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Winston Lake job

Wake Forest track
team speeds to record



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motivates students

THE CHRONICLE

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State death penalty foes inspired by recent events

Death penalty moratoriums have been instituted in Illinois, Maryland

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Recent condemnations of the death penalty by high-ranking officials in several states have stirred up area capital punishment opponents, giving them hope that one day in the near future North Carolina will take a closer look at the punishment here.

People of Faith Against the Death Penalty — a grassroots statewide group based in Carrboro — says Forsyth County will be one of the places where it will launch a major publicity blitz aimed at getting residents to push their legislators to support a death penalty moratorium in North Carolina.

"We hope that our attorney general and our governor force the issue in North Carolina," said Stephen Dear, executive director of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty. "We have the same problems that those other states have."

The "other states" are Illinois and Maryland, both of which have taken strong stances on looking closely at the practice of putting people to death.

Last month, outgoing Illinois Gov. George Ryan commuted the sentences of all 156 inmates on the state's death row. It was his

last act as governor. Ryan, citing numerous studies on capital punishment, contends that racial and socioeconomic factors have played a role in death penalty sentencing.

"Our capital system is haunted by the demon of error — error in determining guilt and error in determining who among the guilty deserves to die," Ryan said when he announced the mass commutation.

Last week, the attorney general of Maryland expressed similar concerns. Joseph Curran

See **Moratorium** on A9

Some blacks who have surfed eBay recently have been offended by items offered on the auction Web site.

Hatred or History?

Online auction company accused of exploiting infamous hate word and profiting from products that demean blacks

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The world's most famous — an often most infamous — online auction Web site is once again defending itself from criticism. This time African-Americans are enraged that eBay allows a number of items that many consider racially insensitive to be sold on the site. Critics are further miffed that many of these items can be found by entering the word "nigger" into the eBay search engine.

"I was surprised that eBay, one of the only companies to stay afloat during the dot-bomb era, would display such insensitivity towards Africans and African-Americans," said Dante Lee, president and CEO of A.S.J.

Media, a Long Beach, Calif.-based ethnic marketing and public relations firm that manages Blacknews.com, a Web site that provides African-American-related news stories to thousands of subscribers around the world.

Lee said an angry Blacknews.com subscriber first brought the eBay issue to his attention. Seven years ago eBay started along with hundreds of other ambitious online ventures. The company allows its customers to list items online that they want to sell. Buyers come to the site, do a search for what they are looking for and get a chance to bid with people throughout the world on the item. The company gets a percentage from each sale.

More than 12 million items are

See **eBay** on A4

Hayes honored by friends and peers

Large first-floor courtroom will be named for popular judge who recently retired

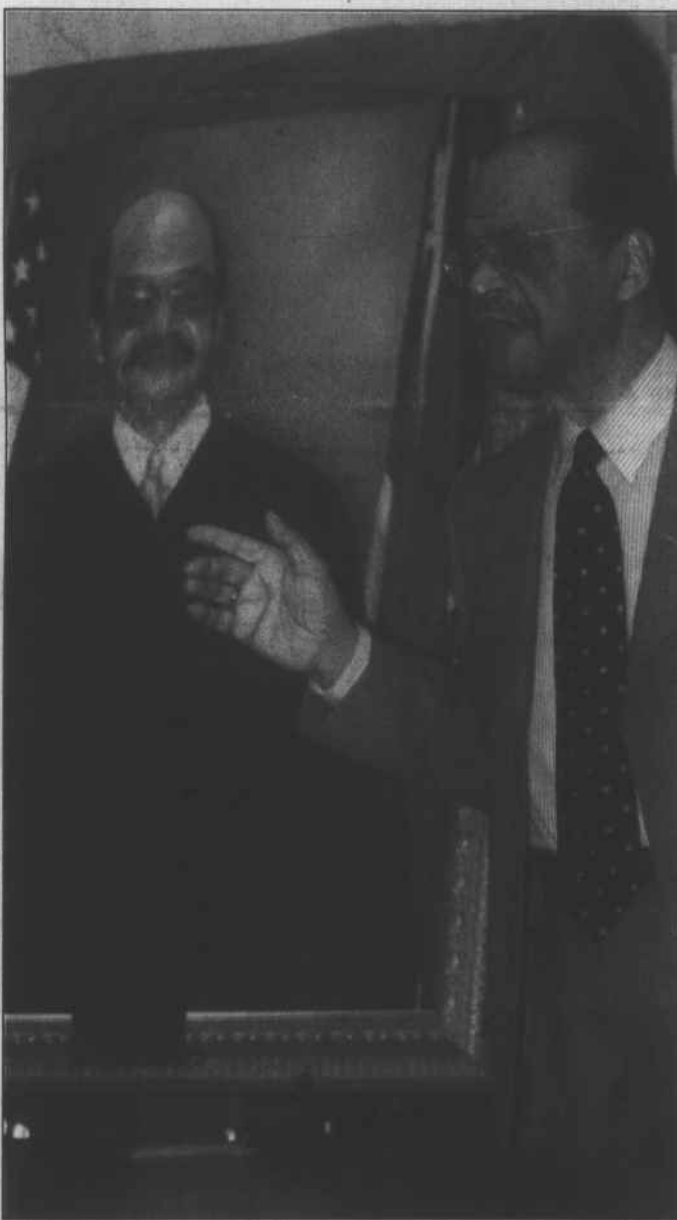
BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Judge Roland Hayes will always have a presence at the Forsyth County Hall of Justice, even though his day-to-day work at the building ended two months ago.

Hayes was celebrated for his integrity, fairness and decency Tuesday afternoon by members of the county's Bar Association and former colleagues he left behind when he retired from the District Court bench in November.

Hayes, a Winston-Salem native, retired after 18 years on the bench because he was nearing 72, the state's mandatory retirement age for most judges. Ironically, the ceremony honoring Hayes was held on his 72nd birthday. The popular and charismatic Hayes personally greeted many of the hundreds who attended the ceremony, which was held in a spacious ground floor courtroom at the Hall of Justice that will be renamed the Roland H. Hayes Courtroom.

Those who spoke during the ceremony shared personal, often lighthearted, stories about Hayes, who was



Judge Roland Hayes stands beside the portrait of him that will hang in the Forsyth County Hall of Justice. Leo Rucker created the portrait.

See **Hayes** on A10

Michael Anderson

Spokane blacks idolized Anderson

BY NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPOKANE, Wash. — Astronaut Michael P. Anderson was an inspiration here in his hometown, especially in the small black community that is now mourning his death in the space shuttle Columbia disaster.

Anderson, 43, one of the few black astronauts, grew up in the Spokane area. He graduated from Cheney High School and the University of Washington before achieving his dream of joining NASA. He died Saturday along with six other crew members aboard Columbia when it broke apart over Texas during re-entry.

"He was a hero to a lot of kids," said Aaron Davis, deacon of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, where Anderson's parents belonged, and which the astronaut would attend when visiting Spokane. "It's a great loss for the church and the community."

The shuttle's pilot, William C. McCool of San Diego, also had ties to Washington state. In 1986, he completed flight training and was assigned to the Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 129 at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, about 80 miles north of Seattle.

In Spokane, Anderson was such a success story that the Rev. Happy Watkins would use a signed picture of the astronaut as a motivational tool when the clergyman spoke to young people.

"It shows him in an astronaut suit standing next to the Columbia space ship," said Watkins, Anderson's former Sunday school teacher. "The kids can look at him and see he is black."

"It's inspiring to show," Watkins said. "If he can aspire to be the best, you can be the best."

Flowers and balloons were placed in halls and doorways at

See **Anderson** on A10

Free tax preparation being offered to some

Families with relatively low incomes can avoid high fees charged by some accounting services for tax preparation. A variety of different local agencies have teamed up to offer free tax services for the next several weeks. The services will be available at several sites.



BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

During the upcoming tax season, Forsyth Working Families Partnership (FWFP) will be working to ensure that Forsyth County residents will receive the tax refunds that they deserve.

Last year, according to the Government Accounting Office, Forsyth County residents did not claim more than \$7 million in tax refunds because they didn't claim millions of dollars from their income taxes because they failed to apply for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

The EITC is a tax break for people who work but do not earn high incomes. Those who qualify for the EITC could pay less federal tax, pay no tax or receive a tax refund. According to the local IRS office, \$27 million of EITC funds went to low- and medium-income

households in 1999 alone.

Forsyth Working Families Partnership is a coalition that includes the Forsyth County Department of Social Services, the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce and other local nonprofit organizations and volunteers. The partnership is hosting free tax preparation sites around the city designed to assist families with incomes less than \$40,000 or individuals with incomes less than \$20,000.

Rather than spending money on an expensive tax filing service, residents can file their taxes for free at one of four library branches, Goodwill Industries and several community development corporation offices.

"What's so wonderful about the (EITC) is that it's for people who work but are in low-wage jobs, and it gives them a credit through the

See **Taxes** on A9

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