

Early voting begins across the state

More voters cast early ballots in Forsyth County

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Early voting is seeing a slight increase this election year as thousands of residents have already cast their ballots for the 2016 election.

Voting records show the first and last day are usually the busiest days during early voting. Numbers show 1,566 people voted on the first on the first day of early voting.

day polls opened last Thursday, Oct. 20. In 2012 1,552 people voted on the first day of early voting.

For the first time, the county is offering an app that shows how long the wait will be. The wait time for the majority of the day topped 30 minutes. Forsyth County Board of Elections Director Tim Tisujii said the free app will also provide the board with information that will help them plan for future elections.

"The app is a great idea," said James Dawkins from Winston-Salem. "I didn't



Photo by Tevin Stinson

Hillary Clinton supporter holds a sign that reads "Hill Yes She Can" outside the Forsyth County Board of Elections on the first day of early voting Thursday, Oct. 20.

know about it before I came, but I will let others know who haven't voted."

Before making her way inside the Forsyth County Board of Elections on Chestnut Street to cast her ballot amongst a group of Democrats, Joyce Banks said she decided to vote early to avoid the rush on Nov. 8.

"I usually wait until Election Day, but this year I wanted to get out early," she

said.

After casting her ballot, city native Sue Atkins was proud to show her support for the Republican presidential candidate when she was met by a group of Trump protesters. In response to negative chants made by the group of peaceful protesters, Atkins shouted, "Trump, Trump, Trump, Trump."

While Forsyth County saw a slight increase, 17 counties in the state saw a decrease in early voting numbers. Overall, state numbers saw an overall 3 percent decrease. Despite the decrease in turnout, national poles show Hillary Clinton is well on her way to becoming the next President of the United States.

The New York Times' national poll shows Clinton ahead of Trump by more than 5 percentage points. CNN polls shows Clinton ahead as well.

While early voting locations were limited to the Board of Elections Building at 201 N. Chestnut St. in the first week, several other locations opened across the county this morning. Here is a complete list of early voting locations:

*Brown & Douglas Community Center, 4725 Indiana Ave. 2000, Winston-Salem

*Clemmons Banch Library, 3554 Clemmons Rd. Clemmons

*Harper Hills Commons, 150 Grant

- Hill Ln., Winston-Salem
- *Kernersville Senior Center/Library 130 East Mountain Street, Kernersville
- *Lewisville Branch Library, 6490 Shallowford Rd., Lewisville
- *Mazie Woodruff Center, 4905 Lansing Dr., Winston-Salem
- *Miller Park Recreation Center, 400 Leisure Ln., Winston-Salem
- *Old Town Recreation Center, 4550 Shattalon Dr., Winston-Salem
- *Polo Park Recreation Center, 1850 Polo Rd., Winston-Salem
- *Rural Hall Branch Library, 7125 Broad St., Rural Hall
- *Sedge Garden Recreation Center, 401 Robbins Rd., Winston-Salem
- *Southside Branch Library, 3185 Buchanan St., Winston-Salem
- *Sprague Street Recreation Center, 1350 Sprague St., Winston-Salem
- *St. Paul United Methodist Church, 2400 Dellabrook Rd., Winston-Salem
- *Walkertown Branch Library, 2969 Main St., Walkertown
- *W.R. Anderson Jr. Center, 2450 Reynolds Park Road, Winston-Salem

Polls open daily at 10 a.m.; closing times vary. Monday through Friday polls close at 6:30 pm. On Saturday, in October polls close at 4:30 pm. The last day to cast an early ballot is Saturday, Nov. 5. That day, polls will close at 1:30 p.m.

Voting

from page A1

Trump," Tripp Jeffers, a teacher at Parkland High School, said he was very confident that both Clinton and Cooper will win. He said, "If all goes well, the candidates who have the right idea about public education will win."

When asked about the three bond packages totaling \$430 million for local schools on the ballot this year, Jeffers said, the fact that the county commissioners felt the need to put it on the ballot shows they are dedicated to the growth of our schools.

"Forsyth County is well over due for a bond like this. It will ensure that our school district will continue to grow and evolve," he continued. "We must grow if we want to support our students."

If approved by voters, the funds for the bonds will be used for repairs, renovations and new buildings. The bond also includes systemwide improvements, such as technology upgrades in every classroom, media center updates and 3-D printers.

Forsyth County Association of Educators President Rhonda Mays

said, "This election is not only one of the most important of our lifetimes, but it is critical to our livelihood and the future of our children."

She said in order to ensure that our public schools are well funded and that our students have the resources they need, it is important that educators exercise their right to vote.

"We must elect candidates who care about public education in this state across the nation," Mays said.



Photo by Tevin Stinson

President of the Forsyth County Association of Educators Rhonda Mays shows her support for Roy Cooper outside the Forsyth County Board of Elections on Thursday, Oct. 20.

QEA

from page A1

This year the event included performances by the band, chorus, school choir and a number of talented students.

The Walkertown High School Marching Band also participated in this year's celebration. Dozens of parents attended the event as well.

On QEA's Facebook page, various pieces of culture have emerged.

"Tell me and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me, and I'll understand. - Native American Saying" comes from one entry.

"Milk and honey have different colors, but they share the same house peacefully. - African proverb" comes from another entry.



Photos by Tevin Stinson

Students from Quality Education Academy enjoy Culture Day on Friday, Oct. 21. The day of celebration is designed to connect students with heritages.



A teacher leads her students during the Culture Day parade on Friday, Oct. 21.

Legacy

from page A1

While she spent most of her teaching career at North Forsyth, Griffin's first job with the local school district was at then-all black Atkins High School, where she taught for two years. When she got news that she would be moving to North Forsyth to start the 1970 school year, Griffin questioned if the move was for her. Griffin said she had built a relationship with the students at Atkins and at the time she felt North Forsyth wasn't the place for her.

At the time, North was recovering from race riots following mandatory integration.

"At first they gave me a choice and I said I didn't want to go. Then they came back and told me I was going and I didn't have choice," she laughed. "It was hard leaving the students at Atkins but looking back I know it was the right decision."

When she arrived at North Forsyth, Griffin

quickly got to work bridging the gap between black and white students. A number of former students said Griffin would go outside the classroom to ensure their success. One former student, Oliver Helsabeck, said the lessons he learned from Griffin are grounded in his heart and mind.

He said, "Maggie was more than a teacher. She is that friend that helps you believe in yourself and pushes you to look beyond what is easy."

Mike Muse, Wake Forest University director of basketball operations and North Forsyth alumnus, said, "because of Maggie Griffin, everyone of us knows who we are."

He said, "We know what God expects of us because she made sure that we knew."

During the celebration, an official proclamation from Mayor Allen Joines was read, officially renaming the auditorium and marking Oct. 22 as Maggie Griffin Day. Superintendent Dr.



Superintendent Dr. Beverly Emory speaks during the auditorium renaming ceremony at North Forsyth on Saturday, Oct. 22.

Last weekend the auditorium at North Forsyth High School, was renamed in honor of longtime music and drama instructor Margaret "Maggie" Griffin. Griffin smiled from ear to ear throughout the event on Saturday, Oct. 22.

Beverly Emory said Griffin is a model of what we need in our school today to help every student build a pathway to success.

"I can't think of a more amazing legacy than that of Margaret Griffin," Emory said.

When asked how it felt to have her name forever connected North Forsyth, Griffin said,

"I loved that school like it was my own home. So this is an honor that I can't even begin to explain."

The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Ndubis Egemonye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636 Winston-Salem, NC 27102-1636