Carolina Eye Bank. "We are very grateful to the many employees working at Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind for supporting our mission as registered eye donors."

IFB is a nonprofit cor-

See IFB on A9

Report ranks county's healthiness

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The fifth annual County Health Rankings & Roadmaps was released last week by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

It allows counties to see how well they are doing on 29 factors that influence health, including smoking, high school graduation rates, employment, physical inactivity and access to healthy foods. This year's report features even more new factors that influence health, such as housing, transportation, access to mental health providers, access to exercise opportunities, injury deaths and food insecurity.

Rankings are done for each county in each state in the nation and aims to help counties see how they compare to their neighbors so they can identify where they are doing well and where they need to improve, and the Roadmaps help counties see what steps they need to take to remove barriers to good health.

Forsyth County ranked 26th among the 100 counties of N.C. with regard to Health Outcome status (length and quality of life). Forsyth was 28th last year.

Forsyth County ranked 29th among North Carolina counties on Health Factors (health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment), compared to 24th last year.

Forsyth County rankings in the following indicators are:

- Health Behavior: 26th, compared to 15th last year
- Clinical Care: 18th, compared to 11th last year
- Socioeconomic Factors (SEF): 36th, compared to 44th last year
- Physical Environment: 64th, compared to 44th last year.

There is a stronger correlation between health outcomes and SEF ranks, which indicates that the strongest predictors of better or poorer health status are better or poorer socioeconomic conditions, respectively. The weaker correlation between health outcome and clinical care rankings indicates that the presence of quality care services in the community does not necessarily result in better health for the whole community.

"The goal of the Health Department is to improve health in Forsyth County;

See Health on A7



Hunter

NCCU receiving \$5 million from NSF

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The National Science Foundation has awarded the North Carolina Central University Computational Center for Fundamental and Applied Science and Education a \$5 million grant for development of interdisciplinary research activities and research-based educational training.

NCCU will receive \$1 million per year over five years to continue developing the center, known as NSF-CREST, which was established in 2008.

U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield, a Democrat who represents the state's First District, was slated to present the first payment on Tuesday, March 18 in NCCU's Mary Townes Science Building.

NSF-CREST initially was established with \$5.7 million in NSF funding. The ongoing grant will enable NCCU to increase research infrastructure to sup-



G.K. Butterfield Photo

U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield represents the state's First District.

port additional science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) training and educational opportunities for students.

The long-term goals of NSF-CREST are:

- To establish a world-class computational research center in fundamental and

applied physical science

- To actively integrate independent research and computational science into undergraduate education
- To enhance the quality of master's degree programs in science at NCCU
- To establish the HBCU Computational Science Network.