

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Controversy clouds final week of Bowman Gray racing.

SPORTS, B1



New pizzeria in Salem Bottleworks offers a slice of nostalgia.

FOOD, B5

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

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INSULT OR INVESTMENT?



WALT UNKS, JOURNAL

An aerial photo of the vacant block bounded by Fifth, Spruce, Sixth and Marshall Streets between Benton Convention Center and First Baptist Church where developers are proposing a 5,000-seat outdoor amphitheater.

Winston-Salem council gets earful on downtown amphitheater

JOHN DEEM
Staff Writer

Proponents and critics of a proposed 5,000-seat amphitheater in downtown Winston-Salem had their first chance to state their cases directly to the full city council on Monday.

They didn't hold back.

Backers called the privately funded project a potentially valuable economic catalyst for a downtown facing potential decline, all at no cost to the city.

Opponents, meanwhile, characterized the proposed \$1-per-month lease for an acre of city-owned land as a sweetheart deal for a politically connected business leader. Developers say the acre is needed for the project. They also argued that hundreds of residents at the Crystal Towers public housing complex — just northwest of the proposed site — were an afterthought in the planning process for the project.

Please see **COUNCIL**, Page A4

Gov. Stein creates gang violence task force

Says aim is to 'prevent violence from occurring'

JOHN HINTON
Staff Reporter

Gov. Josh Stein signed an executive order Tuesday that established a state-wide Gang Prevention and Intervention Task Force, he said.

Stein talked about his executive order during his speech to the North Carolina Gang Investigators' Conference in Winston-Salem. About 500 people, mostly law enforcement officers, listened to Stein's speech.

"Responding to crime and violence is not enough," Stein said. "We also must prevent violence from occurring in the first place."

The task force will consist of gang intervention specialists at the N.C. Department of Adult Correction, law enforcement officers, education leaders, mental health professionals and former gang members, Stein said.

Please see **STEIN**, Page A4

Moore: Cuts needed to make payroll

WS/FCS to consider eliminating 344 positions

LISA O'DONNELL
Staff Reporter

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools Board of Education will consider eliminating 344 positions, which means 268 people will lose their jobs.

The measures would save the cash-strapped school district \$18.2 million.

The specifics of the layoffs and how they may be implemented were explained to the school board at a workshop on Tuesday morning. The morning session was in advance of an evening meeting where board members are expected to act on a recommendation to cut jobs.

The school board took no action at the workshop.

Please see **SCHOOLS**, Page A4

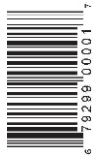
Trump says US troops won't be sent to help defend Ukraine against Russia.

NEWS, A6

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