

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Hillary Clinton testifies before Congress that she didn't know of Epstein's crimes

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Forsyth Tech wins title in first season back in junior college basketball

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Friday, February 27, 2026

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COMMENTARY

WARY RESIDENTS SEEK PROTECTION



WALT UNKS, JOURNAL

The Crystal Towers public housing complex on Sixth Street is pictured in the foreground of the Winston-Salem skyline.

Anxiety spikes after an innocuous statement about the future of Winston-Salem's Crystal Towers

Given all that's transpired with the Crystal Towers public housing complex in downtown Winston-Salem, it's no wonder residents are nervous.



SCOTT SEXTON

Complaints about bed bugs and trash fell on deaf ears, residents said. Concerns about basic maintenance issues, reliable plumbing and working elevators in a high-rise that serves the disabled and the elderly were met

with woe-is-me budget talk.

It took years before elevators that serve hundreds, many of whom can't take the stairs, were repaired.

The city, through the rebranded ASPIRE public housing authority, tried unsuccessfully to sell it out from under them. Estimates for repairs and renovations to bring Crystal Tower up to a decent standard ran to \$40 million.

So when Ted Ortiz, ASPIRE's executive director, recently made an innocuous statement about the future of Crystal Towers, the anxiety of the residents spiked.

Relocation worries

Not many people noticed Ortiz's comments at first.

He was participating in an online panel discussion sponsored by Leadership Winston-Salem about affordable housing that was, shall we say, buried by back-to-back winter storms.

City officials, developers, advocates, and people with a genuine interest in solving a pernicious problem tuned in earlier this month.

Please see **SEXTON**, Page A4

2 arrested in robbery, shooting in Walkertown

ERIC MILLSAPS
Staff Writer

Two people have been charged in a robbery and shooting that occurred in Walkertown last month.

Isaiah Malik Patterson, 25, of Walkertown, was charged with one count of felony assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill or inflict serious injury, one count of felony possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and one count of felony robbery with a dangerous weapon, according to a news release from the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office.



Patterson

Patterson is currently being held at the Forsyth County Law Enforcement Detention Center under no bond, the release said.

Jadey Kayleen Trejo, 24, of Walkertown, was charged with one count of felony conspiracy. Trejo is currently being held at the Forsyth County Law Enforcement Detention Center under no bond, the release said.



Trejo

What led to the arrests?

On Friday, Jan. 16, 2026, deputies were called to investigate a robbery and shooting in the 6900 block of Tall Oaks Road in Walkertown. Deputies identified the victim as 21-year-old Ben Eshiet of Winston-Salem, the release said. Eshiet was transported to Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Hospital, where he was treated for his injuries and released.

The sheriff's office's Investigative Services Division, along with the Real Time Intelligence Center, utilized the latest technology to identify suspects. Working with our partners at the U.S. Marshals Service, the following individuals were arrested, the release said.

"You may think you're smart, but our technology is smarter. If you commit a crime in Forsyth County, our Real Time Intelligence Center will find you," Sheriff Bobby F. Kimbrough Jr. said.

Eric Millsaps is the managing editor for North Carolina for Lee Enterprises papers, working primarily with the Winston-Salem Journal and Greensboro News & Record.

Tattered NC flag has flown at convention center for a year

Does it matter if city-owned property flies a shabby state flag?

JOHN DEEM
Staff Writer

On Monday, outside the city-owned Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem, a torn and tattered North Carolina flag resembled a signal of surrender to the nearly 40 mph gusts buffeting the area.

Horizontal rips across the right half of the flag left loose strips flailing like arms on a car dealership's inflatable wavy guy.

Meanwhile, an intact American flag, and another displaying the city of

Winston-Salem's official seal, flanked the ragged North Carolina banner.

Given the weather conditions, it would be easy to assume that the Old North State flag's damage was recent.

That's not the case. The flag, flying just across the intersection of Marshall and Fourth streets from the Winston-Salem Journal office, has been in disrepair for at least a year.

Please see **FLAG**, Page A4

A torn and tattered North Carolina flag is blown by the wind in front of the Benton Convention Center on Monday in downtown Winston-Salem.

ALLISON LEE ISLEY, JOURNAL



Quarterly losses mount for Krispy Kreme amid pivotal restructuring

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Sunshine, a few clouds
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