

# Credibility?



# Adult Basketball

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# THE CHRONICLE

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## City budget plan gains drug court, Trans-AID hike

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

Funding for a drug court, an extension for an underutilized bus route and a rate increase for Trans-AID have been added to the City of Winston-Salem's proposed \$482.2 million budget.

The finance committee

voted to send a budget to the full council for approval on Monday that contains a Trans-AID rate increase from 50 cent to \$1 and ends its Medicaid exemption for non-medical trips.

The entirety of the money that's expected to come from the change, \$90,000, will be used for

3,000 monthly bus passes to be distributed through local agencies to low-income Trans-AID passengers that would be adversely affected by the increase. Trans-AID provides on-demand rides to qualifying handicap riders. The increase will mean riding Trans-AID will cost as much as "fixed route" city

buses.

"We're the only system in the state that charges less for Trans-AID than it charges for its fixed route and that is creating a structural problem with growth and expenses for the system that is threatening our ability to finance the fixed route improvements that serves a lot more low-



Taylor



Besse

income folks than Trans-AID," said City Council Member Dan Besse.

Besse said Winston-Salem has the lowest Trans-AID rate in the state, which he credited for a 26 percent increase in ridership in the last four years

and 46 percent increase in the cost of the service in the last five years. It costs four times per rider for Trans-AID than it does for bus riders. In the last five years, one out of three additional dollars that went

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### GRADUATION 2017

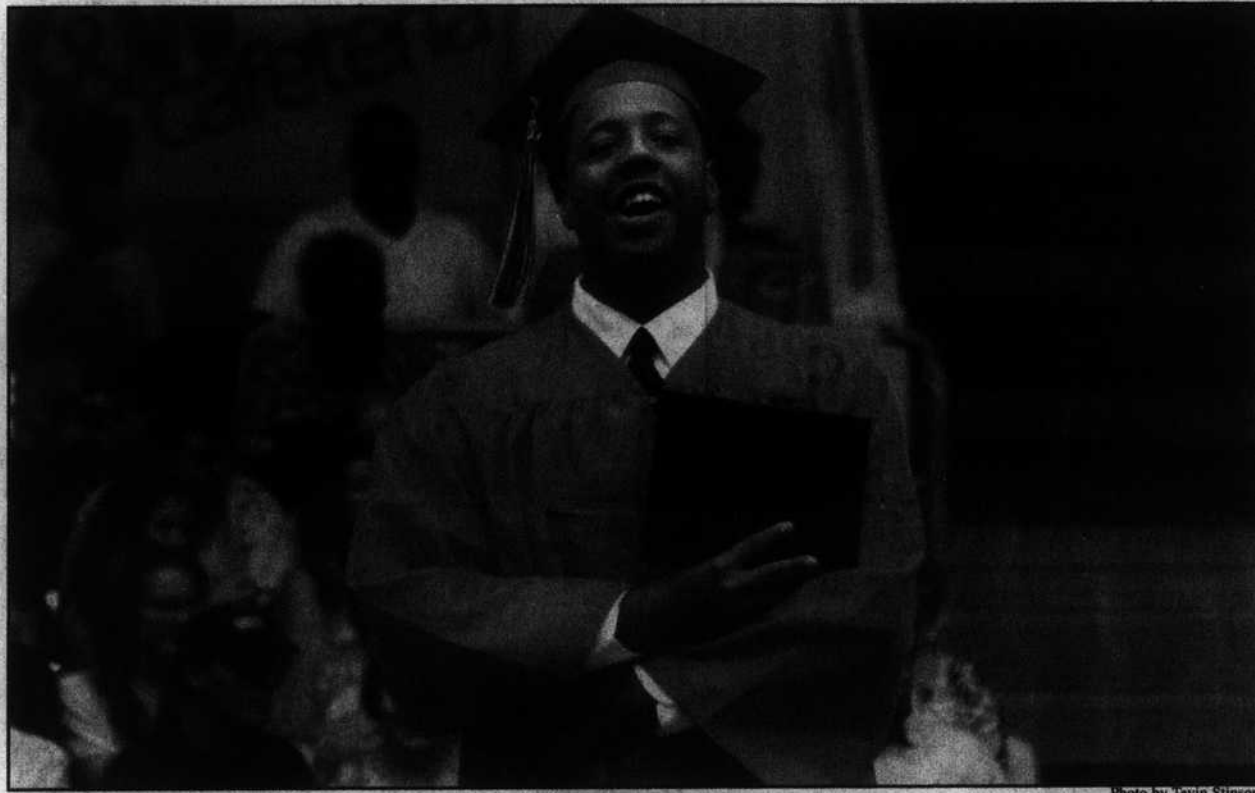


Photo by Tevin Stinson

Walkertown High School graduate Curtis Charles poses for a photo after receiving his diploma on Saturday, June 10.

SEE SCENES FROM GRADUATIONS ON PAGE A7.

## Joines encourages class of 2017 to accept change and take chances

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

The class of 2017 made history last weekend as more seniors than ever before received their high school diplomas.

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools (WS/FCS) reported that 101 more graduates got a diploma over the weekend than did last year. "At 3,726, that makes this class have the largest number of graduates we have had as a district," said Brent Campbell, chief program officer for Marketing & Communications.

The district reported other highlights: To date,

the scholarship award total stands at nearly \$86,953,400 million; students are attending over 115 different colleges and universities across the country; and various students have prestigious scholarships. The district has two Goodnight Scholars, five National Merit Award Winners, two Duke Scholars, four different Chancellor's Scholarship winners and many more prestigious scholarship recipients.

The weekend of celebration for the class of 2017 started on Friday, June 9 and ended on Sunday, June 11. While many of the students saw

graduation day as the end of long journey, during his commencement address to the graduating seniors at Kennedy High School, Mayor Allen Joines reminded the graduates that it is only the beginning.

As he stood before the graduates inside Wait Chapel on the campus of Wake Forest University, Joines encouraged students to be acceptable to change and dare to take chances. Joines said when he decided to throw his hat in the mayoral race in 2001, he had never run for anything in his life. But he accepted the challenge and the rest is history, as they say.

"It has been a great experience but it wasn't something that I had planned for," said Joines. "As you make your goals and decisions for life, be prepared to make some changes and don't be afraid to make those changes as you go forward."

The following high schools are in the WS/FCS district: Glenn, Carter, East Forsyth, Mt. Tabor, Carver, Kennedy, North Forsyth, West Forsyth, Reynolds, Reagan, Parkland, Atkins, Walkertown and Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy.

## U.S. cuts could hurt N.C. for next decade, study says

BY CASH MICHAELS  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

As conferees for the N.C. House and Senate continue their talks to hash out a compromise \$22.9 billion budget for the coming fiscal year, the picture has become even clearer that projected cuts to federal anti-poverty funding and programs by the Trump administration are going to profoundly affect North Carolina.

This is where federal funds currently make up 32.7 cents of each state revenue dollar, according to a just-released report from the N.C. Justice Center, and specifically Winston-Salem, where recent statistics show a population poverty indicator of 24.1 percent; the highest percentage of unemployed residents over 16 in poverty at over 50 percent; and where over 50 percent of renters were spending 30 percent or more of their income on housing in the city between 2010-2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau and the Winston-Salem Poverty Thought Force.

Indeed, the poverty rate in Winston-Salem was comparatively higher than the United States, North Carolina, Forsyth County, and Greensboro between 2006 and 2014, hitting as high as 26.7 percent (blacks at 30.6, Hispanics at 46.5, and whites at 12.3). And despite a comprehensive report from the Poverty Thought Force issued earlier this year addressing strategies on how to effectively tackle economic destitution in Winston-Salem, that job has just become much harder thanks to federal budget cuts that most likely force North Carolina to restrict its anti-poverty spending.

According to a recent report from the nonpartisan, nonprofit North Carolina Justice Center, "Given the massive cuts to federal funding proposed by the President, North Carolina would have to come up with at least \$13 billion in additional revenue over the next 10 years to maintain existing vital programs."

More importantly, the new report from the N.C. Budget and Tax Center, an arm of the N.C. Justice Center, warns "... that the N.C. Senate and House budget proposals do not currently plan for what happens if North Carolina has to assume these costs."

According to that report, "Trump's budget would require states to pay for 25 percent (\$562 million) of SNAP (formerly known as food stamp) benefits by 2023.

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Photo by Todd Luck

Minerva Garcia

## Local mother facing deportation gets aid

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

"I am the mother of four children and I will do anything for them."

That's how a tearful Minerva Garcia introduced herself to a crowd gathered at Parkway United Church of Christ last week.

"Anything" included coming to the

United States 17 years ago, so her blind son, Eduardo could have opportunities he couldn't get in the Mexican state of Guerrero. She said she was allowed to come for six months but never went back, hoping that she could find a way to citizenship while working with a lawyer.

Since 2013, she said that Immigration

See Mother on A6

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