

People

Community Calendar, Close-Up, Social Notes, Community News

Close-Up

Local Islamic community to end fast

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Winston-Salem's Islamic community, along with other staunch believers of the Holy Qur'an, or Koran (the Islamic Bible), and its doctrine don't have much longer to wait before they end the mandatory 29-day fast, or Ramadan.

On Sunday, members of the Institute for Islamic Involvement and their friends will treat themselves to a day of festivities, feasting and exchanging of gifts to mark the end of their fast beginning at 8 a.m. at Washington Park.

The month of Ramadan, which is based on the Islamic lunar calendar, requires believers in the Islamic faith to restrain from eating, drinking, sexual contact and bad deeds during the daylight hours. Many rise before dawn, as its founder, Mohammed, did to eat a light meal, or Suhur, and then another meal at dusk.

"Ramadan is not only a time when you refrain from food and other activity," says Nelson Malloy, whose chosen Muslim name is Faruq Abdul Razzak, "it's also a time to learn self-discipline. It's a time when you're trying to get closer to God, to Allah."

In the Islamic religion, Allah reigns as the "one true God" and the prophet Mohammed, the founder of Islam, and the one its followers say received revelations from Allah to write the Koran, is looked on as part of the reason behind the 29-day fast.

Spurgeon Griggs, whose Muslim name is Khalid Abdul Fattah, says the observance of Ramadan goes beyond Mohammed's receiving of "divine revelations" from Allah.

"The Koran was first revealed during the month of Ramadan," he says. "The prophets Jesus, Moses and

Abraham also received revelations during this month.

"Another prime function of Ramadan is to raise our consciousness of the plight of the poor and oppressed," says Fattah. "Out of the voluntary fast, we feel hunger pains and know what it's like to be without food."

Any male or female who has reached the age of puberty must participate in Ramadan, although prizes will be awarded to children whose parents present a documented time record of the number of hours they went without food.

"Another prime function of Ramadan is to raise our consciousness of the plight of the poor and oppressed."

Khalid Abdul Fattah

"We encourage the children to fast," says Fattah. "They may go without breakfast or they may eat breakfast but no snack in between lunch time."

The 29 days of self-denial and restraint does not include members who are ill, traveling, pregnant, breast-feeding and menstruating women. They are exempt until their conditions are over and then they must make up the time by giving "alms" (food or money) to the poor or by fasting for 60 days, which is usually required of those who have broken the fast or any of the stipulations that go along with Ramadan.

"The different families prepare the food," says Razzak. "It's not restricted to the Muslims, but at the same time it's not a free-for-all either."



Samuel Hameed, left, and 13-year-old Rashad Abdul Jami take a moment from Ramadan to examine religious scripture (photo by James Parker).

"We will pray and praise Allah," he says. "Afterwards, we engage in organized sports, play a little contemporary jazz. There won't be any Michael Jackson music, though."

Unlike Christian-based religions, fasting is not conditional, but mandatory.

"The only difference with fasting in Islam is that it has

been institutionalized," says Fattah. "The more attuned people are with their own religions, the easier it should be for them to understand fasting."

The Institute, which was founded here in Winston-Salem, now has two other branches. They are located in Baltimore and El Barrio, N.Y., which is also known as Spanish Harlem.

Hodges and Leak wed

Corty Marie Hodges and James Willie Leak were united in marriage Saturday, June 23, at 4 p.m. at New Hope Baptist Church, with the Rev. Joe L. Coleman officiating.

The bride, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. S.L. Hodges of 2401 Greenway Ave., is a graduate of North Forsyth Senior High School and attended Forsyth Technical Institute. She is employed by G&L Building Services.

The groom, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Leak of West End, is a former member of the U.S. Marine Corps, attended Winston-Salem State University and is employed by Bennigan's Tavern.

The bride, given in mar-

riage by her father, had her cousin, Mrs. Lauretta Banner Webb of Durham, as her matron of honor. Maid of honor was Miss Darlene Massey of Winston-Salem. Bridesmaids were Miss Ann Bennett of Candor and the bride's cousin, Miss Ada Chambers of Statesville.

Best man was Walter A. Leak, the groom's brother, of Candor.

Ushers were Jeffrey Leak, also the groom's brother of Candor, Win Hodges and Samuel Hodges, the bride's brothers of Winston-Salem, the bride's cousin, Joe Hodges also of Winston-Salem, and Terry Bennett of Candor.

The couple will live in Winston-Salem.



Mrs. Marie Hodges Leak

Social Notes

Annual conference on black families scheduled

The second annual Conference on Black Families will be held Saturday, Aug. 11, from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at Kimberly Park Elementary School on Old Cherry St.

The conference will coordinate with local community agencies, churches and civic groups in a one-day session focusing on the particular needs of youth and assessing the community

support for a Family Resource Center. Workshop sessions scheduled for the conference will focus on family, friends and school.

For registration or additional information, contact Shelley Banks at the Black Family Task Force, P.O. Box 2231, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102 or call (919) 768-8676.

Martha Gillis receives award

The most outstanding unit president award in the 4th Division was presented to Mrs. Martha Gillis at the 64th annual American Legion Auxiliary Department of North Carolina Convention which was held at the Hyatt Winston-Salem.

She served as convention chairman. She was also a nominee for the president of the year award.

Mrs. Gillis is the immediate past president of the Ralph K. Morgan Post No. 220 Auxiliary where she served a two-year term.

She was appointed to work on the 1984-85 Girls State Commission and will also serve on the Veteran's Affairs Committee to elect Gov. James B. Hunt to the U.S. Senate. They will meet in Raleigh in July.



Mrs. Martha Gillis

Mrs. Gillis is a widow and a mother of five children. She is employed by North Carolina State University Agricultural Extension Service where she teaches food and nutrition in Forsyth County.

She received a certificate of recognition for outstanding and dedicated service to the American Legion Auxiliary.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JUNE 30

* of Olympic Chapter O.E.S. will host its annual bazaar at the Masonic Hall at 1025 E. 14th St. from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Plants, clothes and food will be sold.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The Senior Citizens Retired Men's Club will sponsor a bus trip to Atlanta on Friday, July 20, and return on Sunday, July 22. The trip will include three Atlanta Braves baseball games. For more information, call John Thompson at 725-1000, 724-3001 or 722-8032 before July 20.

*The Kate Biting Reynolds Hospital and School of Nursing Reunion will be held July 27-29. Registration forms may be picked up from the cashier at Reynolds Health Center, Monday through Friday, until 4:45 p.m. Application deadline is June 30. For more information, call 788-0582 after 4:30 p.m.

*The Forsyth County Lawyer Referral Service is available Monday through Friday for older adults who do not have a lawyer. Call CONTACT: Winston-Salem at 722-5153. You will be referred to a lawyer who will charge a small fee for the first half-hour consultation. The service is a cooperative effort of the Forsyth Council for Older Adults, the Forsyth County Young Lawyers Association and CONTACT: Winston-Salem.

*On Mondays from 10 a.m. to noon, children from 6 to 12 years of age may receive academic learning materials provided by the Forsyth County Public Library at 660 W. Fifth St. and the Child Care Council of Forsyth County Resource Center. Parents can preregister for the half-hour sessions by calling the library at 727-2214. Book displays featured in the Discovery are centered around themes:

Nesbit earns degree with honors

Veronica Tyease Nesbit, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Ira McCullough, recently received her associate degree in applied science from Rutledge College.

During the ceremonies at the college's Little Theatre, Nesbit also received the merchandising award for having the highest grade point average in her major.

Nesbit was also elected into Who's Who Among American Junior Colleges in recognition of her outstanding merits and accomplishments as a student at Rutledge, where she was



Veronica Nesbit

voted first runner-up earlier in the school year for Miss Rutledge College.

She's church organist for Pleasant Abyssinia Baptist Church.

Jeffries weds Caldwell

Lisa Lorraine Jeffries and Alan Lorenzo Caldwell were married Saturday, June 23, at 3 p.m. at Jeffries Cross Baptist Church, with the Rev. Maurice Boswell officiating.

The bride, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Jeffries of Burlington, is a graduate

The groom, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Caldwell of 2506 Rosemary Drive, is a graduate of East Forsyth High School and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was co-captain of the football team. He is a former defensive back for

Reynolds Tobacco Co.

The bride was given in marriage by her father.

Matron of honor was the bride's sister, Mrs. Cynthia J. Winters, of Mebane. Bridesmaids were the bride's cousins, Misses

Please see page A12



Mrs. Lisa Jeffries Caldwell

Piggott weds McMillan

Felicia Johanna Piggott and Reynard Erving McMillan were married Saturday, June 23, at a 1 p.m. ceremony at Union Baptist Church, with the Reverends B.F. Daniels and William Reader officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Mae Edith Piggott of 2213 East 24th St. and the late Benjamin Howard Piggott. She is a graduate of East Forsyth High School and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is

employed by the Chapel Hill/Carrboro Schools.

The groom, son of Mrs. Mattie Lee McMillan and the late Sampson McMillan, is a graduate of East Forsyth Senior High School and is employed by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

The bride was given in marriage by her brother, Benjamin Hiram Piggott.

The bride's sister, Miss Marcia Piggott of Temple Hills, Md., was maid of honor and Mrs. Roslyn

Please see page A12



Mrs. Felicia Piggott McMillan

Sorority holds its last meeting

The Beta Lambda Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa Sorority, an organization of teachers dedicated to the task of training youth of America to cope satisfactorily and effectively with today's problems, held its final meeting for this fiscal year at the home of Mrs. Vera Sadler on West 25th Street.

The following members were present: Basileus Watts, Piccola Morrow, Mattie Alexander, Eva, Jeffries, Maxine Brandon,

Bernice Tanner, Mary Ellis, Anna Gilliam, Mattie Meal, Virginia Allen, Eva Long, Mabel Wooten, Thelma Moore, Anne Motz, Kathleen Williamson, Lizetta Staplefoote, Ruth Reich and Glennie Hall, Vera Sadler and Mabel Jessup.

All members were hosts to the Eastern Regional Xinos Conference which met at the Hyatt Winston Hotel, with more than 400 youth in attendance from Marine to Atlanta.