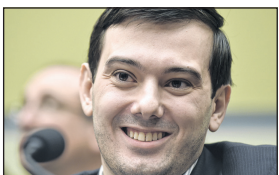


Quarterbacks Newton, Manning bring contrasts to NFL's main stage

NATION



Infuriating members of Congress, a smirking Martin Shkreli took the Fifth at a Capitol Hill hearing Thursday when asked about his jacking up of drug prices, then promptly went on Twitter and insulted his questioners as "imbeciles." **A2**

REGION

A few dozen people gathered outside the Allied Churches shelter Thursday night, in remembrance of those who have died in the last year. **B1**

STATE

North Carolina's March 15 primary and the general election are taking shape, as candidates and disclosed financial reports over the past week. **B3**



KEEP IT ROLLING

Elon hammers badly overmatched Delaware

SPORTS, C1

Weather: Sunny, cooler 47
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NOAH BENSON
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>> SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Facilities task force: Restart rezoning

Superintendent signals desire to go back to the drawing board on district lines

By Isaac Groves
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TheTimesNews.com
Comment on this story

After months of work, Superintendent Bill Harrison said, if he could, he would start working on his redistricting proposal from scratch. Now, he will.

"Why can't we do that?" Alamance-Burlington School Board Member Pam Thompson said. "Are we bold enough and leaders enough to really do what is right?"

The Joint Facilities Taskforce of the

school board and Alamance County Board of Commissioners met at the Alamance-Burlington School System's central offices Thursday morning for the first time since the fall. The committee started out making a list of what repairs and improvements ABSS schools need. That led to talk about a seventh high school, and now, redistricting.

Harrison said the zones drawn around the county's six high schools made sense

when there were separate city and county school systems, and while those districts merged in 1996, the attendance zones did not change.

The shuffle of students when ABSS eliminated the desegregation-era Newlin Elementary School satellite zone moved some students from Hillcrest Elementary to Elon Elementary last summer. That, as far as he knows, was the first time students crossed the old city/county line.



"I think what we're talking about is probably becoming the true Alamance County School System, as opposed to the remnants of the

Burlington City School System incorporated with the Alamance County School System."

BILL HARRISON
ALAMANCE-BURLINGTON SUPERINTENDENT

See **RESTART REZONING** / Page **A2**



Photos by Sam Roberts / Times-News

Above, Western Middle School seventh-graders Grant Sledge, center, and Logan Martyn learn how to extract and precipitate DNA on Wednesday on board the Morehead Planetarium & Science Center's Destiny Bus at Western Middle School. Below, students perform blood spatter analysis with ketchup in science class during a Crime Scene Sampler.

A DNA date with Destiny

Rolling lab lets students learn about science via the mobile method

By Isaac Groves
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ELON — Western Alamance middle schoolers got a look at the genetic scripts of their lives this week — or a DNA sample extracted from their spit.

"Really, it looks like you had blown your nose into the tube," said Jeff Parrish, operations manager for the Morehead Planetarium's mobile lab, sometimes called Destiny.

The lab is on a big blue and white bus. About 20 students in blue gloves, plastic aprons and safety glasses from Sarah West's seventh-grade science class formed two lines in the narrow space to work in pairs at the bus's lab stations.

Science program outreach educator Daniel Wheeler stood at the end of the rows

See **DNA DATE** / Page **A2**



>> COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Board weighs moving some meetings

Large crowds have commissioners considering higher-capacity venue

By Anna Johnson
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GRAHAM — Within moments of the doors opening, supporters of an expansion of the animal shelter filled the Alamance County Board of Commissioner's chambers and then spilled into the nearby overflow room.

The meeting in mid-January wasn't the only time commissioners were faced with a space problem. When the Confederate monument in downtown Graham was hotly discussed last summer, several members of the public were forced into the overflow room and had to watch the meeting on a screen instead of in the main chamber areas.

It's for these instances and others that the commissioners asked county staff to review the possibility of moving one of its two monthly meetings to the historic courthouse.

"It's not fair to come to the meeting and to be looking at a big screen," Commissioners Chair Dan Ingle said, "especially when we have the facility to put everyone in the same room."



Ingle

This has been an idea floated by various commissioners and staff members for a number of years. When the historic courthouse was renovated a couple of years ago, initial work was done with wiring for videotaping the meetings, county Manager Craig Honeycutt said. Further upgrades — to the tune of anywhere between \$20,000 to \$30,000 — would need to be installed at the courthouse to allow for video and audio recording of the meetings, he said.

"We have met there a couple of the years, usually for public budget hearings, and so it is not a new concept," he said. "I think when we have large meetings, many of the citizens don't like being herded into overflow room and we fully understand that."

The board's current meetingspace is capped at a 49 capacity. Capacity at the historic courthouse is 170.

"When you add the commissioners and staff you don't set up a lot of room for the public," Honeycutt said. "That's not a lot of extra seats so we usually have to use the overflow room."

The idea discussed during the board's most recent meeting was to hold an agenda-setting meeting in the morning in the current meeting space and then hold its second meeting at the historic courthouse in the evening when the courthouse would not be in use.

"It's not etched in stone, by any means, but we are going to look at the possibility as we go through the budget cycle," Ingle said.

>> JUSTICE SYSTEM

Man acquitted on rape charge, guilty of sex offense

By Michael D. Abernethy
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GRAHAM — Jurors acquitted a Graham man on the charge that he raped a girl, but found him guilty of two other sex offenses Thursday.

Daniel R. McCoy, 41, was sentenced to a minimum of 20 years in prison for first-degree sex offense with a child and indecent liberties with a child.

McCoy had no prior criminal record.

The jury reached its verdict just past 3 p.m. after more than eight hours of deliberation. While deliberating, jurors reviewed the girl's written and recorded statements. She was 9 when McCoy assaulted her. She came forward with the allegations two years later.

McCoy's trial began Jan. 27 and included testimony by the girl, Burlington police investigators and sexual assault counselors. McCoy took the stand in his defense, denying the charges against him.

Sentencing lasted nearly two hours. The courtroom was sharply divided Thursday between those vindicated by the convictions and others who can't believe a man they know and love could have perpetrated such crimes. His supporters, including his brother Bradley McCoy, leaned on a

polygraph McCoy took. That test isn't admissible in court, but it bolstered their belief in his innocence.

Superior Court Judge Jim Roberson consolidated McCoy's charges and sentenced him to between 20 years and 24 years, 9 months in prison. McCoy will receive credit for 977 days spent in jail awaiting trial.

See **SEX OFFENSE** / Page **A2**

