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THURSDAY MAY 16, 2013 \$1

13 GARAGE SALES LISTED INSIDE TODAY

SW Guidance Center director talks about state's new mental health plan

Grain truck swerves to miss camper

4-44 announces Summer Fun programs, kicks off with tubing at Aldridge

City will have votes for sale through its stock program

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Anticipating growth

Demographer gives school board data on what lies ahead

TREES AVAILABLE

SW Guidance Center director talks about state's new mental health plan

By ROBERT FRYER
The new mental health plan for North Carolina, unveiled last week, is a landmark document that will reshape the way the state approaches mental health care, according to the director of the state's largest mental health provider.

Robert Fryer, director of the Southwest Guidance Center, said the plan, which was developed by a task force led by Gov. Pat McCrory, is a "game-changer" for the state's mental health system. The plan calls for a major restructuring of the state's mental health services, including the creation of a new state mental health authority and the consolidation of various state agencies.

Fryer said the plan is a "bold step" towards providing better care for North Carolinians with mental health issues. He noted that the plan includes provisions for increasing funding for mental health services, improving the training of mental health professionals, and expanding access to care, particularly in rural areas.

Grain truck swerves to miss camper

By JEFFREY W. HARRIS
A grain truck swerved to miss a camper on a highway in the western part of the state Tuesday, according to a police report.

The incident occurred on I-85 near the town of Mooresville. The truck, which was carrying a large load of grain, swerved into the shoulder of the road to avoid a camper that was in the lane. The driver of the truck was not injured, and the camper was not damaged.



Grain truck swerves to miss camper on I-85 near Mooresville Tuesday. Photo by Jeffery W. Harris.

Anticipating growth

Demographer gives school board data on what lies ahead

The number of students ready to enter kindergarten in each of the four counties in the western part of the state is expected to increase significantly in the coming years, according to a report from the state's demographer.

The report, which was released last week, shows that the number of students ready to enter kindergarten in each of the four counties (Catawba, Lincoln, Polk, and Rutherford) is expected to increase by between 10% and 20% over the next five years. This increase is due to a combination of factors, including a higher birth rate and an increase in the number of children in the state's population.

The report also provides data on the number of students ready to enter kindergarten in each of the four counties in the eastern part of the state. The number of students in the eastern part of the state is expected to increase by between 5% and 10% over the next five years.



Map showing the four counties in the western part of the state and the four counties in the eastern part of the state.