

Sailing to freedom, sort of



All-Star heights

• See Opinion/Forum pages on A6&7 •

• See Sports on page B1 •

THE CHRONICLE

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NCDOT: Find new routes now

Downtown traffic challenges loom with 2018 closure of Business 40

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Those who live and work downtown should start finding alternate routes to get around the closure of Business 40 in the fall of 2018.

That was one of the things Pat Ivey, N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT) engineer, told a theater full of attendees during an information session held at a/perture Cinema on Tuesday, March 14.

The project will replace pavement and bridges along a 1.2 mile portion of the highway between Fourth Street and

U.S. 52. In order to speed construction, that section of Business 40 will be closed for 20 months, except for the portion between Main Street and U.S. 52 that will reopen in fall 2019. The rest of the highway won't reopen until summer 2020.

Ivey told downtown business owners, residents and community leaders that they were the primary stakeholders in the project. He said downtown will be fully accessible from Peters Creek Parkway and U.S. 52 during the Business 40 closure.

"This project is going on, but downtown Winston-Salem is open for business," said Ivey.



The official N.C. DOT detours around the closure are still being worked on. Ivey told attendees to start finding ways in and out of downtown that don't use Business 40. He said they should also be prepared to adjust these routes to avoid the traffic congestion that the closure may create.

Businesses that can adjust the time when employees need to be at work to avoid peak traffic times were encouraged to do so. The N.C. DOT slideshow even suggested things like telecommuting, carpooling and redoing the work week to be 10 hours a day for four days a week.

One part of the project that motorists will see this year is work on Peters Creek Parkway to help accommodate the additional traffic. Construction will take one year, beginning this fall, and will not completely close either Peters Creek or Business 40.

See 40 on A2

Women's Day event centers on struggles



Photo by Tevin Stinson

More than two dozen men and women celebrated Women's Day at the Delta Fine Arts Center, exploring how the day is celebrated in Africa by listening to a lecture led by Dr. Debra Boyd

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

On the day set aside to celebrate women last week, more than two dozen women and men gathered at the Delta Fine Arts Center to explore the fight of women's equality in Africa.

While showing her collection of wax print textile, scholar Dr. Debra Boyd led an enlightening lecture on how the struggle for equality among women unites people across borders.

During her time as a Fulbright Scholar, a merit-based grant for international educational exchange for scholars, teachers and professionals, Boyd traveled to several African countries collecting authentic African cloths.

The five cloths on display at the Delta Fine Arts Center commemorate the struggle for women's rights in several African countries, including Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Chad. While each country she visited cel-

ebrated International Women's Day their own way, each of the cloths on display include a symbol of a Sage femme or midwife holding a baby.

While the symbol on the pieces of cloth unite countries in Africa, what unites Women's Day across the globe is the ongoing fight for economic and social equality.

"Economic and social development is key in all the celebrations around the world. Since we've been relatively isolated we don't know about what might be going on in other places, but the fight for women's rights is a global issue," Boyd said.

Dr. Boyd's visit to the Twin City was part of Delta Fine Arts' new featured section titled "The People's Gallery." It is designed to shine a light on social justice issues that haunt communities every day. According to executive director Nadiya Quander, the section will feature formal artists throughout the year. She said with

See Women on A2

El-Amin to fill Commissioner Marshall's seat

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The Forsyth County Democratic Party (FCDP) executive committee voted for Fleming El-Amin to become the next county commissioner.

El-Amin was chosen to fill the District A seat left open by Walter Marshall's death. The vote was decided mostly by precinct chairs and vice chairs in District A who went overwhelmingly for him during a meeting on Tuesday, March 14, at FCDP headquarters.

El-Amin is a retired educator and former local party chair. Until recently, he served on the Forsyth County Board of Elections (BOE). He put in his resignation to the board last month in preparation for running in 2018 to succeed Marshall, who wasn't planning to seek re-election before his sudden death on Feb. 22. His nomination will now go to the county commissioners for approval.



Photo by Todd Luck

Fleming El-Amin speaks to attendees at a meeting at Forsyth County Democratic Party headquarters in which he was chosen to fill the county commissioner seat left open by Walter Marshall's death.

He will have to run for re-election in 2018.

There were several other people vying for the seat. They were Kimberly Park Elementary Principal Amber Baker, Northwest Child Development Centers CEO Tony Burton, business owner Jeremy Holderfield and Donald Scales, who unsuccessfully ran for the seat in 2014. All gave three-minute speeches to the standing room only crowd that filled the headquarters.

During his remarks, El-Amin asked if District A,

See Seat on A2

'Trumpcare' not good for N.C., observers say

BY CASH MICHAELS
FOR THE CHRONICLE

As with the rest of the nation, North Carolina policy analysts and elected officials are up in arms over the recent Republican House proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) — which currently over 500,000 North Carolinians depend on — and replace it with what many are calling "Trumpcare."

There is no question, they say, that the poor, elderly and people of color will be negatively impacted, forcing many to choose between medical attention, shelter and food.

"The ACA has played a significant role in reducing worry among Americans who previously struggled to pay unaffordable medical bills when they got sick," U.S. Rep. G. K. Butterfield (D-NC-1), told the House Committee on Energy and Commerce last week.

"We cannot afford to go back to the days when Americans were forced to pay more money for less coverage, and when insurance companies rationed the care people received."

Under the current Affordable Care Act, enrollees get generous government subsidies or tax credits to help cover the cost of health insurance premiums, thus keeping the cost of health

See Trumpcare on A2

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