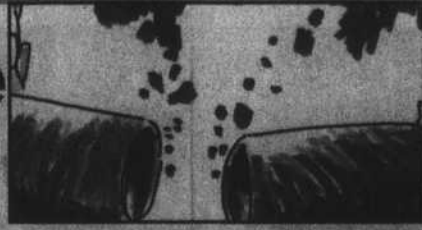


The battle
is on



League

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THE CHRONICLE

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, June 7, 2018

County gambles on new sales tax

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Instead of raising taxes in Forsyth County's proposed budget, county commissioners plan to gamble on taxpayers approving a quarter-cent sales tax to pay for the debt it'll take to build the new courthouse.

That's the consensus that was reached on Tuesday afternoon, June 5, during a budget workshop. The budget proposed by County Manager Dudley Watts was \$433.9 million and included a 2.3 cents property tax increase to cover \$115 million in debt for the construction of a

new courthouse.

Commissioners, however, decided to go a different route. Commission Vice Chairman Don Martin proposed, instead of a property tax increase, to pay for it with a new quarter-cent county sales tax that'll be placed on the ballot in November. If ratified, the tax would start in April and wouldn't apply to gas and grocery purchases. The tax is opposed by

Commissioners Everette Witherspoon and Fleming El-Amin, who've argued that it'll adversely affect low-income people, and both have expressed doubt voters would ratify

it.

"It's so regressive," said Witherspoon.

In North Carolina, 31 counties have successfully passed a quarter-cent sales tax, while 38 counties have had voters reject it. Not implementing a property tax increase this year means that if the sales tax doesn't pass, the county would need to have a 3.1 cents property tax increase next year to pay for courthouse debt. The county property tax is currently 72.35 cents per \$100 of property value.

The elimination of the

See Sales tax on A2



Photo by Todd Luck

Commissioners Ted Kaplan, Fleming El-Amin, Gloria Whisenhunt listen during Monday's hearing on the county budget.



Photo by Tevin Stinson

Participants in last weekend's JCB Dance course, led by the 10-year-old, stretch before the start of the course held at Dance Explosion School of Performing Arts in Clemmons.

10-year-old dancer defying the odds

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Before Janihyn Carter-Blue could even walk, she had an undeniable passion for music and dance. At only 16 months old, whenever she would hear music she would break out her best dance moves for whoever would watch.

"She couldn't even walk, but she would stand up just to dance," said Phylicia Carter-Blue, Janihyn's mother.

"So when she turned 2, I started looking for dance classes, and she just jumped right in like she had been dancing forever."

Today, at the age of 10, young Janihyn, who is known throughout

the community as JCB Dance, has turned that passion into a thriving business. For the past year, JCB has been teaching her own dance classes for children throughout the community.

She said what started as a dance class for children who are home-schooled like herself grew into some-

See Dancer on A2

W-S one step closer to starry walkway

Ceremony to unveil the Winston-Salem Arts, Culture and Entertainment Memorial Walk of Fame

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

The City of Arts and Innovation took a step closer to making the Winston-Salem Arts, Culture and Entertainment Memorial Walk of Fame a reality.

The idea for the Walk of Fame has been in discussion mode since November 2015, when the City Council voted to approve the project. Accepted nominees will be memorialized with bronze stars embedded in the sidewalk outside the newly renovated Benton Convention Center.

During the Development/Housing/General Government Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 15, committee members voted on names that will make up the Class of 2018. Although the Walk of Fame is not yet complete, board members have been selecting honorees since 2016.

Later this month, the stars, are expected to be unveiled during a special ceremony at the Benton.

Here's a list of the honorees who will be enshrined on the sidewalk on Cherry Street: The 5 Royals, Larry Leon Hamlin, Phil Hanes, William "Wis" Samuel Scales, John Iuele, Chris Murrell and Dr. Robert Wise.

Being inducted into any Hall of Fame is no easy task, and the Winston-Salem Arts, Culture, and Entertainment Memorial Walk will be no different. The city has set certain criteria that each nominee has to meet in order to have his or her name placed on a star. Rules for nominees are



Rowe

See Walkway on A2

City budget to enhance buses for Bus. 40 closing

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The City of Winston-Salem's proposed budget features \$7.3 million to enhance transportation to mitigate the congestion expected from the upcoming closure of Business 40.

This was just one of the things in the \$530 million budget for 2018-19 that was presented to the City Council in a special meeting last Thursday, May 31.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on the budget at City Hall tonight, June 7, at 7 p.m. and will vote on the budget on June 18.

The budget keeps current service levels without raising taxes and raises the minimum pay for city workers to \$12.50 an hour. The city remains committed to reaching a \$15 minimum wage for its employees, according to City Manager Lee Garity.

"It is very doable to get to \$15 by

2021," said Garity.

The extra \$7.3 million comes from a N.C. Department of Transportation grant to increase public transportation when a portion of Business 40 is scheduled to close this fall for construction. The closure is expected to last 20 months and

See Budget on A2

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