



In the spotlight

Local beautician starts '92 as president of WS Beauticians.

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Young creativity

Eight-year-old artist sells his first painting for a small profit.

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75 cents

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MLK holiday . . . one year later

County commissioners say two votes made the difference

By SAMANTHA MCKENZIE
Chronicle Staff Writer

The times, they are changing. In 1989 Forsyth County had five white commissioners. In 1990, two African-American female commissioners were added, and shortly after, Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday was voted in as a holiday for county workers. Last year it was observed for the first time. Before Mazie Woodruff and Earline Parmon were voted in as county commissioners, the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday had been voted down by a 5 to 2 vote.

In 1992, marking the second year of the holiday's inception, county commissioners agree it was long overdue.

"I'm elated the new board of commissioners was able to make it a holiday," said Commissioner Earline Parmon. "It was my first official order. I had to look into making Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a county holiday without infringing on existing holidays for employees."

Opposing votes for the holiday argued it would cost the county too much to take another day off.

Commissioner John Holleman, who then served as chairman of the board and voted in favor of the holiday, said he thought the delay in making Martin Luther King's birthday a holiday had a lot more to do with racial biases.

"Frankly, I believe the opposition was racially motivated," Holleman said, following a county commissioner's meeting on Monday night.

"But I strongly advocated the holiday. It was long overdue. Before the two African-American commissioners came on board, I simply didn't have the majority that would work in favor of it," he said.

During the first vote for the holiday, commissioners opposing it were Wayne Willard, Forrest Conrad and Richard Linville.

The addition of the two black commissioners also brought change to the county and to the outcome of the second vote for the holiday. Commissioners voting with Parmon and Woodruff for the holiday were Gerald Long and Holleman. The vote then changed to 5 to 2 when Willard, who is now

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Advocates offer concrete ideas on city housing plan

By SHERIDAN HILL
Chronicle Staff Writer

Just in case anyone missed the point at last week's public meeting, grass-roots advocates repeated this week their demands to be included in plans for decent, affordable, low-income housing. Those who spoke at a meeting of the aldermen's housing committee Tuesday afternoon included community leaders such as the Rev. Lee Faye Mack and Preston Jack of the Back to Life Center; NAACP President Rev. J.L. Nance; Christine Harper Fahey of the Affordable Housing Coalition; Chuck Snyder and Kay Vives of the Homeless But Not Helpless group.

Nearly all of those who spoke urged the committee and the city housing staff to find ways to help the homeless renovate vacant and boarded-up buildings to live in as permanent homes — not as temporary shelters.

"In March, 40 people will be turned out of the emergency winter shelter. What will happen to them?" asked Chuck Snyder.

The remarks of Christine Harper Fahey seemed to hit the hardest. Fahey recently moved to Winston-Salem from Washington, D.C. where she lobbied for

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Letter to King

Dear Martin Luther King Jr.,
Hi! How are things going? I just decided to write you a letter because I wanted to thank you for giving me and lots of other people the chance to speak out about things that we don't



Sasha Lawrence Wade

believe are right. You got arrested several times, but you still kept fighting for what you believed was right. I met your daughter Yolanda, and she was talking about you. She thinks you were the best father a girl could ever have. I was devastated when I learned that you had been shot. If you were alive today I know that you would be proud of some of the changes that have taken place. We still have people in the world today who are racists. They think they are better than a certain group of people or different races of people. They have so much to learn.

Sincerely,
Sasha Lawrence Wade, 13
Kemet School

'Progress through interaction'

Williams seeks state's highest post

By SAMANTHA MCKENZIE
Chronicle Staff Writer

When Marcus Williams graduated law school he made a commitment to "serve the community."

Since then, the 38-year-old has spent twelve years working as a lawyer for legal aid services and now as director for Legal Services of Lower Cape Fear, a Wilmington-based federally funded legal aid agency that provides civil legal services for poor people in seven counties.

With no political background, Williams says he knows he can be the kind of governor this state needs. "In my life works, I've demonstrated that I'm willing to work for the people," said

Williams. "Community service and public interest is my thrust."

"I know the people and I know what they expect," he said, adding that Winston-Salem and the entire Triad area should expect frequent visits from him. Williams' top contenders for governor will be Attorney General Lacy Thornburg and former governor Jim Hunt.

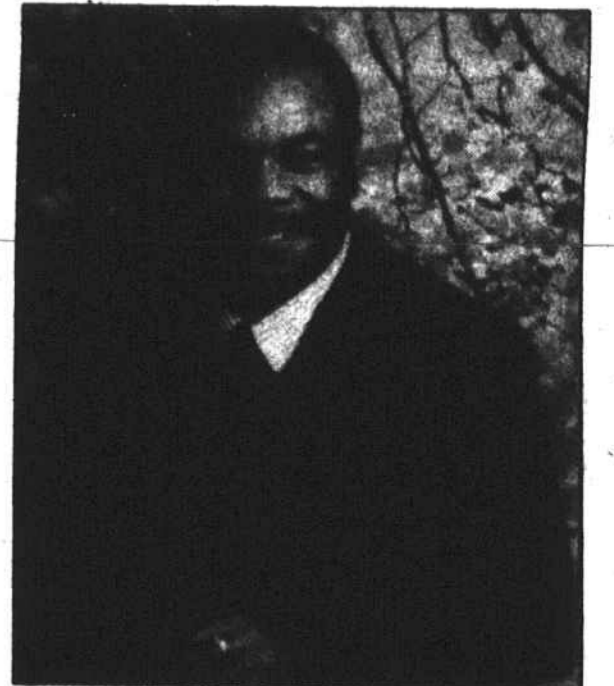
But Williams said he's not worried about the competition, because people everywhere are looking for a change. "I think people all over the country are looking for a change, not just in North Carolina. We need a change. We need a vision. Delivering a service, that's what government is all about," said the Lumberton native.

"We want the people to believe in

themselves again, and to believe government can be instrumental in elevating their concerns," he said.

Issues he will address will be health care for North Carolinians, equal education and resources in primary and secondary schools and safeguarding the environment. Williams also plans to support a lottery referendum, reinstating the income-tax deduction for interest paid on consumer loans, and further study on building a waste incinerator in North Carolina. Williams said he would like to see incinerators in communities with heavy minority populations.

After participating in "all" of the scheduled Candidate Forums in 1991, he states, "our issue-oriented campaign continues to attract support and encourage-



Marcus Williams

ment at the grassroots level. We are positioning ourselves for a stunning, historic victory."

Another issue Williams plans to

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ON THE AVANT-GARDE

By TANG NIVRI

Why are we celebrating the Dr. King's holiday?

On Monday, January 20, thousands of Americans will stop to commemorate the life, death and times of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Anyone who lived during the days of the civil rights movement should understand the importance of observing this occasion. But once in a while it might do each of us good to reevaluate our purpose for this commemoration. Hence, I ask you, "why will you celebrate the King holiday in 1992?"

Why will you march in a parade, attend a rally, go to a luncheon, or attend a gospel concert in honor of MLK? How much of what we will do in observance of this holiday will be guided simply by the fact that we know there are some white folks somewhere who ain't all together happy about there being a national holiday honoring the legacy of a black man?

How much of what you will do this week will make a difference in the lives of black folks in this community?

How will our actions make a difference to the vast majority of folks who would rather stay at home and watch soap operas, have a beer and watch TV game shows or maybe just buy more things from the QVC Home Shopping Network?

And what difference will it make to some white person living on the other side of the county that you and I braved the January cold to march downtown to city hall singing "We shall overcome?"

Will it lead to a broadening of understanding or will it be yet another opportunity for a politician to be identified with the legacy of a man whose very name now stands above all others in the struggle for "truth, justice, and equality?"

If you're black and you own a business how will closing your business help you to gain a greater share of the market — how will it improve your economic bottom line? Or is that an issue?

Will there be anything done this weekend

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Third graders learn conflict management

Downtown School tries new approach

By YVETTE N. FREEMAN
Community News Editor

Some third graders at the new Downtown School are now trained in the art of conflict management.

Eleven students at the school received six hours of mediation training two weeks ago as part a Conflict Resolution and Mediation Program.

During the two-day training period, the students learned how to handle conflicts that may arise between themselves and other students by discussing the conflicts and coming up with solutions to solve the problems.

For instance, the students involved in the conflict are brought into a room and seated at a table facing each other. Then the conflict managers (two students that work in a pair) explain that the purpose of the meeting is to solve the conflict. If both parties agree to work at solving the problem, they must then agree to follow four simple rules — 1) both parties must agree

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Conflict Management Trainer, June Williams, discusses the importance of conflict resolution with student conflict managers, Mary Catherine Sims, Christy Ann Hutchinson, Albert Morgan, and Sid Menor.