

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Coach Dickert names starting QB for Wake's season-opener.

SPORTS, B1



Erin's winds and waves destroyed NC sea turtle nests.

NEWS, A4

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

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SAVE OUR TEACHERS



ALLISON LEE ISLEY PHOTOS, JOURNAL

Reagan High School students staged a walkout in support of teachers on Monday afternoon in Pfafftown. Reagan was one of several Forsyth County high schools that participated in a walkout on Monday afternoon.

Student-led walkouts held at 5 Forsyth County high schools on Monday

LISA O'DONNELL
Staff Reporter

Hundreds of students across several high schools walked out of class on Monday, a reaction to the mass layoff of educators currently happening in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

The school board voted last week to lay off up to 275 people and eliminate about 350 positions, a move that will save the school district \$18.2 million.

Interim Superintendent Cathy Moore said that without the cuts, the school district would be unable to pay its bills and make payroll in October.



Reagan High School students walked out of class on Monday in support of teachers.

Please see **WALKOUT**, Page A4

COMMENTARY

CHAOS AND CONFUSION

Job cuts bring pain to Winston-Salem, Forsyth County Schools

The calls started lighting up cell phones and filling inboxes over the weekend as the inevitable, unenviable transition from numbers to names in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools began.

The words varied from school to school and from principal to principal, but the message carried by each was very much the same.

Assistant principals and teachers and teaching assistants who work with EC kids — exceptional children — were among the first of 268 employees with Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools to get electronic pink slips on Saturday. Principals were left to break the news to parents, students and faculty.

“Good evening. This is an important update,” one such call opened. “Yesterday we were notified that (names withheld to protect the innocent) are impacted by the recent reduction in force. They are dedicated, hard-working (employees) who pour everything into our students every single day.



SCOTT
SEXTON

Please see **JOB CUTS**, Page A4

Triad pastor accused of sex crimes

SUSIE C. SPEAR
Staff Reporter

A Kernersville pastor has been charged with statutory rape, according to court records and an arrest warrant.

Brett Martin Kitko, 50, is charged with two counts of felony indecent liberties with a child and one count of felony statutory rape of a child older than 6. The warrant said the assaults happened in the earlier 2000s.

Kitko was arrested Aug. 19 and released on a \$300,000 bond. He made a first appearance in Forsyth County District Court on Monday.

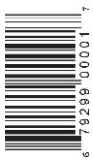
Please see **PREACHER**, Page A4

Truist settles lawsuit over selling of customer data to advertisers.

NEWS, A3

Weather
High clouds;
Low humidity
High 79 • Low 57
FORECAST • A10

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