



Pop Warner season closes

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Mother talks about tragedy

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Hunt to help people in slammer

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Haitians get help from WSSU

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2004

Early voting going briskly

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Voters now have until Oct. 30 to cast an early ballot for the November election. One-Stop Absentee Voting is in full swing at seven sites around Forsyth County.

The Winston-Salem Voter Rights Coalition will be knocking on doors and making phone calls in an effort to spread the word about early voting.

Linda Sutton, with the coalition, says they will contact some 2,400 registered voters to remind them to vote ahead of time if they so choose. The coalition along with CHANGE will be offering rides to people who cannot get to the polling sites on their own.

One-Stop Voting is offered to any registered voters who wish to vote before Election Day. Registered voters can vote at any of the seven One-Stop locations regardless of where they live.

Sutton hopes many seniors will take advantage of the free rides the coalition is offering to One-Stop sites so they won't have to brave the long lines that are expected on Election Day.

"A lot of seniors are wanting to vote early. But we're hoping the machines will not be a problem for them. We're hoping to have somebody to assist them with the computers," said Sutton of the electronic voting machines being used at all of the One-Stop sites. She remains skeptical about whether the controversial e-voting machines will function properly.

"We're frustrated with the whole thing. It just seems like the system isn't getting any bet-

See Voting on A5



Larry Little (from left), Tom Keith and Mark Rabil were among those who spoke at last week's forum.

Race forum looks back and forward

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Speakers acknowledge progress but say work still lies ahead

You are either part of the solution or you are part of the problem.

That is what Larry Little told an audience of about 50 last Thursday at the Joel Coliseum during the first of three forums organized by the Mayor's Racial Healing Committee.

But in terms of racism in

the criminal justice system, Little said, local law enforcement agencies are simultaneously part of the problem and solution.

Little, a former City Council member and longtime community activist, spent two decades working to win the release of Darryl Hunt, an innocent black man who spent

more than 18 years in prison for the murder of white newspaper copy editor Deborah Sykes. Hunt was released last year on Christmas Eve after investigators matched another man's DNA to that taken from the crime scene. Although some argue that the system worked for Hunt, albeit 20 years later, Little said the jus-

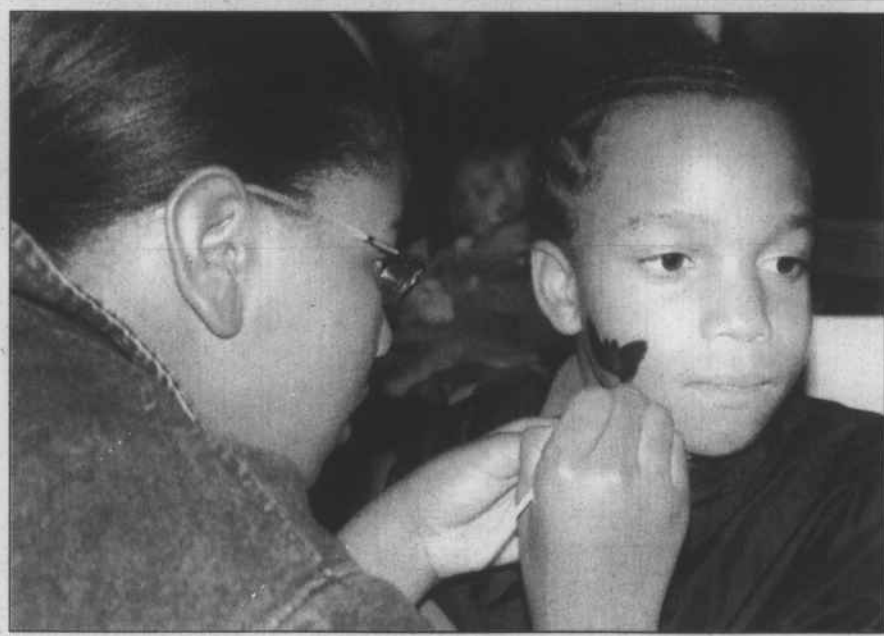
tice system failed Hunt miserably and will fail others if the mistakes made in the Hunt case are not acknowledged and swiftly dealt with.

"It is not the system, we should give praise to," Little said. "It should have not taken us this long."

Mayor Allen Joines started his Racial Healing Committee

after Hunt's release to try to address the racial divide in the city that only widened as a result of Hunt's conviction, a conviction on what most blacks always thought was flimsy evidence at best. Most in the white community, though, thought cops had the right man in Hunt. Little criticized the white community for ignoring evidence that he said always pointed to Hunt's inno-

See Forum on A9



TURNING THE OTHER CHEEK

Photo by Kevin Walker
To get into the Halloween spirit, Nzinga Hawkins paints a bat on the cheek of 10-year-old Christopher Crockett during Rock the Block last Friday. Face painting was one of many activities offered during the massive street festival. To read more about Rock the Block, see page C1.

Bonds touted for great potential

BY CASH MICHAELS
THE CAROLINIAN

This election year, North Carolinians will be asked to make a change in the state Constitution to allow counties and municipalities to use targeted tax increment financing (TIF) to redevelop currently underdeveloped areas.

Proponents of this measure in North Carolina call it by another name -

self-financing bonds that will pay for themselves via the property taxes the projects raise.

The referendum on the ballot come Election Day is called "Amendment One."

Opponents, mainly conservative groups such as the John Locke Foundation, counter that if passed, citizens will lose their right to vote on whether certain projects are funded or not.

One fact is clear, however: TIF is successfully being used in 48 other states to enhance the tax-base and create new jobs.

Only Arizona and North Carolina currently don't employ it.

Proponents call TIF a needed



McCrory

Wynn says experience sets him apart in race

Judge trying to become only black on state's highest court

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

James Wynn has always been a man who has believed in justice - even when he has been robbed of it.

In a truly just world, Wynn would have a seat on the second most powerful court in the land. And he would not have to campaign in order to keep on doing the job that he loves; he would not have to go out of his way to show voters that he is the most experienced and best qualified.

But the world is not just. So instead of serving on the

U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals (which Wynn was nominated to twice by former President Clinton), Wynn is in the middle of a statewide campaign to become the only African-American member of the N.C. Supreme Court. Jesse Helms, the state's infamous former U.S. senator, blocked Wynn's nomination to the Fourth Circuit both times. But Wynn says he is not bitter, disappointed - yes, but not bitter.

"I was just honored that someone thought enough to nominate me," he said last

See Wynn on A12



Photo by Kevin Walker

Judge James Wynn has nearly a decade of experience on the N.C. Court of Appeals.

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