



Children's Home picks a new leader

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College players lead unique skills camp

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Celebrating 38 Years

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THE CHRONICLE

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Tuition disparity an obstacle for Hispanic students

BY LAYLA GARMES
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem resident Juan Ortega has called North Carolina home since he was a kindergartner, but in the eyes of the state, he's no North Carolinian.

Ortega, who is pursuing his associate's degree in science, is struggling to keep up with his ever-mounting tuition bills. Because he is undocumented, Ortega, a native of Mexico, is forced to pay out of state tuition rates, which at Forsyth Technical Community College are nearly four times higher than the cost North Carolina residents pay. Despite having done well in school and obtaining the requirements needed for him to achieve his dream of becoming a physical therapist, Ortega says he is in an uphill battle.

"I'm not even sure if I can pay all of that," he said of his tuition, which costs \$261 per credit hour. "I might have to get a big loan, as if I were going to be a doctor, just to get my associate's degree."



Photo by Layla Garmes

Forsyth Tech students (from left): Salomon Pinargote, Estela Torres, Dulce Moreno, Abigail Cruz and Juan Ortega.

Though he qualifies for deferred status under President Obama's DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) executive order, Ortega says he is still denied many of the privileges citizens enjoy.

"Deferred action is only good for two years," he said. "...It could be taken away at any moment, and I could be sent back to my country."

See Students on A2



Name Game

Some worry that venues would lose legacies if sold

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

City residents are voicing questions and concerns about the potential sale of Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum to Wake Forest University and Bowman Gray Stadium to Winston-Salem State University.

Both of the venues are owned by the City, but are closely affiliated with the universities. The coliseum is home to WFU basketball, and the stadium is the WSSU football hub.

A series of public drop-in meetings are being held at both venues, where members of the City's Public Assembly Facilities Commission are recording the comments of residents and city officials are answering questions about the proposed deals.

"It's the City Council that will ultimately make the decision, but we wanted to give the community a chance to be heard," Commission Member Cynthia Jeffries said at a meeting last Thursday at the coliseum.

City officials say that unloading the venues would save money. Both facilities are operated at a loss. The coliseum costs taxpayers \$400,000 annually, while the stadium costs \$6,000. A bigger concern, officials said, is the millions in extensive renovations needed at both venues.

City Manager Lee Garrity explained to residents how very few coliseums around the country make money. He said event venues aren't about profit, but attracting visitors who will spend money at local businesses.

"You don't go into the business to make money," said Garrity. "It's to generate tourism; it's for the community; it's community pride."

City officials said that selling the properties would free up millions of dollars in debt capacity that could be used for much needed capital improvements in Winston-Salem. They are using the long-term leasing of the Benton Convention



Emery



Jeffries



Photos by Layla Garmes

Sign-erector Heather Joyce shows a group of students the ropes.

BUILDING A CAREER

Students learn about another post high school option

BY LAYLA GARMES
THE CHRONICLE

As a boy, Mike Soars dreamed of being a construction worker.

"I knew I wanted to be in the construction business when I was 10 years old," related the Reynolds High School alumnus. "I loved putting things together and taking things apart. I couldn't wait to get into wood shop in the seventh grade."

Though Soars, the construction manager for Windsor Commercial, says he was passionate about his path and the direction he wanted his career to take, he says not everyone was supportive of his dream.



Council Chair Michael Sears

"In the 10th grade, I wanted to go into carpentry," he related. "My guidance counselor told me I was too smart."

He disagreed, entering the construction industry in 1978. It is a choice the father of one says he has never regretted.

"I am a blessed man," declared Sears, who helped to construct his church, Hope Presbyterian, last year. "I get to do what I

love to do."

Today's students face many of the same prejudices that skilled workers grappled with more than three decades ago, said Sears, chair of the Winston-Salem Chamber's Construction Council. Through efforts like the Construction Career Days that were held April 9 and 10 at the Winston-Salem Entertainment Sports Complex, Sears and his partners are working to ensure that high school students in Forsyth County and the surrounding area have the support that they need if they desire to enter the construction business.

"We're trying to get the message out that skilled labor is not a second class career," he said. "...The opportunities are going to be here. Anybody that's got skilled labor training, they're going to have a job and they're going to be able to make good money as well."

The Council collaborates with

See Construction on A10

Students take a stand with their bare feet

BY LAYLA GARMES
THE CHRONICLE

Students at Wake Forest University kicked off their shoes for a good cause on Tuesday.

One Day Without Shoes Co-organizers Molly King and Sarah Kruyer encouraged fellow members of the WFU student body to take a lap around the university's Hearn Plaza as part of the childhood poverty awareness campaign.

After completing their trek, students signed their

See Shoes on A10



Photos by Layla Garmes
(Far left) Rachel Severance stands on the "foot" path.

Event Co-Organizer Molly King (right) with sophomore Leann Westin.

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