



Couple in
love with
track and
each other

See Page B1



Famed
lawyer will
speak
at gala

See Page A3



Earth Day
observed
at Hill
Middle

See Page B14

Celebrating
32 years
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THE

CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, April 26, 2007

Deputies looking into racist e-mail

*Walter Marshall
says message
crossed the line*

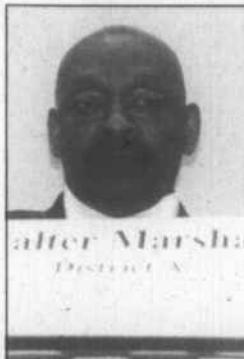
BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office is investigating a racially charged e-mail that is believed to have been sent by a local man to County Commissioner Walter Marshall.

The e-mail was sent to

Marshall's county e-mail address April 7 in the wake of the commissioners' prayer debate.

Tempers have flared and emotions have run high since the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union), in conjunction with the Winston-Salem Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, filed a lawsuit against County Commissioners for opening their meetings with sectarian prayers. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of several local residents, who contend that holding such practices during



Walter Marshall

See E-mail on A5

ing governmental proceedings violates the First Amendment, and is therefore unconstitutional.

The suit, which was filed March 30, has split county commissioners down party lines, with Republicans Glona Whisenant, Debra Conrad, Bill Whiteheart and Richard Linville moving to fight the suit and Democrats Ted Kaplan, Beauford Bailey and Walter Marshall opposing a battle with the ACLU.

"I was against fighting the



Emmanuel S. Wettee speaks at Goler Sunday.
Photo by Felecia McMillan

Liberians seek help in battle for legal U.S. citizenship

BY DR. FELECIAP. MCMILLAN
THE CHRONICLE

In the early 1990s, the West African nation of Liberia was in the throes of civil war. More than 150,000 citizens lost their lives and more than a million people fled the violence, making their homes in Europe, other African nations and the United States. Since 1992, the estimated 10,000 Liberians who fled to the United States have held a temporary protected residency status that requires them to petition the federal government often for extensions to their residency status. Liberians living in this country are unhappy with that arrangement. They work in this country, pay taxes and abide by the laws, but none of that has gotten them any closer to U.S. citizenship.



A rally was held Sunday at Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church to bring attention to the Liberians' plight and to gain support for their efforts to become full-fledged Americans.

Emmanuel S. Wettee, national president of the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA), proclaimed April as National Immigration Advocacy Month. He was hand Sunday at Goler for the rally. He urged Liberians and Americans to support the Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act, which if passed by Congress would take Liberians in this country out of residency limbo.

"We are here today to address the Immigration Challenge. Within 200 days, we will have a bill that will pass," he said. "We are here today to address the Immigration Challenge. Within 200 days, we will have a bill that will pass."

See Liberians on A12

GETTIN' DAPPER



Photo by Layla Farmer

A local man takes advantage of free grooming services offered at Project Homeless Connect last week. Read more about the event, see A9.

Muslims seek seat at the table

Local mosque hosts first-ever Freedom Foundation gathering

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Ever since 19 Islamic extremists caused death, destruction and havoc with four hijacked commercial airliners on Sept. 11, 2001, the millions of Muslims who live in this country say they have been judged by the actions of others and not the contents of their characters.

One prominent U.S.-based Islamic organization has spent the years since 9/11 trying to build bridges, shatter negative perceptions and gain a voice in a country steeped in the Judeo-Christian tradition.

"Many of the things that the Muslim community has faced are things that the African-American community has

faced, the Jewish community..." said Mahdi Bray, head of the Muslim American Society's Freedom Foundation.

Bray is a believer that shared experiences are key to building coalitions for the Freedom Foundation's mission, which includes securing a place for Muslims at America's vast

table of decision-making and opportunity and fighting to protect the civil rights and liberties of Muslim in a post 9/11 world.

Bray was the guest of honor Saturday at the Annoor Islamic Center in Clemmons. The mosque held its first Freedom Foundation dinner, inviting the community to come learn more about the foundation and Islam. The event drew a racially diverse crowd of Muslims and non-Muslims. Several elected officials were on hand, including City Council Member and lieutenant governor candidate Dan Besse, School Board Member Elizabeth Motsinger and State Rep. Larry Womble, who said that as a black man, he understands the struggles that Muslims now face.

"We too can share in some of these atrocities," he said. "We can relate."

Many African-Americans have left their Christian roots to embrace Islam.

See Muslims on A11

Affordable housing takes center stage at summit

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Fair and affordable housing is a hot topic in this nation, and as gas prices rise and out sourcing continues, the need continues to grow.

For the past three years, the City of Winston-Salem's Department of Human Relations has partnered with a variety of other agencies to create a summit on "The State of Fair and Affordable Homeownership," where professionals in the housing industry can come together and work to bring about positive change with respect to affordable housing.

"The Fair and Affordable Housing Summit is a collaboration of housing industry professionals here in Forsyth County."

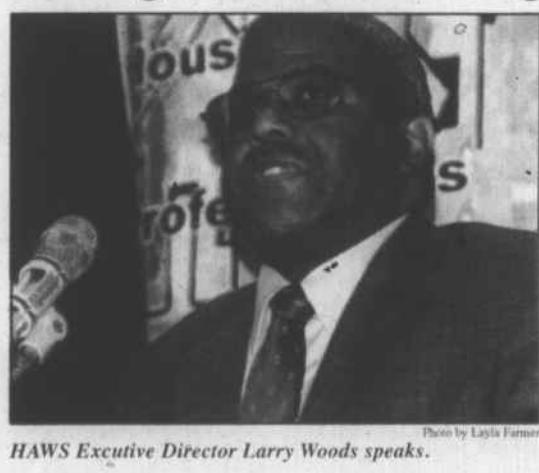


Photo by Layla Farmer

explained City Human Relations Director Wanda Allen-Abrahams. "We're trying to

bring together all people who serve the public in the housing realm, whether it's mortgage lenders, whether it's bankers, whether it's public housing folks like the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem, realtors, so on and so forth."

The 2007 summit, held Tuesday at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum, was sponsored, in part, by Piedmont Federal, as it has been since its inception. As a financial institution the bank has a duty to reach out to the public in such a way, according to Senior Vice President J. Robert Sanders Jr.

"Banks take a leadership role in fair housing," he commented. "The Community Reinvestment Act, which was passed back in 1977, made it very important for banks to be aware of all issues involving

See Housing on A11



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