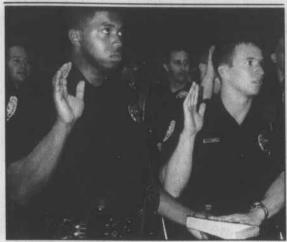
City website available in 12 different languages

Information about the city government, its departments, and its services is now avail-able in 12 languages.

Translating the city's web page to a number of different languages is intended to help overcome the barriers of language, culture, and ethnic background, says Wanda Allen-Abraha, the director of human relations. "Human Relations is always committed to equal access of infor-mation for all members of its

Translations in Spanish, English, French, German, Dutch, Russian, Italian, Chinese (two dialects - traditional and simplified). Greek, Japanese, and Korean may be accessed on the website by the flag icons located at the bottom of the screen. For more information, visit the website at www.city ofws.org.



Officers take their oath during last week's graduation.

Police

its contracting, even when white Republican council members have supported such programs.

Robinson's comments about the rookie bothered Chief Linda Davis so much that she issued a statement late last week. Davis said that every rookie officer has meet standards established by the

state and the city. "The trainee to whom Mr. Robinson alludes is a graduate of the University of Maryland, a veteran of the U.S. Army and a lifelong resident of Winston-Salem. He has a class average of 93 and also made the second highest score on the state exam," Davis said in the statement. She called Robinson's firearms allegations "unfound-

When asked about the council member's comments after last week's graduation, Davis also described Robin-son's allegations as a "distortion" and "misinformation" She refused to elaborate any further about Robinson's com-

ments. Others did have reactions,

Mayor Pro Temp Vivian Burke said the rookie should not be singled out because of

his age.
"Just because you reach a certain (age), it does not mean it has anything to do with the mind," she said. "If God gives you your mind, you should be able to do anything you want." Burke praised Davis for

rejecting the rookie

because of his age. City Council member Joycelyn Johnson also said age should not be an issue if a person is qualified for the job.

"We can't discriminate in terms of age if a person is doing a good job," Johnson

Burke said the department must also continue to recruit qualified minorities in order for the police force to look like

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s a i d Burke, who is chairwoman of the Public Safety Committee, which oversees activities of the police and fire depart-

The police department has being making a strong push to recruit minority officers for years. Recently, the depart-ment launched an advertising campaign aimed at Winston-Salem State University students and graduates. The ads feature pictures of well established black members of the department who graduated from WSSU, including assis-tant police chiefs Mike McCoy and Patricia Norris. Last week's crop of graduates included several blacks.

Vernon Robinson could not be reached for comment at his home on Tuesday night.

Local couple helping African man make his dreams come true

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD THE CHRONICLE

Isaac Amonoo is a long way from his home in the Republic of Ghana. His wife and child are still living there while he fulfills his dream of pursuing a formal education in the United States. A chance meeting with Maurice Horsey, national consultant with YMCA USA, in Ghana a few years ago helped Amonoo secure a visa to travel to the states to chase his dream.

'It has always been my heart's desire to pursue higher education at a college. God has stayed on my side and I was able to perform well on the SAT," said Amonoo.

Although Horsey and Amonoo developed a connec-tion through the YMCA, their relationship has grown since Horsey and his wife, Judy, have been hosting Amonoo in their home while he applies to American universities.

Amonoo's SAT score was high enough to earn him a four year academic scholarship to Lincoln University in Pennsylvania where he will pursue a degree in accounting. At one point, Amonoo says he was unsure if he would obtain a scholarship to cover his col-lege expenses. He feared he would have to return home, which he did for a period of time. But, he credits his faith in God and the generosity of so many people for the opportunity to further his education in the states.

He starts his freshmen year at Lincoln next month.

"With determination. prayer and commitment - God is always on your side. That is the key in one's life, because always we have to listen to our inner voice – yourself (and determine) what is it that God wants you to do with your-self."Amonoo said. "(The Horseys) kept me going all the time, encouraging me, telling me to have faith...my only hope was God and true to his word he wrote this victory.

The Horsey family say they will miss Amonoo, who has become like a son to them. Judy Horsey says he "really belongs to Maurice and me. He has come in and fit like our own and I have been totally spoiled."

No stranger to the YMCA, Amonoo worked for the Ghana YMCA for 11 years. In 2001, Amonoo attended the YMCA USA Young Adult Leadership Summit during the YMCAs 150 anniversary. His association with the Y has allowed him to travel this country, visiting different Ys and participating in numerous programs. Amonoo saw snow for first time last year while in this

While waiting to start school, Amonoo has spent his time volunteering at the Habifor Humanity Restore



Isaac Amonoo, center, poses with Maurice and Judy Horsey.

where the staff has become accustomed to his dedication and willingness to work.

"He's worth his weight in gold. He has worked and worked and he's so enthusiastic, it's contagious...he really understands why we're here and why we do what we do," said Kelly Persons, director of development for Habitat of

Forsyth County. Judy Horsey is the director of volunteer services for Habitat of Forsyth.

Amonoo says he sees the mission of both the YMCA and Habitat for Humanity as one in the same with a shared goal of helping people to become selfsufficient

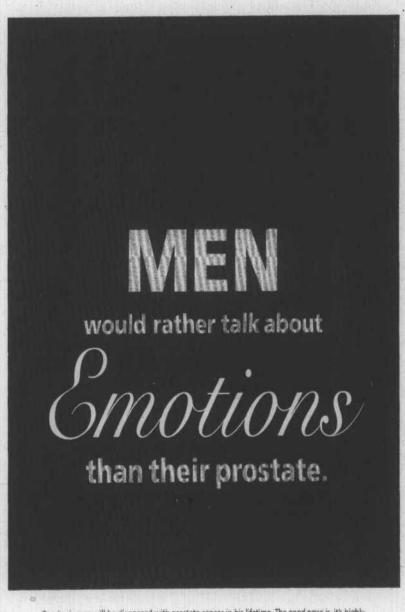
"Anything I do, I do it out of my heart. I don't look to money because money has always been a secondary thing

to me but you give of yourself and think of somebody else. I'm willing to do the work of God that has always been a part of my life," said Amonoo.

Once Amonoo earns his degree from Lincoln University, he hopes to return to his home in Ghana and give to his community what he has learned in this country.

People on the other side of the world need our help...if I am able to create an environ-ment for me to have a better life for myself and my family, I will also be in position to help others. That has been my whole philosophy in life,"

www.wschronicle.com New and Improved



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Economy

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But manufacturing has shed jobs with such force since July 2000, the start of the manufacturing recession, that every state has lost jobs over the three-year peri-od, according to the National Association of Manufacturers, a Washington-based trade group.

Collectively, the manufacturing industry since July 2000 has contracted by 2.6 million jobs, or about 14 percent.

"Blacks are still overrepresented in the unionized, manufac-turing sector," said William Spriggs, director of the National Urban League's Institute on Opportunity and Equality.

And blacks were further hit by their entry into the high-tech sec tor, the first to be battered by the recession, Spriggs notes

Blacks got into the backbone of the Internet laying cable, installing equipment and that sector is totally bust," he said.

Nationally, overall unemployment hit 6.4 percept in June, up from 6.1 percent in May. Non-Hispanic, white unemployment reached 5.5 percent in June, up from 5.4 percent in May. The overall rate was the highest in nine

Growth in the construction industry comes via cheap immigrant labor, as well as the tweaking of interest rates by the Federal Reserve, says Dr. Raul Hinojosa, a professor at the University of California at Los Angeles.

"Blacks basically command as Latinos cannot because of their immigration status," Hinojosa "Therefore, the wage pressure is kept down on Latinos making them more exploitable, and, therefore, more employable. There is really no subtle way to explain the point,"
But if some economists and

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Hispanics

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will be hit hard. Hinoiosa theorized

Only 57 percent of Hispanics have a high school education, a fact that reflects the high number of immigrants in the group. Among blacks, 79 percent have high school degrees. And among non-Hispanic whites, 88 percent have high school degrees, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Harry Holzer, a Georgetown University professor and the former chief economist for the Labor Department during the Clinton administration, said other factors are at play in explaining the differences in black and Latino

unemployment. But Latinos benefit from tightly woven job networks, Holzsaid. Furthermore, Hispanics

are less likely to live in segregated neighborhoods, which means they are dispersed around a wider cir-

Latinos are more likely to have early job experience in their teens and young adulthood than blacks, he said. And labor participation rates, comparing blacks and Latinos, bear that out. According to June stats from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Hispanics, 16 to 20, have a participation rate of 44 percent, vs. 39 percent for blacks

Beyond that, there are simply issues of perceptions about the two groups, Holzer said.

Employers are happier to hire Latino males than black men," said Holzer, who edited a book on black youth and their employment. "Black men are the most negatively perceived group. There is this perceived attitude and maybe the employer brings an attitude, too.

Faced with such problems, some blacks say, the solution is to become your own boss. Small businesses, after all, are the muscular engine of at least two-thirds of U.S. job growth and they employ about half of the private sector workforce.

The U.S. Small Business Administration reported this month that its loans to African-Americans increased by 88 percent in the first three quarters of the fiscal year. By comparison, loans to Hispanics increased by 44 percent and the overall increase in oans backed by the SBA was up