

# Taxes and turkeys



# JV Title



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# THE CHRONICLE

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## Nurse-Family Partnership to expand

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

Now in its fifth year, the Nurse-Family Partnership has secured permanent funding and is looking to expand its effort to improve pregnancy outcomes.

The Nurse-Family Partnership is an initiative of the Forsyth County Health Department following a national model in

which nurses visit the homes of vulnerable first-time mothers living in poverty. The visits start early in pregnancy and



continue until the child's second birthday, with the goal of improving pregnancy outcomes, child



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health and development and family self-sufficiency.



Hunter

The program, which has reduced preventable

deaths and improved health outcomes in both mothers and their children, celebrated its fifth anniversary yesterday with a program at Forsyth Medical Center. Since 2012, the program has received over 1,200 referrals, conducted more than 7,400 visits and helped 271 participants.

Currently, the program has five nurses that can serve 125 mothers at a

time. The program will be adding three more nurses that'll be able to serve 75 more mothers, which will clear or reduce the program's waiting list.

"It's great because we do have this great community need and with this new expansion we'll be able to serve more families," said Nurse-Family Supervisor Christine Wanous.

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Photo by Tevin Stinson

N.C. Rep. Evelyn Terry sits down with teacher Jeffery Shu to discuss the Every Student Succeeds Act during the legislature forum hosted by the Forsyth County Association of Educators on Thursday, Nov. 2.

## Gov. Cooper signs order to help minority biz contractors

BY CASH MICHAELS  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Keeping yet another campaign promise from his 2016 candidacy, Gov. Roy Cooper last week issued and signed Executive Order #25 "... to create jobs and expand economic opportunity for historically underutilized businesses in North Carolina."

The governor also used the Nov. 2 occasion to announce members of his new Governor's Advisory Council on Historically Underutilized Businesses, with appointments from the Triangle to the Piedmont, and beyond.

"Diverse businesses are engines for our economy and we need to encourage their growth and development," Governor Cooper said. "We have minority business owners to thank for creating thousands of new jobs in communities both urban and rural, and we must nurture their success."

Governor Cooper had proclaimed October, "Minority Enterprise Development Month," paying tribute to businesses, corporations and financial institutions owned and operated by people of color and women statewide, for their contributions and achievements in the face of daunting odds and barriers.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency, there are approximately 183,000 businesses owned and operated by people of color and women across North Carolina. They account for over \$16.1 billion in sales revenue, and employ over 129,000 North Carolinians annually.

In turn, the N.C. Department of Administration's Office of Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) is the agency that seeks out and promotes black, women-owned and other businesses of color in the state, to business with state government in terms of procurement of goods and services. The "HUB" Office, as it's commonly known, works to make sure that qualifying businesses meet state requirements to contract with state agencies for a variety of needs.

"Investing in the growth and development of small and minority owned businesses creates opportunities for



Gov. Cooper

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## 'We have to be deliberate about closing these gaps'

### Rep. Terry analyzes state of education at forum

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

Rep. Evelyn Terry has never been one to pull punches when sharing her opinion, and last week was no different when she sat down with local educators to discuss their concerns with the future of public education in N.C.

In Dec. 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act was passed to modify provisions related to standardized testing in grades K-12. While the law signed by President Barack Obama was designed to put less emphasis on

standardized testing and give more power to state education boards, students in N.C. will continue to be judged by how well they perform on a test.

During the open forum hosted by the Forsyth County Association of Educators, moderator Jeffery Shu, eighth-grade teacher at Kernersville Middle School, asked Rep. Terry to share her thoughts on ESSA and the state board's decision to "double down" on testing.

She said in N.C. we must do a better job of bridging the gap for students with a learning deficiency.

"For ESSA to be successful, we have to analyze the data and make sure we are using all of the metrics and applying them where they are

needed rather than places where people are looking to enhance their districts. Rather than seeing urban versus rural fights, seeing where children need the assistance," she said. "For example, right here in Forsyth County, 25 percent of our population is living below the poverty level, and that says it all to me."

Rep. Terry, who serves the 71st District in Forsyth County, said it is detrimental that we find a better way to integrate schools and ensure teachers are trained to teach students from different environments and cultures.

"Take a percentage of the students out of Forest Park and send them to Whitaker or Sherwood Forest and then track that data to see what

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