

The Catch!



Extended Winning Streak



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THE CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, November 2, 2017

Obamacare is still alive

ACA health insurance discounts remain in 2018

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Open enrollment for 2018 health insurance began on Nov. 1, just weeks after President Donald Trump took action to end Affordable Healthcare Act subsidies that help millions of Americans buy insurance.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina assured its customers in a statement on Oct. 18, that insurance companies have set their rates for 2018, so they're

required to still give their ACA customers discounts based on their income.

"Last week's executive order from President

participate in the ACA marketplace in the long run."

While congressional Republicans and Trump administration officials talk

"The individual market in North Carolina has become less volatile."

—Brian Tajlili, Blue Cross, Blue Shield

Trump ending cost-sharing reduction (CSR) payments to insurers does not impact 2018 premiums," said the statement. "However, ending these federal reimbursements will drive up premium costs and make it harder for insurers to par-

about the "death spiral" of the ACA, which they call Obamacare, the instance market seemed to be stabilizing in North Carolina. Blue Cross NC said its average rate increase request for ACA plans

See ACA on A5



Photo by Todd Luck

Rasuko Rallings holds a sign supporting access to healthcare at an Indivisible Forsyth protest held last week on downtown Fourth Street.



Members of the Griffith Elementary Bulldog Stompers perform during the Winston-Salem State University Homecoming Parade.

Photos by Tevin Stinson

WSSU Homecoming Parade excites community

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

The streets of downtown Winston-Salem were filled with joy and excitement last Saturday morning, Oct. 28, as the as the soulful sounds of Winston-Salem State



University's Red Sea of Sound led the way during the 2017 Homecoming Parade.

While the parade is always one of the biggest events during Homecoming Week on the campus of "OI State U," this year's event had a little more excitement as the HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities),

founded in 1892, celebrated its 125th anniversary.

Many Ram supporters who attended the parade were excited to see the event return to its normal route. Instead of starting on Fourth Street and turning right on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive last year, the parade started at the Wake Forest Innovation Quarter on Patterson Avenue.

While watching members of the Mo Lucas Community Foundation make their way toward Bowman Gray Stadium, longtime city resident James Thompson said the parade has become a tradition for him and his family.

"I've been coming to the parade since I was a little boy. For many people in the community, this is Homecoming for the city, not just Winston-Salem State," he said. "This is a real tradition."

COURTS

Federal court: Special master to redraw GOP maps

BY CASH MICHAELS
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Once again, a three-judge federal panel has dealt Republican legislative leaders in the N.C. General Assembly a legal, and potentially political blow by ordering last week that a "special master" assist the court in both evaluating, and most likely redrawing the redrawn N.C. legislative maps submitted to the court in September.

But now, not surprisingly, comes word that GOP leaders aren't happy with the special master chosen to essentially correct nine of the 28 redraw districts still found to be "legally unacceptable." This new development signals that Republican legislative leaders may be willing to throw a monkey wrench into what would most likely be a fair and nonpartisan redrawing of North Carolina's state House and Senate districts, compared, most observers agree, to what it is now.

A process that could remove the apparent partisan and racial advantage the original 2011 GOP redistricting voting map gave Republicans in illegally "stacking-and-packing" African-American voters into "minority-majority" voting districts in order to lessen their influence in surrounding elections. The US Supreme Court ruled those districts unconstitutional.

Some observers even suggest that the GOP might again appeal any final decision of the federal three-judge panel — two of which were appointed by President Barack Obama — again, as they did in 2016 to the U.S. Supreme Court, where Republican appointees now hold a 5-4 advantage with President Donald Trump's addition of Justice Neil Gorsuch.

Doing so not only delays any implementation of a

See GOP maps on A5



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