

Touch screen comeback



Now a Hornet



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THE CHRONICLE

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DSS, Public Health now one

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

As of July 1, the Forsyth County Departments of Social Services (DSS) and Public Health will be consolidated into a Human Services department.

County commissioners voted 7-1 to approve the move last week. Little is expected to change for the clients of the two departments, which are located

next to each other on the same campus on Highland Avenue.

"There should be minimal change in how things run in those departments," said Assistant County Manager Ronda Tatum, who will be the Human Services director.

Consolidation involves who runs the departments, which currently both have their own boards with the ability to hire and fire their departments' directors.



Tatum

Most of those board members will make up the new 18 member consolidated



Witherspoon

Human Services board. Hiring and firing powers over the directors of DSS

and Public Health will fall to the Human Services director, who is hired by the county manager, with the advice and consent of the Human Services board.

The directors for both DSS and Human Services will stay in place and no personnel changes are expected from consolidation. Human Services employees will no longer be under the State Human Resources Act and will be under the same policies and

procedures as other county employees.

County Commissioner Everett Witherspoon was the sole "no" vote, repeating his concern that the county commissioners could try to influence county management to fire a DSS or Public Health director they don't like.

"We have a history of meddling in health and human services when we

See One on A4



Photos by Todd Luck

Attendees filled the Board of Elections' small meeting room to capacity during last week's early voting discussion. Another meeting was held Tuesday, June 26.

Early voting discussion begins

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Voters will see touch screen machines return for early voting, but the Forsyth County Board of Elections (BOE) has yet to determine

when and where that will be.

The BOE plans to

continue its early voting discussion on Monday, July 2, at 5 p.m. and must approve a plan by July 17. When it began early voting deliberations last Thursday, it was to a capacity crowd that had numerous suggestions for the board. There were several comments about the importance of Saturday voting for those who work during the

weekdays. There were also those urging the BOE to use Winston-Salem State University, which had been an early voting site from 2000-2012 until a Republican majority BOE, chaired by Ken Raymond, stopped using it.

"I wanted to put in a bid for Winston-Salem State University, which also has easy access for students at Salem and UNCSA [UNC School of the Arts], plus all three faculties and staffs and nearby residents," said Winston-Salem resident Anne Wilson.

WSSU was a source of contention in 2016 early voting when it wasn't considered even after dozens of community members spoke in favor of its use. The board is now evenly split between political parties and has as its chairwoman Democrat Susan Campbell, who has WSSU among her proposed sites.

Two speakers voiced concerns about giving early voting preference to college students, saying they may only live inside the county while attending class but still vote on local issues. Beverly Lung of Walkertown also had a concern if the areas outside the city would be covered by early voting sites.

"Why do you have to have so many on top of each other, so to speak, as opposed to serving all your constituents throughout the whole county?" asked Lung, during the BOE's Tuesday, June 26, meeting.

Traditionally, early voting sites are more numerous in the heavily populated city. Walkertown Library, which does traditionally have a site, didn't make it into the list of sites BOE members expressed interest in as of last week.

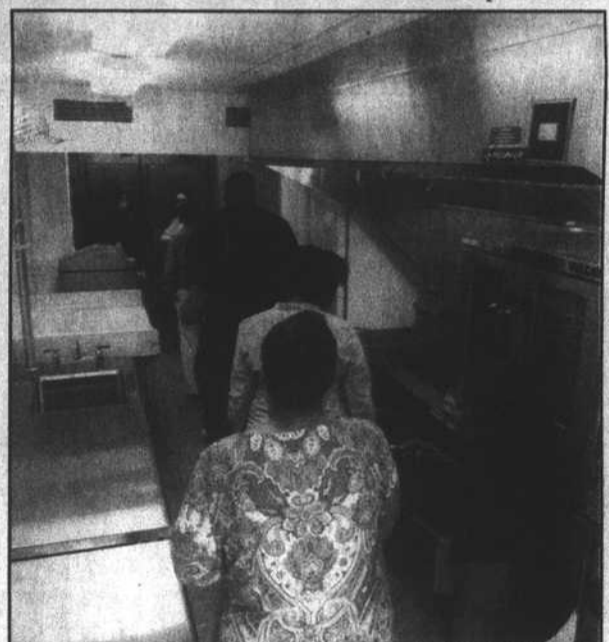
See Early Voting on A4

First shared-use kitchen opens in W-S

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

S.G. Atkins Community Development Center (SGACDC) officials, Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) Chancellor Elwood Robinson and several elected officials came together earlier this week to cut the ribbon and officially open the city's first shared-use commercial kitchen.

According to Carol Davis, executive director of SGACDC, the kitchen, located at The Enterprise Center



WSSU photo

People who attend a ribbon cutting ceremony take a tour of the city's first shared-use commercial kitchen at The Enterprise Center.

on South Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, will help caterers, food entrepreneurs and others who have products they want to package and sell in stores, online and on food trucks. She said the goal is to see entrepreneurs use the kitchen as a stepping-stone to open their own restaurants in the community.

"I know that it will change the lives of people who have been waiting patiently for this place to open. Right now there are some shared-use kitchens and facilities in other counties but this is the first one here," continued Davis. "I know that having it here is going to be a benefit and help people perfect their craft, perfect their menus and complete their business planning, and hopefully we see businesses spin out into this community."

"We would love to see some of these chefs, caterers and food entrepreneurs spin out into their own restaurants

See Kitchen on A4

Promoting reading, building links in W-S



Photo by Tevin Stinson
Children from the Ken Carlson Boys and Girls Club enjoy a sweet treat on Thursday, June 21, during the unveiling of the Sweet Reads Truck.

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Nothing says summer like ice cream, and thanks to the Winston-Salem Police Foundation local officers will be serving up cold treats and books all summer.

During a special ceremony, the Police

See Sweet Reads on A4

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