

## Healthy foods cause nutrition services losses

**BY GREGORY CHILDRESS**  
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DURHAM — Driven in part by Durham Public School's efforts to provide healthy meals, the school district's School Nutrition Services is projected to operate at a nearly \$500,000 loss for the 2015-16 school year. District officials report that a la carte sales in

school lunchrooms declined from roughly \$2 million in the 2006-07 school year to about \$340,000 in the 2014-15 school year. "Sometimes you don't make as much money off of healthy foods, but that's part of what we're trying to do," said Hugh Osteen, the school district's deputy superintendent of operations.

Officials said increased labor costs because of state pay raises and bonuses, which the school district matched for locally paid School Nutrition Services (SNS) workers, also factor into the shortfall, as did the federal reimbursement for meals. The federal government pays only \$3.15 per meal while it cost on average

\$3.40 to produce a school meal in North Carolina. The loss for the past school year was an improvement over the previous year when School Nutrition Services (SNS) operated at a loss of \$1.2 million. Osteen said SNS's \$2.2 million fund balance can handle this year's shortfall, but warned that such deficits in the future could prove

problematic. "It will not require a reduction in our school system fund balance, but this will be the last year," Osteen said. He said James Keaten, the director of SNS, would have to request money from the systemwide fund balance next year to cover any shortfall that might arise.

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The Herald-Sun | Kaitlin McKeown  
Hillary Ponce, 9, center, stands among a group of demonstrators during a stop of the Keep the Hives Alive Tour outside of Bayer CropScience on Monday in Research Triangle Park. Speakers alleged the negative impacts of pesticide use on the bee population in front of a small crowd gathered along TW Alexander Drive.

## Advocacy group protests Bayer pesticide production

**BY ALEX DIXON**  
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DURHAM  
A national tour aimed at bringing awareness to what it says are pesticides toxic for pollinators made a stop at the Bayer CropScience headquarters Monday to protest some of the products produced by the agricultural biotechnology company. With signs such as "Bayer, Quit Bee-ing a Buzz-Kill" and "Keep Bees Alive," several dozen organizers stood by the side of TW Alexander Drive alongside boxes containing millions of dead and decaying bees, which they said illustrate the significance of bee population decline. "Personally, I think pesticide loads are something that need to

be looked at a lot more. That's one thing that the (chemical) industry ... it's like a red herring or a giant elephant in the room for them," said James Cook, a Minnesota-based commercial beekeeper. "They don't really want to talk about and look at what is actually going on with the relationship between pollinators and pesticides because I think they know what they would find. It would show a lot of issues going on there." According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, managed honey bee colonies declined by 42.1 percent between 2014 and 2015, and the agency has pointed to several broad causes for declines including varroa mites, pests and parasites, pesticides and diseases. Cook said that normal

mortality hive losses equate to about a 10 percent decline, which meant that nearly 850,000 hives died last year outside of "normal numbers." At the center of the relationship between colony declines and pesticide use investigations are neonicotinoid pesticides, an agricultural insecticide that resembles nicotine. Lowe's announced last year that it would be phasing out the sale of products that contain neonicotinoid pesticides within 48 months as "soon as suitable alternatives become commercially available." The company cites some studies that say these pesticides may be a factor in damaging the

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## Council votes to support Faith IDs

**BY LAUREN HORSCH**  
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DURHAM — Monday night saw another marathon City Council meeting with a 55-item agenda before the board adjourns for a summer break. During the meeting the council unanimously approved a resolution supporting Faith ID cards in the city. A Faith ID is not a government-issued ID or driver's license, but it

is an identification card that will be produced, distributed and secured by El Centro Hispano for Durham residents and recent immigrants who have limited access to government-issued forms of identification. Faith ID cards became a popular form of identification after Gov. Pat McCrory signed a law that prohibits the use of matricula consular, a photo ID issued by the Mexican government for nationals outside of Mexico. Undocumented workers

rely on the matricula consular as a form of identification. El Centro Hispano and the Durham Police Department have worked to bring the Faith ID to Durham. El Centro issues the identification cards that will state the resident is a "law-abiding, resident in our community who may have limited access to government-issued forms of identification."

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## Atwater remembered for community activism

**BY CLIFF BELLAMY**  
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DURHAM — Ann Atwater, who died Monday at age 80, is being remembered for her civil rights and community activism, and for her ability to build connections across the divides of race and class.



Ann Atwater

"She had the concrete experience that people who had been enemies can become friends and work for the common good," said Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, director of the School for Conversion, where Ms. Atwater was a teacher and mentor. Wilson-Hartgrove came to Durham in 2003 and, after seeing Atwater at many community meetings and events, asked her to help mentor him and other school organizers in community-building.

In October last year, the school dedicated the Ann G. Atwater Freedom Library, and Atwater spoke at the dedication, telling students who were at the dedication to study and learn as much as they can. "Much of our vision is about carrying on the kinds of work she did," Wilson-Hartgrove said of the school.

"To me, her legacy is that the [civil rights] movement helped us to see that we've inherited deep divides in our society ... but that it is possible to work together across those divides ...," Wilson-Hartgrove said.

"Ann was a warrior for civil rights and equality here in Durham, particularly when it came to low-income residents," said Durham Mayor Bill Bell. She was very effective in connecting "people of all races and all incomes."

"It's hard to imagine a Durham without Ann, maybe because she had a heart and strength of will that both seemed

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Sunday's Cash 5: 7-11-26-35-36	

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# The Herald-Sun

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Published every morning by  
THE DURHAM HERALD CO.  
1530 N. Gregson St., Suite 2A  
Durham, NC 27701

Newsstand prices: Daily, \$1;

Sunday, \$2

Home delivery subscription rates:

\*Plus Applicable NC Sales Tax\*

Daily and Sunday

7-day subscriptions \$6.50  
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# COUNCIL

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

The Durham Police Department will be able to use the Faith ID as a way to determine a resident's identity or residency when other documents are unavailable. Durham isn't the first Trian-

gle community to recognize them as a form of identification — Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Orange County have already recognized them.

"The Durham Police Department fully supports the Faith ID of Durham program and understands the importance of strengthening relationships between the immigrant community and

law enforcement," former Interim Police Chief Larry Smith said in a statement. "We applaud El Centro for collaborating with the Faith community to issue cards to law-abiding individuals who may have limited access to government-issued forms of identification, and will help police officers and other community partners better

serve and protect all residents."

Those applying for a Faith ID must attend an orientation and provide a photo ID — either a passport, foreign national ID card, current or expired driver's license or a matricula consular — along with a

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The Herald-Sun | Kaitlin McKeown

A relabeled bottle of laundry detergent sits on the ground as demonstrators gather during a stop of the Keep the Hives Alive Tour outside of Bayer CropScience on Monday in Research Triangle Park.

# BAYER

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

health of honey bees and other pollinators, but Bayer, which develops neonicotinoids, says the pesticides aren't harmful when used correctly.

"Misapplication can be a problem. We have to distinguish between what is an acute mortality (and long-term colony health)...and that might happen if you have an off-label application or a misuse, you might see some dead bees," Becky Langer-Curry, manager of Bayer's North American Bee Care Program, said in a previous interview. "The pesticides, when used according to label, are safe and there's no effect on the long-term colony health."

Bayer established a \$2.4 million North American Bee Care Center in 2014 at its Durham location, in which the company has invested millions of dollars in numerous programs including Feed a Bee, an effort to increase forage areas for honey bees, and Healthy Hives 2020, a bee health research program.

On Monday, Bayer announced the scientists and researchers that will receive a total of \$1 million in funding through Healthy Hives 2020 to investigate "critical bee health topics" such as bee nutrition, varroa and disease management.

Cook said that it's Bayer's burden to look deeper into the pesticides by conducting or funding research and "not just point at other external sources."

None of the topics for Healthy Hives 2020 include neonicotinoid pesticides.

"We share their commitment to bee health and our nearly 30-year history of action on bee health research, stewardship, education and collaboration speaks for itself," Jeff Donald, spokesperson for Bayer CropScience, said in an email Monday in reference to those rallying. "We're proud to have been joined by more than 100 partners and tens of thousands of citizens who share our



The Herald-Sun | Kaitlin McKeown

Charles McNair, founder of Freedom Farm, speaks to a crowd of demonstrators during a stop of the Keep the Hives Alive Tour outside of Bayer CropScience on Monday in Research Triangle Park.



The Herald-Sun | Kaitlin McKeown

Emily Wilkins addresses a crowd of demonstrators during a stop of the Keep the Hives Alive Tour outside of Bayer CropScience on Monday in Research Triangle Park.

vision for improving bee health."

But organizers behind the "Keep the Hives Alive" tour say that the center is "misguided" and skirts the alleged issues that the pesticides may play. "It doesn't matter how many wildflowers you plant if they're all contaminated with toxic pesticides," said Preston Peck, policy advocate for Toxic Free NC.

In another study by the USDA that evaluated honey bee colonies throughout the country, the varroa mite was found to be the "number one stressor" for operations with five or more colonies during each of the quarters surveyed. Between April and June of 2015, varroa mites affected approximately 43.4 percent of the hives nationally.

In North Carolina, 51 percent of hives between April and June were affected by varroa mites while pesticides affected 3.5 percent and "unknown factors" affected 12.2 percent. According to the data, colonies can be affected by multiple stressors at a time.

"One of the biggest things we face is saying, 'varroa mite is our biggest problem,'

"Cook said. "Varroa mites can be an issue inside a hive ... but honestly I would say we lose maybe one or two percent of our hives every year to varroa mites, if that. If left unchecked, they will decimate a hive, but they are not the biggest issue that beekeepers face."

The tour, which has stopped in South Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan and Pennsylvania, will continue on to Washington, D.C., as national pollinator week lasts through June 26. The tour also aims to address what organizers say are "shortcomings" in regulatory bodies like the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, USDA and Congress in evaluating how pesticides impact bees.

"The science is coming out more and more that these systemic insecticides are having adverse effects on pollinators," Peck said. "Bayer has a responsibility to not sell and promote chemicals that we're finding everywhere and we don't know what the long-term implications are."

Follow Alex Dixon on Twitter @amdixon7.

## Woman charged with stabbing man to death in New Bern

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW BERN — Police in New Bern have arrested a suspect in the stabbing death of a man.

Police Chief Toussaint Summers said in a statement that officers were called to a home about 9:30 p.m. Sunday. They found Maurice Whitehead with a stab wound to the chest. He was taken to CarolinasEast Medical Center where he died.

Twenty-five-year-old Ryesha Lovick of Vanceboro has been arrested and charged with murder. Lovick was being held in the Craven County jail. It was not clear if she has an attorney.

Police have not released a motive for the stabbing.

## FOODS

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

"We're going to have to find a way to be breaking even or else we'll have to use system-wide school funds," Osteen said.

As part of his strategy to stop to red ink, Keaten said he will use attrition to help to reduce the number of full-time employees in SNS and replace them with part-timers when possible.

Keaten said seven full-time posts, for example, will be split into 14 part-time positions in order to cut costs and to give DPS more flexibility in scheduling staff.

School board member Natalie Beyer said she is concerned about converting full-time positions into part-time jobs.

"We have asked you to do so much with bringing healthier foods, universal breakfast and expanding the summer feeding program," Beyer said. "I wish that I felt confident like others that we can dip into the DPS fund balance or that we could fund that, but I feel strongest when we can maintain this at break even."

Keaten said DPS will also increase the price of meals it prepares for local charter schools as part of its plan to raise additional revenue.

He noted that DPS has added Maureen Joy and KIPP Durham to the list of charter schools for which it prepares meals.

By comparison, Keaten shared with school board members during a recent board work session that more than half of the state's school nutrition programs operate at a loss and that 20 school districts have negative fund balances.

"We're lucky we don't have that," Keaten said, referring to a negative fund balance. "We're still able to sustain our own purchases and expenditures."

Additionally, 21 school districts have less than one month's operating expenses on hand, Keaten said.

DPS is one of only 16 school districts from among 115 across to the state to offer universal free breakfast to its students.