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THURSDAY, September, 3 2009

## It's Our Birthday!



**T. Kevin Walker**

**A Thought or Two**

For most of us, a birthday is a reason to celebrate. Even those of us who don't have a full-scale party tend to indulge ourselves in some small way, as well we should.

Seeing another year is nothing to be glib about, especially when you consider that so many weren't so blessed.

Many businesses are pretty nonchalant when it comes to celebrating their birthdays,

or anniversaries, rather. The demands of weekly deadlines, meeting goals and attending meetings often make it difficult to take time to celebrate much of anything.

We have been guilty of that here at *The Chronicle*, but it is a habit we have to break. In today's economic climate, surviving another year in the business world is a blessing in and of itself.

It was 35 years ago this week, on the first Thursday of September, that the very first issue of the *Winston-Salem Chronicle* was published. Back then, it was more like a flier than a newspaper - just a few black and white pages with a handful of articles about local happenings.

An issue of *The Chronicle* has been published each week since then - in good times, bad times and really, really bad times.

Ernie Pitt, who founded the paper with his wife, Elaine, at his side, often tells me that God has watched over the paper for all these years. Although his spiritual roots run much deeper than my own, I have come to believe him wholeheartedly. How else could our survival be

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Keith Howell stands in front of Nu Shoes and Carlos Carvana stands at the door of The Oval Office.



Photos by Todd Luck

## Downtown State of Mind

*Businessmen settle in on Fourth Street*

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

New African-American-owned businesses have landed on Fourth Street - a main downtown stretch that is still in the midst of a long revitalization effort.

Nu Shoes, a women's shoe store, opened in the Loewy Building a little over a month ago, and the Oval Office Barber Shop,

which is across from the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce Building, opened a week ago. Both businesses are hoping to capitalize on the popularity of downtown, which hosts many street festivals and events and is home to several popular eateries and watering holes.

"The location is perfect. I couldn't ask for a better location," said Nu Shoes owner Keith Howell. "It's just a matter of people finding out and finding the place."

Retail stores in the Loewy building, located at 500 W. Fourth St. have just recently become a

fixture in the building, where the tenants are mainly law offices and other firms. The Housing Authority of Winston-Salem (HAWS), which owns Loewy, is also headquartered there. HAWS decided last year to dedicate much of the main level of the building to retail shops in order to capitalize on downtown's growing popularity.

See Businesses on A2

## Apache leader connects to Baptist congregation

*Battle for sacred land takes Wendler Nosie around the world to win allies*

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

A small choir sang Wendler Nosie's introduction on Sunday morning at Emmanuel Baptist Church - their a cappella voices reverberating through the sanctuary as they dug deep into the spiritual, "Oh, Freedom."

The song - which proclaims, "Before I'd be a slave, I'd be buried in my grave" - became an anthem after the Civil War for blacks taking their first breaths of freedom. Today, the tune could very well be the soundtrack for Nosie and his people as they fight to break free from what they say are the modern-day chains of government bureaucracy and hypocrisy.

Nosie is the chairman, or leader, of the 13,000-member Arizona-based San Carlos Apache Tribe,



Photo by Kevin Walker

The Rev. John Mendez and Chairman Wendler Nosie greet churchgoers after Sunday's service.

which is locked in a David vs. Goliath-like struggle with the federal government over large tracts of land that the Apache and other American Indians say are sacred.

Nosie was given the perfect forum to discuss his tribe's decades-long fight on Sunday. His longtime friend and ally Dr. John

Mendez, Emmanuel's pastor, let Nosie deliver the morning message to the hundreds of parishioners packed inside of the church.

But from the oversized, wooden pulpit, Nosie said nothing of the many times he has been arrested for praying atop the mountain that has become key in land dispute; or the

daily threats he faces from residents of small Arizona towns who feel that the tribe's fight will drive away jobs and opportunities. In fact, Nosie barely mentioned the issue, choosing instead to speak about topics that both American Indians and the African-Americans can easily understand - things like respecting elders and heritage; being separated from one's homeland; and the government's broken promises.

"In the Indian world, we see changes and we are worrying," Nosie told the congregation.

He said that in times of uncertainty, the Apache look up and look back - to their God and their ancestors - for answers.

"It means going back to the past, because the past has the answers to the future," he said.

Fittingly, Nosie's appearance at Emmanuel came on the last day of the church's annual Maafa Commemoration, a week-long remembrance of the Africans who did and did not make it through the horrific Middle Passage journey from the Mother Land to the New

See Nosie on A5

### APPROVING GLANCE



Photo by Todd Luck

Mandy Parker has a chuckle as her son, Drake, checks out the face-painting work of Darlette Drummond, right. The trio were on hand Saturday for a special event hosted by the Liberty CDC. Read more about it on page B1.

## MILESTONES AND MEMORIES

*Assistant police chief feted at retirement celebration*

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Friends, colleagues and family members celebrated and recalled Assistant Chief Louis O. Saunders' long career with the Winston-Salem Police Department last week.

A gathering took place at Big Shotz Tavern on Stratford Road just a few days before Saunders' official Sept. 1 retirement date.

He spent nearly three decades with the department, serving in various positions, including a stint as a homicide detective during the time when the city experienced a record 44 murders in one year.

"I'm just as happy as I can be; it's a good feeling," Saunders said with a broad smile. "It's all by God's grace



Thompson



Photos by Layla Farmer

See Saunders on A5 Louis Saunders with daughters, Tiffany and Danielle.

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