



SATURDAY,
OCT. 10

FINAL WEEKEND!



OTTPA TRACTOR PULL
/// 1 P.M. AND 6 P.M.



WINSTON-SALEM

JOURNAL



ELECTION 2026

MEET THE CANDIDATES



ALLISON LEE ISLEY, JOURNAL
Valerie Brockenbrough



ALLISON LEE ISLEY, JOURNAL
Ronda Mays



WALT UNKS, JOURNAL
Elisabeth Motsinger



WALT UNKS, JOURNAL
Michael Quinones



ALLISON LEE ISLEY, JOURNAL
Jason Lucero

5 people are seeking 3 at-large seats on the Winston-Salem/Forsyth Schools Board of Education. Four candidates shared their thoughts

LISA O'DONNELL | Staff Reporter

Five people are vying for three at-large seats in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools Board of Education race. The electoral district covers all of Forsyth County and is the only one without an incumbent. School board Chairwoman Deanna Kaplan and

Sabrina Coone did not run for re-election and Richard Watts was beaten in the primary. The Journal asked each of the five candidates the same three questions and limited responses to 250 words. Republican Jason Lucero did not respond to the Journal.

Please see CANDIDATE PROFILES, Page A4 and A7

‘Stop coming up with excuses’

Councilwoman pushes for investment in East Winston

JOHN DEEM
Staff Writer

Winston-Salem City Council this week approved declaring a pair of shelter structures at the site of the former Liberty Street Market as surplus property to be sold off, demolished or moved to another location. Removing the buildings, constructed in 2014 as the centerpiece of a nearly \$400,000 redevelopment project by the city that never took hold as envisioned, will clear the way for a second attempt at turning the property into a community catalyst. The site, now referred to as Liberty Street Park and in a high-poverty area along a section of Liberty Street that serves as a connector between downtown and Smith Reynolds Airport, is expected to become home to what the city describes as a “transformational job training center.” Council allocated \$6 million in bond funding for the project in its 2022-2023 budget, and the city’s 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Plan called for spending the money during that budget cycle. So now, with the city operating under the 2026-2027 budget, why has there been no progress? “The project did not move forward because it had not been determined whether the city would need to acquire land for the center or utilize existing

Please see INVESTMENT, Page A9

Future of city’s only needle exchange in doubt

W-S appears closer to ousting the collective from Green Street Methodist

JOHN DEEM
Staff Writer

Winston-Salem is on the verge of recommending ordinance amendments expected to limit how and where the city’s

only official hypodermic needle exchange can legally operate. The Twin City Harm Reduction Collective has been a source of frustration for some neighbors since it began operating out of

Green Street Methodist Church in the West Salem Area in 2017. For the thousands of people who use it – including those who leave with ready doses of naloxone to reverse opioid overdoses – the

collective can be a lifeline. Complaints, particularly about used needles being left in yards and on sidewalks, surged in mid-2025, officials said, prompting a push by city council members for regulations that would limit how such programs may operate

in residential neighborhoods. Under Winston-Salem’s Unified Development Ordinance, the needle exchange is considered an “accessory” church function that doesn’t require a permit.

Please see EXCHANGE, Page A9

Oak Grove volleyball soars to fifth-straight regular season conference title.

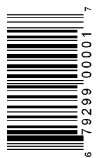
SPORTS, B1

Weather

Some rain in the afternoon
High: 62 Low: 59
Forecast: A10

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KEN BURNS

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