



East Forsyth High School

The Talon

Vol. 52 Ed. 1

Kernersville, NC

October 2013



2013-2014 Talon Staff

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There's a New Superintendent in Town!

By Adam B. Moore

Editor-in-Chief

We enter a new era here in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools (WS/FCS) with our new Superintendent, Dr. Beverly Emory.

Dr. Emory has set several goals for the next several years here in the county. To start off, she wants to improve technology in all of the schools.

With the modern generation growing up in this vast world of different devices and new technology, the schools must utilize this technology to intrigue the students and keep them on par with modern education. This is an attempt to create a more modern approach to teaching in order to better engage the students.

The Superintendent also reaches to improve reading in lower elementary schools. Focusing on the younger children will be beneficial due to the imperative

learning stages occurring at that age. This will improve reading comprehension levels throughout the students' educational careers.

Dr. Emory understands that other goals will emerge throughout time but most importantly, she says "We ALL need to advocate and appreciate our teachers!" So be sure to thank your teachers today for all that they do.

The Superintendent wants WS/FCS to stand out among the other large school districts in the state by having high graduation rates, achieving scores that will demonstrate our comprehensive curriculum, and maybe even a state championship for an athletic team

in the county. As most EFHS students know, that almost happened last year for the Eagles.

Dr. Emory has taken the initiative to value academics. In 1994, she received her Doctorate in Education from Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. She has had inspiration through her family, teachers, students and administrators. Dr. Emory continues to learn each and every day.

Dr. Emory would love to hear concerns from students and teachers in the county. If you have anything you'd like for her to know, address it to your Deans Officers. Dr. Emory seeks to improve this school system every day.

Let's all give Dr. Emory and big Eagle welcome to WSFCS.



Photo courtesy of wstcs.k12.nc.us

East Student to Command District JROTC Brigade

By David Torres

Staff Reporter

East Forsyth Senior Tim Behnke, a four year member of the Iron Eagle Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Battalion, has been promoted to the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School's JROTC Brigade Commander. Behnke recently sat down for an interview with the Talon and was asked a few questions about his new position.

What did you have to do to get promoted to Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools JROTC Brigade Commander?

"You must get elected to become a Brigade Commander, and then once elected the officers pick and vote on a certain student." He said that one must have good conduct and must follow JROTC's rules.

Each school within the same district chooses a student from their JROTC program and then the Officers vote on one to represent their school district as a

JROTC Brigade Commander.

How long have you been in JROTC?

"This will be my fourth year."

What will you do as the Brigade Commander?

"I am in charge of all of Winston-Salem Forsyth County Battalions."

The Brigade Commander is responsible for everything the district's battalions do or fail to do. However, if everything goes the way it's supposed to, all the Brigade Commander must do is supervise, visit, comment, participate, manage, and lead his district's battalions.

Some of the other responsibilities of the Brigade Commander are being seen throughout the JROTC program as much as school schedules and teachers will allow. They also observe what is going on with the organization at all times.

They visit classrooms to observe attitudes, interest, and

conduct of subordinates. The Brigade commander also tries to get to know as many cadets in their district's battalions as possible.

For how long are you a Brigade Commander?

"A new Brigade Commander is elected every year."

In addition to his new rank, Behnke also received the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement. It is the highest award one can receive within the JROTC program. The Bronze Cross for Achievement is given to those cadets of the JROTC program who have demonstrated excellence in military, scholastic, and civic affairs.

Tim was officially promoted to Brigade Commander on September 18th and received the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement on September 24th. Behnke is a role model for all the other students within the JROTC program.

Hastings Hill Bridge Construction

By Reid Hutchins
Co-Editor

You have probably noticed that there has been a sizeable amount of construction going on in close proximity to East Forsyth High School. This is the result of the construction of the highly-anticipated new bridge on Hastings Hill Road that will discontinue travel on the treacherous “S-curve” that has produced many wrecks and, unfortunately, even some casualties.

The existing bridge was built in 1953 making it sixty years old. , the bridge ranks poorly on the NCDOT safety scale, scoring only 30.7 out of a possible 100. It has outlived its expected life and motorists are risking their safety daily by driving on the road.

Construction on the new bridge began in November 2012 and is expected to be complete in January of 2015. A company out of Hillsville, Virginia called DLB Incorporated was awarded the project to construct the new bridge and remove the old bridge for the price of 4.6 million dollars.

Over the summer, the bridge was closed from July 29th through August 24th, causing a great deal of inconvenience for drivers that depend on the road to be open so they can travel on it to get to work or other activities. Luckily, the road reopened right before school started on August 26th.

Instead of following the exact same traffic pattern, the construction is straightening Hastings Hill Road at the start of the curve and a brand new \$4.6 million dollar bridge will take drivers over Interstate 40 onto the remaining, existing part of Hastings Hill Road.

This results in eliminating the sharp curve which in turn helps in improving overall safety for all drivers.

For the next year and a half, students who travel the road will still have to endure the sharp curve until the construction is complete. Students need to be aware of the dangers on the curve.

On September 6, 2013, there was an incident with two motorcyclists who crashed due to the blinding light of the setting sun and the construction zone which ended in one fatality and one person being seriously injured.

Extreme care needs to be utilized by all students as they traverse this historically dangerous road.

We all, students, teachers, and everyday citizens, need to continue to be extremely careful while traveling on Hastings Hill Road, watching for construction zones, slowing our speed when driving around the sharp curve, and using caution to adhere to oncoming traffic.

The Hastings Hill Road curve may seem like a fun challenge to young drivers, but it is not worth the loss of life for that adventure.

Thankfully we can all look forward to a safer ride to school in the future.

How the NC Voter ID Law Will Affect You

By Will Rierson
News Editor

An extensive voter identification bill signed into law earlier this year by Governor Pat McCrory is set to change the way North Carolinians elect their leaders by eliminating illegal voting fraud, but it has also been accused of discriminating against some voters.

Major changes brought about by the law include the requirement to present a photo ID for voting, shortening the early voting period from seventeen to ten days, and the elimination of voter registration for teenagers under the age of eighteen. These changes will take place in 2016 before the next presidential election. Only NC driver’s licenses, military photo IDs, or special voting IDs issued by the DMV will qualify you to vote. School IDs or any other kind will not work.

Interest groups like the NAACP and American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), believe the law purposely discriminate against minorities and college students who support the Democratic Party. They say that shortening the voting period for elections and requiring proof of your identification is most stressful on poor, rural African-Americans who may not drive or be able to get to the polls during an election, giving Republicans an advantage. The ACLU has gone so far as to challenging the new law in court on grounds of discrimination.



Photo courtesy of southernstudies.org

Governor McCrory released a video on YouTube explaining his support for the new law, calling its provisions “common sense reforms”. He dismissed critics, saying that NC residents already need a photo ID to buy Sudafed at a drug store, and that it is easy to acquire a new voting ID.

In the past, NC citizens age sixteen or seventeen could sign up to vote, even if they were too young to participate in the next few elections. Many East Forsyth students signed up to vote in the past when the Hispanic League held voter registration drives in the cafeteria during lunch. Students will no longer be able to do so at school, and will have to wait until they turn eighteen. Make sure you do it before an election cycle though, as same day voter registration has also been banned under the law.

Since you are likely too young to vote, this issue may seem unimportant to you. The right to vote is an important part of being an American, and should be celebrated. Whether you believe this new law will secure our elections from fraud, or believe it is unfair to North Carolinians, feel free to voice your opinion to your elected officials and make sure to vote when the time comes.

Government Shutdowns, Gridlock, and Obamacare

By Will Rierson
News Editor

At midnight on Tuesday, October 1, 2013, the United States government closed.

Political gridlock in Congress prevented the federal government from authorizing spending on many government functions, forcing a shutdown of non-vital areas of government.

This is the first government shutdown since the Clinton administration, though the US has shown before that it can survive without many areas of government functioning.

Among the functions that have been halted, much of the Interior department has lost funding, forcing the closing of all national parks and monuments.

For the time being, Americans will be unable to visit federally run parks, obtain or renew a passport, or in some cases, get paid.

Military service members, air traffic controllers, and other key security employees will stay on the job, though many civilian federal employees will be furloughed. They will be sent home without pay for the duration of the shut-

down.

The shutdown occurred because The House and Senate could not agree on a budget to continue federal spending into the 2014 fiscal year.

President Obama and

Democrats in Congress insisted on maintaining funding for the Affordable Care Act which provides healthcare to all Americans under a government run system.

Many Republicans refused to fund what they call Obamacare, holding on to their conservative beliefs that don’t include universal healthcare.

A survey released by CNN shows that about 46 percent of Americans blame the government shutdown on Republicans, while 36 percent blame Democrats, and 13 percent place the blame on both.

The shutdown will go on until Congress and the president can agree on government spending.

For now, we can only sit back and watch this unique feature of the American system play out.



Graphic courtesy of fox2now.com

Syria's Diaries: The Undeniable

Truths

By David Torres

Staff Reporter

Over the past few weeks the United States has been discussing whether or not to intervene with Syria, though many Americans are unaware of the situation. Here is the basic situation between the Syrian government and its people.

It all started two years ago, when the 2011 Arab Spring activism in Egypt and Tunisia began. The activism was an uprising to put an end to corruption, injustice, and poor economic conditions.

These movements inspired Syrian protesters to fight back against their president's, Bashar al-Assad, government in search for democratic reforms for their country.

However, Syria's government didn't take these protests lightly and responded with severe punishments such as kidnapping, torturing, and killing protesters. The government's military also began opening fire on any civilians who fought back as a response to their punishments.

This only generated more violence since civilian rebel forces began taking action against government violence. The government then decided to destroy entire neighborhoods and towns creating tensions between the two groups and went onto to create a civil war.

Rebel fighters from different Middle Eastern countries began volunteering shortly afterwards, and they joined forces with Syrian rebels.

These include Muslim Jihadists associated with terrorist organizations like al-Qaeda. Some joined in order to see Syria have a political change, and while others decided to help due to their opposition to President Assad's non-religious government.

The Syrian Government has also been accused of using chemical weapons against their civilians. These recent accusations have

caused the international community to consider intervening to help out Syria's civilians.

Syria's civil war may seem to only be a problem within their country, but it has become a conflict on an international scale. Specifically speaking, it has become a problem between the United States and Russia.

Russia has been an ally with Syria and has strong ties to President Assad's government. For the same reason, Russia was preventing the United Nations Security Council from allowing any foreign country to intervene with Syria without their approval.

If the United States were to intervene with Syria, it would have to be without the United Nation's approval.

However, Russia is now supporting the United States in their decision to stop Syria from using chemical weapons in order to maintain peace between international relations. Russia is still a loyal ally of Syria's, but they agree that it is necessary to keep chemical weapons from getting into the wrong hands for that to be possible.

The United States is intervening in Syria because President Obama believes that it is not in the national security interests of the United States to ignore clear violations of what he believes are an "international norm", meaning that it wouldn't be right to ignore the clear injustices being committed within President Assad's government with chemical weapons.

Currently the US is working with Russia to peacefully dispose of Syria's chemical weapons with the supervision of the United Nations.

Only time will tell if the Syrian government will work with the international community or not.

Hurrah for Hunting

By Reid Hutchins

Co-Editor

When the nights start to become colder and the leaves begin to change colors, you know something is happening.

When grown men take a week off from work and call it a vacation, you know something is happening. That happening is none other than hunting season!

The popular North Carolina deer hunting seasons occur in the

fall, beginning with bow season on September 7th and ending November 8th. Muzzle loader season starts on November 9th and ends on November 22nd.

Gun season soon follows starting on November 23rd and ending on January 1st.

Safety is very important when hunting. Abiding by all safety rules will ensure maximum safety and fun.

Hunters need to remember to not point a gun at any person even if the gun is not loaded.

Hunters need to be aware of their surroundings, making sure they know where all other people

are and making sure they don't shoot in the direction of another person.

Hunters need to be sure that they abide by hunting kill limits, which in North Carolina restricts deer kills to two per day.

Hunting brings entertainment to all people who participate. People become closer to one another by celebrating a kill and spending hours in the same tree stand.

People also enjoy the fulfillment of killing something and being able to eat what they shot.

Let's make sure to have a safe yet enjoyable hunting season, because everyone wants to make it home safely.



Photo Courtesy of Steve Maslowski, US Fish & Wildlife Service



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Rebels with a Cause

By Adam B. Moore

Editor-in-Chief

Many North Carolina teachers did not vacation this summer. Instead, they went to war. Teachers protested new educational legislation at the state capital in Raleigh and most major cities in the state.

The current economy has forced budget cuts among certain government programs such as education. After having teacher pay raises frozen, eliminating teacher tenure (job security), eliminating extra pay for Master's degrees, and eliminating teacher assistant positions, many teachers were angered with the NC General Assembly and NC Governor, Pat McCrory. Governor Pat McCrory raised the salaries of his cabinet just after eliminating these benefits for teachers.

The North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) participated in protests called "Moral Mondays" to publically express the concerns of North Carolina teachers and others who are affiliated with education. Thousands of educators showed up to these events and listened to various speakers on a lawn inside the state government complex, then marched around the North Carolina Capitol Building. Moral Monday protests continue in support of education reform and various policies in opposition to the Republican-controlled legislature.

NCAE President Rodney Ellis explained the spirit of the

protests, saying "We, the teachers of North Carolina, are not making outrageous demands; we're just asking that the General Assembly stop making promises that they don't intend on keeping."

Many educators, faith leaders, and concerned citizens were arrested during the protests in Raleigh for trespassing on government property. They included the President of the North Carolina National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Reverend William Barber, NCAE President Rodney Ellis, and NCAE Vice President Mark Jewell.

Some state leaders say that there is no reason for the teachers to be protesting. The NC Republican party points out that under their control in the General Assembly, over 7,000 education employees have been hired and the high school graduation rate in North Carolina is the highest it has ever been. Plus individual school districts have the responsibility to raise teacher salaries, so some arguments given by their opponents may not be entirely accurate.

Nevertheless, many fear for the future of public education in North Carolina. NC Superintendent of Public Instruction June Atkinson was quoted as saying "I am truly worried about the ongoing starvation of our public schools... I see other states making a commitment to public education. In our state I see in this budget we're cutting teachers, we're cutting teacher assistants, we're cutting instructional support."

This debate will continue through the coming years.