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THE CHRONICLE

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Forsyth to get new election board soon

Gov. Cooper finally appoints State BOE

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

There will soon be a very different makeup for the Forsyth County Board of Elections, but that may change as the court battle

over election boards continues.



On Friday, Gov. Roy Cooper appointed eight members to the new State Board of Elections & Ethics Enforcement. This

includes Forsyth County's BOE Chairman Republican Ken Raymond, who has resigned his local position so he can serve on the state board. The state board has set empty for nearly 300 days due to a lawsuit Cooper filed against a state law, which Republican legislators passed shortly after he won his seat in 2016. That law would change

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(Above) The Forsyth County Board of Elections will change to a new four-member board that will no longer include Ken Raymond (center), who is now on the State Board of Elections.



Ellison



Photo by Tevin Stinson

Panelists discuss their college experiences during the college forum at Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy on Friday, March 9.

Prep alumni return to discuss life after high school

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Members of the Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy Alumni Association returned to their alma mater last week to sit down with the Class of 2018 to discuss life after high school. During an open forum held in the library, students had the opportunity to discuss all aspects of college life; from picking the right schedule to party life and everything in between.

Abriana Kimbrough, president of the WSPA Alumni Association started the college forum in 2015 to provide first generation college students with information she wish she had when she started college at Wake Forest in 2011. Kimbrough said the purpose of the event is to connect the graduating class with resources to be successful in college and beyond.

She said, "When I sat in your shoes back in 2011, there wasn't anybody to come back and say I'm

going to be a mentor for you. So I graduated and decided to bring back people to share their experiences and build relationships with current students."

This year the panel, held on Friday, March 9, featured young professionals who all took different paths after high school. Featured panelists were Chloe Wilborn, Kwa'Tre Hollingsworth, Benjamin Brantley and Jalen Hatton.

To jumpstart the conversation, Kimbrough

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"When I sat in your shoes back in 2011, there wasn't anybody to come back and say I'm going to be a mentor for you."

—Abriana Kimbrough, president of the WSPA Alumni Association

County plans Human Services consolidation

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Forsyth County commissioners passed a resolution declaring their intent to consolidate the departments of Social Services and Public Health.

Commissioners voted 8-1 on the resolution, which authorizes staff to prepare a strategy for the merger. Consolidation is mainly about who runs the departments, which currently both have their own board that can hire and fire their directors. Consolidation will create a combined Human Services board with a Human Services director that'll be hired by the county manager with the advice and consent of the board. The vote begins a process for possible consolidation, and commissioners are scheduled to hold a final vote on it in June. If



El-Amin



Martin

approved, consolidation would go into effect in July.

County Commissioner Vice Chairman Don Martin said he felt this would actually further remove both departments from politics, since the county manager will be hiring the Human Services director and not commissioner-appointed boards. He said consolidation will improve both departments.

"It is philosophically designed to improve services to those who are least fortunate so that the Health Department and the DSS group can be working together to try to solve various problems in this community," said Martin.

Commissioner Everett Witherspoon, the sole "no" vote, disagreed with Martin, saying that since the county manager directly answers to the commissioners, it would give them greater influence over the departments.

"I think the firewall between the Board of County Commissioners and Department of Health director,

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N.C. public schools resegregating, study finds

BY CASH MICHAELS
FOR THE CHRONICLE

There are more high poverty schools, containing more poor children of color, across North Carolina now, resulting in an alarming resegregation.

That is the contention in a new report, "Stymied by Segregation:

How Integration Can Transform North Carolina Schools and the Lives of Its Students" by Kris Nordstrom, a policy analyst with the NC Justice Center, a non-partisan progressive policy group.

According to the "Stymied by Segregation" report, school districts in New Hanover, Guilford,

Mecklenburg and Wake counties, among others have the largest increase in income-based segregation.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg has the most racially segregated school district in North Carolina. Guilford and Forsyth counties are among the 10 most segregated school districts in

the state.

The report analyzes the past 10 years on trends in public school segregation in North Carolina, and notes that the number of racially and economically isolated schools has increased; economic segregation is on the rise, even though the racial

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