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THE CHRONICLE

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TWIN CITY FASHION WEEK



The Twin City Fashion Week was in full swing April 18-20 at the Millennium Center. The creative works of four emerging designers were on display Friday, April 19. Models worked the runway as they showed off fashions designed by Cassidy Burel, Sarah Woods, April Whiting and Jatice Williams. Twin City Fashion Week drew a large crowd despite the threat of severe weather.

Expungement clinic gives hundreds a clean slate

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

It is no secret that having a criminal record can have a negative impact on one's ability to become a productive citizen. That's why last week several elected officials partnered with the Wake Forest Law Pro Bono Project and local attorneys to host an expungement clinic at the Forsyth County Hall of Justice.

Led by Forsyth County Clerk of Superior Court, the Honorable Susan Frye, and City Councilman James Taylor, the expungement clinic, which was free of charge, was designed to give residents in Forsyth County a clean record and some added confidence when they're filling out that job application, applying for housing, or even post-secondary

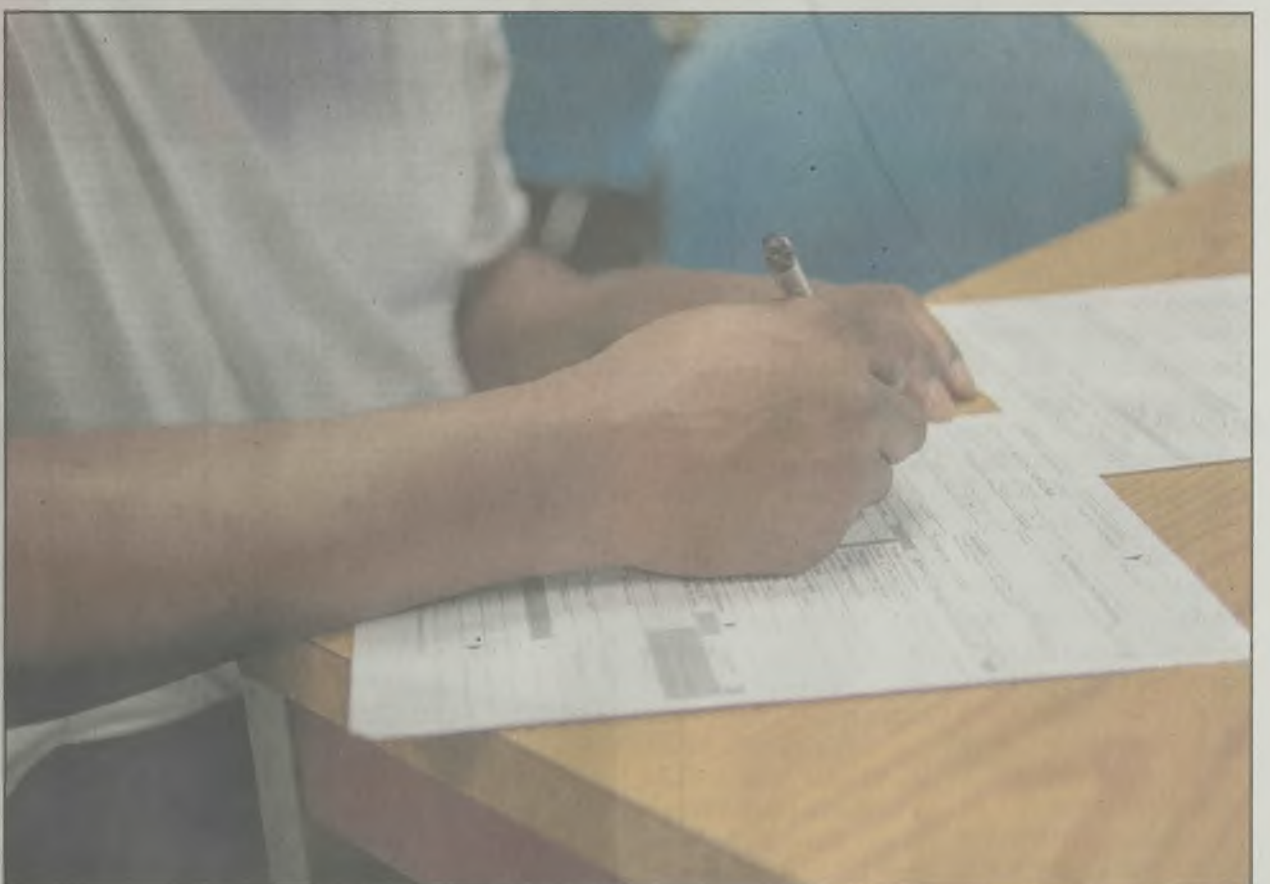
education. The sheriff and clerk's offices stayed late to make it all happen.

According to the National Reentry Resource Center, 87 percent of employers conduct criminal background checks for some or all job applicants and the existence of a criminal record reduces job callback by 50 percent on average.

In December 2017 North Carolina made major changes to the law covering expungements. The biggest changes reduced the waiting period to expunge a non-violent misdemeanor from 15 years to 5 years and nonviolent felonies from 15 years to 10. The fairly new legislation also eliminates the number of expungements one is entitled to if charges are dismissed, or one is found "not guilty." Under the old law, only one expungement was allowed.

It is estimated that up to 2 million residents in North Carolina will benefit from the change in the expungement law.

On the day of the clinic here in Forsyth County, local judges, attorneys, and



A local resident completes paperwork to get an old conviction removed from his record.

Submitted photo

local law students helped hundreds of residents complete and file paperwork

with the clerk, who will complete the expungement process. When discuss-

ing the clinic, Taylor, who is also publisher of The

Chronicle, said oftentimes poverty and crime go hand

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