



◀ Panther linebackers hurting/1B

Lyons begs convention to forgive/14A ▶



Protege by  
Mazda has  
fresh face/14B



# The Charlotte Post

http://www.thepost.mindspring.com  
THE VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY

THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 4, 1997  
VOLUME 22 NO. 51

75 CENTS  
ALSO SERVING CABARRUS, CHESTER, ROWAN AND YORK COUNTIES

## Chemical spoils water

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Eliza Williams is 73 years old, but she'd never faced being without drinking water. Not for more than a day.

But due to an accidental release of a harmful chemical into the southwest Mecklenburg water supply, Williams and thousands of other residents were unable to drink their water Tuesday and Wednesday.

At press time, officials expected

everything to be back to normal in the affected area, south of Freedom Drive and I-85 and west of I-77. The affected area extended all the way to the S.C. line and the Catawba River.

"I feel pretty bad about it," said Williams, who lives in the Little Rock Apartments off West Boulevard.

Her daughter, who lives nearby, brought her bottles of water either purchased from stores or picked up at one of the sites set up for city officials, with the help of the

National Guard.

Some of the most affected by the ban on drinking, washing and cooking with water from city pipes were restaurants.

The chemical can cause diarrhea or stomach cramps.

And many residents of the area complained of not learning of the ban until late Tuesday, some after watching 11 p.m. news broadcasts. Firefighters had gone door-to-door to warn residents earlier, but many weren't home.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

did not close any of its 29 school buildings in the area, but many day care centers were closed, creating problems for working parents.

The chemical leaked shortly before noon Tuesday at the Charlotte/Douglas International Airport during a firefighter training exercise. The liquid, a fire-fighting foam, backed up into a fire hydrant as firefighters flushed out a truck about 10 a.m. As much as

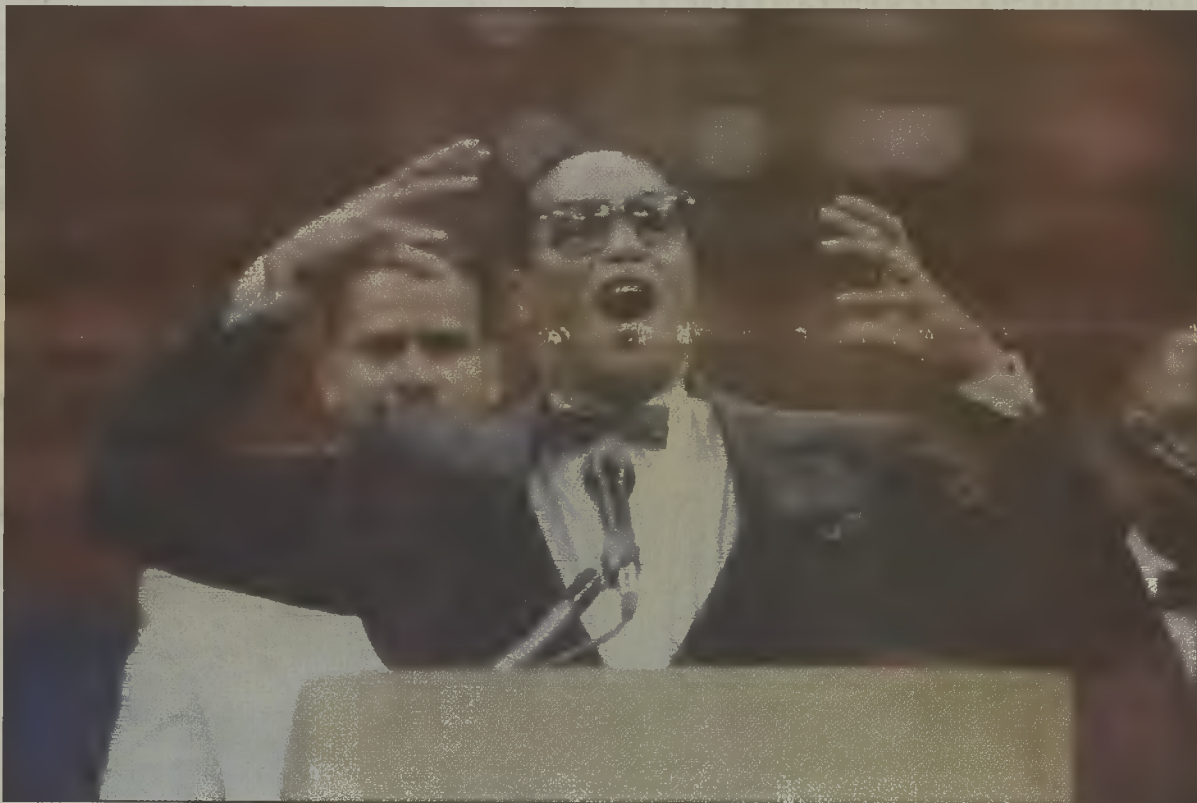
See WATER on page 2A



PHOTO/DIANNE CURTAIN

Eliza Williams, 73, suffers through two-day ban on drinking water caused by a firefighting chemicals.

## Farrakhan's coming



PHOTO/FILE

Minister Louis Farrakhan

## Nation of Islam leader calling for third Day of Atonement in appearance at Ovens Auditorium

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan will speak in Charlotte Wednesday at Ovens Auditorium, local muslim officials said.

Farrakhan is on a National Revival Tour leading up to the Oct. 16 anniversary of the Million Man March. The tour is designed to rekindle the spirit of the March and Day of Atonement activities planned in several cities, including Charlotte.

Farrakhan spoke at the old

Charlotte Convention Center before the Million Man March.

Farrakhan and Min. Benjamin Muhammad, formerly Ben Chavis, are crisscrossing the country to talk about the upcoming anniversary.

Muhammad was in Charlotte three weeks ago.

The theme of this year's event is "Young, Gifted and Atoned."

Robert Muhammad, leader of the Charlotte area mosque, said Farrakhan's visit will give people an opportunity to hear first hand what the muslim leader has to say.

"I think this visit will be signif-

icant for so much...in that once again Charlotte will have a chance to listen to what Louis Farrakhan has to say and be able to listen to what he has to offer," Robert Muhammad said. "There will be no media sound bites...nobody saying for him what he wants to say for himself."

"They will know his words are not narrow or tunneled in scope, but rather are words that are universal," Muhammad said.

"He is best able to outline what we desire to have take place on the anniversary of the Million Man March and leading up to the year 2000 and the Million

Family March."

When he was in Charlotte, Ben Muhammad said the next two anniversaries in 1998 and 1999 will focus on the elderly and women, before the family-focused march in 2000.

Robert Muhammad said members of the Nation of Islam will provide security for Farrakhan, but there has been no opposition to the his visit from city officials.

"Those I talked to, white and black and from different religions, have expressed a desire to come and hear what he has to

See FARRAKHAN on page 3A

## Services set for Chester mayor

### Christopher King was business, community leader

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

CHESTER - Businessman and community leader Christopher C. King, who became Chester's first black mayor, will be buried Saturday.

Mr. King, 61, died Monday of cancer.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at Calvary Baptist Church. A wake and family visitation will be Friday, 7-8 p.m. at the King family funeral home in Chester.

Mr. King, a 1959 Johnson C. Smith University graduate, was a hardworking civil rights and community worker who had run for the Chester County school board and for the S.C. senate.

When Mr. King was elected Chester's mayor in 1995 a legal battle began challenging the election returns.

He was installed into office just four months before his death after winning the legal battle.

His oldest son, William, said he feels his father's tireless efforts on behalf of his community will continue through his children and others he inspired.

"I feel as though Daddy, reached one of his goals, he got sworn in as mayor and a minority got to hold office here in Chester," his son said.

The younger King said his father got involved in politics in the 60s. "I can remember when he first ran for the school board," he said. "He was always out on the battle lines. I'm very proud of my father. He was my hero. He was an inspiration not only to his children, but the entire community."

In addition to his political work, King was a businessman who owned funeral homes in Chester and other communities, including Charlotte.

He also owned numerous rental properties in Chester County.

Mr. King was among the founders of the 5th Congressional Black Caucus, a member of Chester Ward IV and was often a Democratic delegate to state conventions.

He was member of the Friendship Junior College Board, Selective Service Board, Community Action Board, Small Business Administration Board, the Chester Sewer District Board, the S.C. Mortician Association, Masonic Lodge #32, Hill City Elks, Christian Burial Aid Society and the AP&B Society.

He is a charter member of the Chester Optimists.

He was also among blacks who fought all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court to bring single-member voting districts to Chester County.

Mr. King graduated from Finley High School in Chester and he graduated from the Atlanta College of Mortuary Science in Atlanta.

Mr. King saw education as the key to freedom and progress and seven of his eight children obtained college degrees. One, Christopher C. King II, died before him.

Survivors include: wife, Margie; sons, William Robert King II, Nelson Maurice King, Marty Elazer King and John Richard King; daughters, Robbie Patricia Ione King, Pansy Ellen Louise King and Margie Alice Buckson.

### Inside

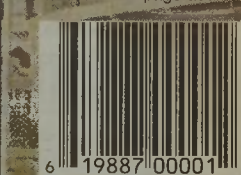
Editorials 4A-5A  
Strictly Business 7A  
Religion 9A  
Zawadi 11A  
Healthy Body/  
Healthy Mind 12A  
Style 14A  
Sports 1B  
A&E 4B

Regional News 9B  
Classified 12B

Auto Showcase 14B

To subscribe call (704) 376-0496 or FAX (704) 342-2160.

© 1997 The Charlotte Post  
Comments? Our e-mail address is: charpost@cit.mindspring.com  
World Wide Web page address:



## Cochran may join N.Y. brutality victim's legal team

By Larry McShane  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - Johnnie Cochran Jr., head of the O.J. Simpson "Dream Team," may take up the case of a Haitian immigrant assaulted by New York City police officers last month.

Abner Louima, 30, could seek as much as a half billion dollars from the city in a lawsuit.

Cochran, the glib host of his own "Court TV" show,

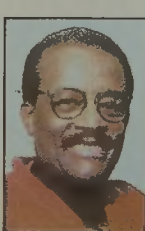
"expressed an interest" in the explosive case during a weekend meeting with Louima, Brian Figeroux, one of his attorneys, said.

Another one of Louima's lawyers, Carl Thomas, told the cable news station New York 1 that Cochran would be joining the team.

Prosecutors say police officers beat Louima and sodomized him with a wooden stick inside a bathroom at the 70th Precinct station-

house. Authorities have said the Aug. 9 attack was racially motivated, and Louima said the officers involved used racial epithets.

The Cochran-Louima session took place at Brooklyn Hospital, where Louima is still recovering



Cochran

from a ruptured colon and bladder allegedly caused when police put the stick in his rectum and then used it to knock out his teeth.

Cochran "said he has a team of professionals that could be of enormous assistance in this matter," Figeroux said Wednesday.

The arrival of the charismatic, high-profile Cochran could mark the end of participation by civil attorney Sanford Rubenstein, a veteran Brooklyn lawyer with ties to the Haitian community.

Rubenstein declined comment on the Cochran report.

Whoever represents Louima will be seeking a fortune from the city; Rubenstein said the \$55 million suit will be amended to seek \$465 million in punitive damages.

Meanwhile, police sources told The Association Press today that the stick cops allegedly used in the attack may not have been the han-

See COCHRAN on page 2A