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## Officials move closer new courthouse



Plyler

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

County commissioners will soon choose the companies that'll manage the future construction of the new courthouse.

This week, commissioners are meeting with representatives from the companies that submitted proposals for the project, which has a \$120 million budget. The issue is tentatively scheduled to be discussed in their briefings on August 16 and 30 with a vote to choose construction managers on Sept. 6.

The new courthouse is planned as two five-story buildings joined by a pedestrian bridge. One building will be for court beside the Government Center on Chestnut Street and the other will be an office building across the street. A parking deck will also be built on the other side of the neighboring Wells Fargo deck.



facilities that'll be built in a vacant lot This lot beside the Forsyth County Government Center is the site of the planned courthouse.

Commissioners discussed replacing the aging Hall of Justice for more than a decade before finally voting to do so last county hired CJMW

Architecture to design the new buildings and construction is planned to begin in fall

County Commissioner Chairman Dave

Plyler said he was "cautiously optimistic" the new courthouse will move faster than the renovated Central Library, which was funded by a 2010 library bond but didn't open until last year.

"I hope we don't look at this and it's still being discussed in the year 2029 or 2028 because that would be a disservice to the people of Forsyth County and an embarrassment to this board and, from my perspective, totally unnecessary," said Plyler.

The county has three proposals for the project, each submitted by two companies who are partnering on the project. The county will be picking one of the teams to be construction managers at risk, which means they will evaluate the site, estimate construction costs, seek preliminary subcontractor bids and then submit a Guaranteed Maximum Price. If the county

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Former radio station owner Mutter Evans and Forsyth County Central Library Director Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin were among the hosts at a reception held at the library on Thursday, July 26, to honor the most recent group of interviewees for The HistoryMakers.

# History project taps area history makers

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The founder of an organization that is undertaking the largest African-American oral history project since the Works Progress Administration's efforts to collect slave narratives in the 1930s came to Winston-Salem to ask for help in identifying residents of North Carolina for the project.

"In many ways, we are building a legacy, built not on fictionalized accounts, but true stories and memo-ries of days gone by," said Julieanna Richardson, the founder and president of The HistoryMakers. "Nothing is more powerful than being able to hear someone talk about their own life in their own

Richardson spoke at a reception at the Forsyth County Public Library's Central Library on Thursday, July 26. The reception was held to honor the latest group of North Carolina HistoryMakers.

The HistoryMakers is a national nonprofit in Chicago, Illinois, that is dedicated to recording and preserving the personal histories of wellknown and unsung African Americans. The archive is preserved in the Library of Congress.

The hosts for the event were marketing experts Lafayette and Sandra Miller Jones; former radio station owner Mutter Evans; and library director and executive producer of the National Black Theatre Festival,

Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin. All of the hosts have been interviewed for the HistoryMakers project.

Also honored for their participation in the HistoryMakers were: Wake Forest University

Professor Melissa Harris-Perry; journalist Mary C. Curtis; Brig. Gen. Arnold N. Gordon-Bray; nuclear physicist Sekazi Mtingwa; marketing executive and publisher Sheila Robinson; insurance executive James Speed; the Honorable Eva Clayton; television journalist Sandra Hughes; former Shaw and Morgan State universities president King Cheek Jr.; molecular virologist Marian Johnson-Thompson; neurobiologist Erich Jarvis; journalist John X.

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### Congregation launches search for A-A lost graves

BY TEVIN STINSON THE CHRONICLE

Earlier this week, the Salem Congregation, the council of the Moravian settlement of Salem and members from St. Phillips African Moravian Church launched a search for lost graves in a forgotten African-American graveyard near Old Salem.

Initially, Moravian African-Americans were buried in God's Acre Cemetery, but in 1816, burials were segregated. At that time, African-Americans were buried at the graveyard at the St. Phillips Moravian Church on South Church Street, which is now part of the Old Salem Museums & Gardens.



Researchers believe more than 200 African-Americans could be buried in the forgotten graveyard at the corner of Cemetery Street and Salem Avenue. Earlier this week the Salem Congregation launched an initiative to find out just how much history is buried in the graveyard.

After the St. Phillips graveyard was thought to be full around the late 1850s, African-Americans were buried at a grave site at the corner of Cemetery Street and Salem Avenue. Until 2011, the graveyard went unnoticed by residents, members of the St. Phillips congregation and

the Salem Congregation. On Tuesday, July 31, a mapping team from Seramur and Associates began the process to find out just how much history is buried in the forgotten graveyard. Just

See Graves on A2

### N. C. elections board back in court in power struggle

BY GARY D. ROBERTSON ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH, N.C. -The repeatedly altered composition of North Carolina's elections board returned to court as a proxy for the lengthy power struggle between Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper and the Republican-dominated legislature.

A panel of three trial judges listened for over three hours on Thursday, July 26, but didn't immeCAMPAIGN

diately rule on the request by Cooper's lawyers to throw out a third iteration of a combined elections and ethics board. Structures of two

earlier versions created by GOP lawmakers previa ously have been declared unconstitutional.

Lawmakers have passed several bills that eroded Cooper's powers. The board is important because its members can approve early-voting sites that could affect election turnout. They can also assess campaign finance penalties and determine ethics law violations.

embroiled in litigation and political disputes since

Cooper was elected governor in 2016.

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(336) 924-7000

