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League success



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New drug program for addiction at jail

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

A new partnership between pharmaceutical company Alkermes and the Forsyth County District Attorney's office will be offering drug-assisted treatment for addiction.

Forsyth County District Attorney Jim O'Neil talked about the new program with Forsyth County commissioners at their briefing last week. It's designed to help the large population with substance abuse

issues that ends up in the Forsyth County Detention Center by offering them treatment instead of incarceration.

"As a society, we probably have evolved in terms of how we look at addiction and how we approach it in terms of combating it," said O'Neil.

The program has a case manager that screens inmates, looking for those addicted to heroine, opioids or alcohol. The DA's Office would review their cases to determine who

qualifies.

Those who qualify and agree to join would start 14 days after arriving at the jail, when they'd normally have their first court hearing. Instead they'll be given a naloxone tablet to make sure there's no impaired substances left in their system. The next day they'll be given a shot of Alkermes' drug, Vivitrol. The once monthly shot is an opioid blocker used to help fight addiction. It's a non-narcotic, so it can be administered in jail.



Photo by Todd Luck

Forsyth County District Attorney Jim O'Neil and Clerk of Court Susan Frye are hoping a new program can help address addiction and reduce recidivism.

They're held for observation for 24 hours after the first shot.

Then the patient is released to ARCA (Addiction Recovery Care Association) for in-patient treatment or to Daymark

Recovery Services or Insight Human Service for out-patient service. Probation and parole officers will also be checking on them. Those who successfully complete the program, which is expected to

take at least 12 months, will have their charges dropped. O'Neil said he expects some relapses along the way, but is hoping for a high rate of success by the time partici-

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Photo by Tevin Stinson

Rising sixth grader Farrell Hammond chats with some of his favorite authors during the Scholastic Summer Reading Road Trip last week.

Pop-up festival promotes reading

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

It is estimated that each summer, children without a regular reading routine can lose one to three months of the reading skills they learned during the previous school year.

In an attempt to remediate this issue in Forsyth County, for the past three years Bookmarks has partnered with Scholastic to host the Summer Reading Road Trip, a pop-up reading festival for children and families designed to promote summer reading.

This year's festival on Tuesday, July 17, gave young readers the opportunity to interact with some of their favorite characters, play games and enjoy sev-

eral activities, including reading giveaways and a prize wheel. Children's authors Derrick Barnes, author of the "Ruby and The Booker Boys" series; Jonathan Fenske, author/illustrator of "Barnacle is Bored," and Allan Woodrow, author of "Class Dismissed" were also in attendance, signing copies of their books.

"It's amazing to be considered and recognized as one of the 27 cities that gets to host the festival," said Ashley Bryan, Bookmarks youth and schools coordinator.

"This provides a way for students to be engaged with other readers. I think seeing the authors and the

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Funding woes hit Veterans Court

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Veterans Treatment Court held its first, and possibly last, graduation ceremony at Goodwill Industries on Wednesday, July 18.

The voluntary 12-month court supervised program is for veterans dealing with substance use or mental health issues. The program teams veterans who've been charged with a misdemeanor or felony with a veteran mentor and provides participants with treatment and drug screenings



Photo by Todd Luck

Veterans Court Graduate Nicholas Wright shakes the hand of his mentor, Garland Wallace, at a ceremony held last week.

to help them recover.

"For those familiar with treatment courts, this is an intensive program for the participants," said Judge David Sipprell, who presides over the court. "It is not easy and as one of the participants told me last week, it's hard enough that you sure don't want to have to do this again."

It's funded by an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice

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Revving up for a good cause

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Last weekend, the Prince Hall Masonic Temple hosted the fifth annual Masonic Motorcycle Charity Ride.

The event held on Saturday, July 21, was designed to raise funds for

various charity projects the organization hosts throughout the year. More than two dozen men and women participated in the charity ride, which traveled more than 50 miles.

The convoy of riders started at the Masonic Temple located at 1025 14th Street and traveled to Hanging

Rock before returning to the temple for a community cookout and giveaway.

Event coordinator Rodney Funderburk, who is a member of a masonic motorcycle club called 3-5-7 Riders, said when he put out the call to other motorcycle clubs in the area, they jumped at the chance to

participate.

Pre-registration for the event was \$20 per rider. The day of registration for the event was \$30. According to Funderburk, proceeds will be used to help students, teachers, and staff at Hall-Woodward Elementary throughout the 2018-2019 school

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