

State of Mind?



Adult Basketball



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THE CHRONICLE

Volume 43, Number 39

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, June 1, 2017

GOVERNING

County budget adds help with opioid crisis



Emergency Services got funding for eight additional paramedics in the budget passed last week by the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Forsyth County commissioners unanimously passed a budget on Thursday, May 25, that included, among other things, eight new paramedics to help with increased Emergency Services (EMS) demand, including opioid overdoses.

The new positions were part of a \$426.5 million budget that goes into effect on July 1. Forsyth EMS Director Dan Ozimek said that his department, which has 157 paramedics currently, has been using overtime to meet all the calls for emergency service. He said a growing population with an increasing amount of older residents is causing the increase as is the nationwide opioid epidemic.

"We're averaging five or six overdoses

a day and we've had days where we've had as many as 14 or 15 in a day," Ozimek told The Chronicle. "Just that type of call alone has impacted our need to cover capacity."

The budget originally had four additional EMS positions, with four more added last Thursday, which cost \$167,049. That and other additions from the commissioners' budget workshops added \$6 million to the county manager's recommended \$420 million budget. The additional money



Ozimek



Witherspoon

comes from revenue created by the portion of property taxes associated with the bonds along with revenue increases and expenditure adjustments. The budget still lowers the tax rate slightly from 73.1 cent per \$100,000 in property to 72.35 cent because most property values rose in this year's reappraisal.

The budget was hailed by commissioners.

"This is the best budget I've seen since I've been on the board," said Everette

Witherspoon, who was first elected in 2010.

Witherspoon praised the \$338,000 in funding added to the budget to maintain the Nurse-Family Partnership. The program, whose grant funding was coming to an end, lets nurses visit first time mothers living in poverty. The county plans to seek further partial funding from Kate B. Reynolds Charitable trust.

The budget also funded the Cleveland Avenue Dental Center, which mainly serves Medicaid patients and is expected to lose \$326,293 this fiscal year, while county staff looks for ways the clinic can sustain itself.

Fleming El-Amin, the newest county commissioner, said he was glad that the

See Budget on A5



Last week N.C. Sen. Paul Lowe Jr. and Rep. Ed Hanes Jr. introduced a new computer coding elective to students at Carver High School.

Carver students learn ins and outs of coding

N.C. lawmakers launch computer-related elective

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

In an attempt to get more students to pursue careers in computer science, N.C. Sen. Paul Lowe Jr. and Rep. Ed Hanes Jr. launched a new hands-on initiative at Carver High School last week that teaches stu-

dents computer coding.

Currently there are nearly 18,000 open computing jobs in North Carolina. By 2018 over half of all STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) jobs are projected to be in computer science-related jobs, with a starting salary of about \$45,000 and national average of \$104,000.

"Many of the jobs in the future will deal with what's called computer coding. This is an exciting time for

these students because they can learn this stuff and earn a lot of money," said Lowe during the hands-on presentation at Carver.

Coding is a set of rules that define how a program should be formatted. Thousands of different rules make it possible for us to use computer software, and the apps that keep us glued to our phones and other mobile devices.

At a place in time where cell

See Coding on A5

ELECTIONS

Again, N.C. High Court must review redistricting

BY CASH MICHAELS
FOR THE CHRONICLE

For a third time since 2011, the state Supreme Court will have to review North Carolina's legislative and congressional redistricting maps, and this time, North Carolina justices will have to heed the U.S. High Court's finding that the state's redistricting process is unconstitutionally flawed because of racial gerrymandering.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday sent a 2011 redistricting lawsuit, *Dickson v. Rucho*, back to the North Carolina justices again after the federal High Court ruled last week that the state's Republican-led General Assembly "stacked-and-packed" black Democrats into the 1st and 12th Congressional Districts so that they would have less influence in other congressional districts.

In 2015, the GOP-led N.C. Supreme Court ignored federal direction that the 2011 maps were racially skewed, ruling instead that the overuse of race in the voting maps was entirely proper.

That ruling is not likely to return now that the N.C. Supreme Court has a 5-4 Democratic majority.

"The N.C. Supreme Court is given another opportunity to correct its ill-analyzed decision, which it entered in *Dickson v. Rucho*," said attorney Irving Joyner, chairman of the N.C. NAACP Redress Committee, and law professor at N.C. Central University School of Law. "The [2015] N.C. Supreme Court opinion was vacated by the [U.S. Supreme] Court, which mandates that it was wrong-



Ellison

See Maps on A8

Hundreds of people celebrated Memorial Day with HARRY



Retired Air Force Veteran Dr. Sylvester Caraway Jr. salutes during the national anthem.

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Hundreds of people helped HARRY Veterans Community Outreach Services celebrate fallen service men and women earlier this week when the nonprofit organization that offers countless services

for veterans hosted the ninth annual Memorial Day Commemoration and Picnic.

This year's celebration held at Bolton Park featured live music, fun and games for children, free food and prize giveaways. The Winston-Salem State University Rams Know

HOW (Healthcare on Wheels) was there giving free checkups.

To jumpstart the celebration, North Forsyth High School JROTC and members of the Buffalo Soldiers 9th & 10th Horse Calvary Association presented the colors.

Next, several local and

state elected officials took to the stage to commemorate the lives of men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice to keep us safe.

Mayor Allen Joines said, "As the saying goes, freedom really isn't free.

See HARRY on A8

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