

North Carolina Room
Forsyth County Public Library
660 West Fifth Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Journals of Community



Carver standout will play at Tennessee
-See Page B1



Adams' good deeds recalled at his funeral
-See Page A 13



Father's event draws dozens of local men
-See Page B16

THE CHRONICLE

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Marshall says he was duped

County commissioner under fire for lost health plaza funding

BY SANDRA ISLEY
THE CHRONICLE

County Commissioner Walter Marshall this week is defending his decision not to approve a budget proposal that would've allotted \$600,000 to the Downtown Health Plaza, a medical facility that mainly serves the uninsured and the underprivileged. Marshall, a Democrat representing District A, said his decision was based upon unlawful actions of others and over budget concerns.

Last week, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners voted 6-1 to approve a more than



Walter Marshall

\$350 million budget that does not raise taxes and includes no money for the health plaza. Commissioners over the years had decreased their financial support for the plaza, which is run by N.C. Baptist Hospital, a nonprofit entity. This is the first time in six years that the plaza will receive no county money.

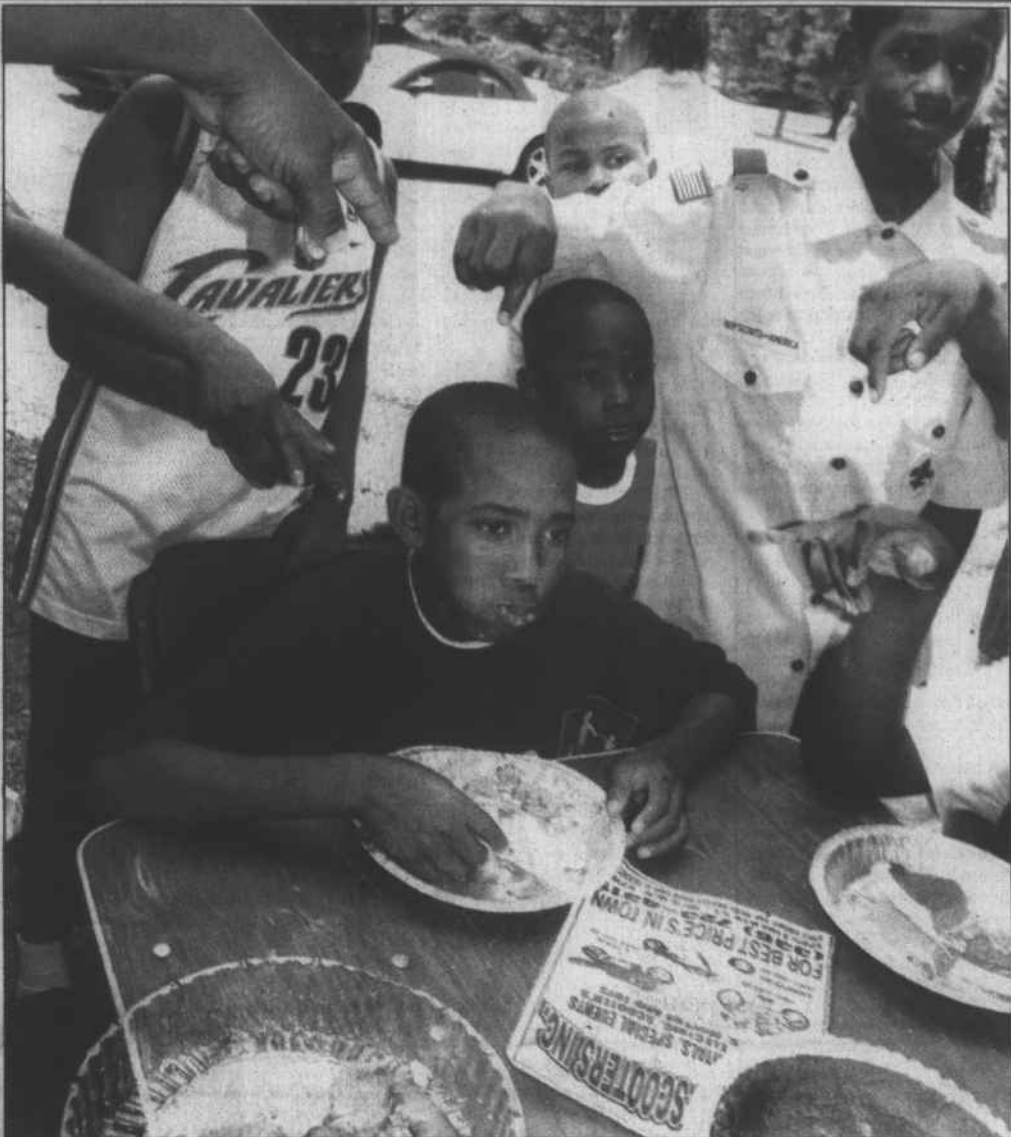
County Manager Graham Previer's original budget proposal included \$800,000, the same amount that was given by the county to the plaza last year, in funding for the plaza. Commissioners frowned on that proposal because it would have meant a one cent property tax increase.

Joe Bartel, director of budget and management for Forsyth County, said that Commissioner's Gloria Whisenhunt and Commissioner Debra Conrad-Shrader presented budget proposals of their own, which included no money for the plaza. Those budgets were rejected as well. Commissioner Richard Linville's budget proposal did originally include \$600,000 for the health plaza, but a revised Linville budget proposal, which the commissioners ended up passing, did not include the money.

Several commissioners, including Marshall's District A colleague, Beaufort Bailey, say that the \$600,000 for the plaza was scrapped after Marshall played hard ball by trying to force the board to include money in the budget for several vacancies at the Forsyth County Department of Social Services. Marshall sits on the DSS board.

Marshall calls those claims hogwash. He is accusing his colleagues of breaking open meeting laws by green-lighting a budget during a session where only a fraction of the board was present.

See Budget on A15



Photos by Kevin Walker

Observers point to 12-year-old Darius Williams as the winner of the sweet potato pie-eating contest.

SUNSHINE & FREEDOM

Juneteenth celebrated by thousands

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

It was the perfect day to celebrate freedom.

Skies were clear, temperatures were comfortable and joy wafted through Rupert Bell Park, as did a light breeze. Saturday's Triad Juneteenth Festival drew a steady crowd over its six-hour duration. All told, organizers believe that between 5,000 and 6,000 came out to enjoy live music and dance performances and a plethora of other activities.

Juneteenth, usually observed June 19, marks the day in 1865 when the last of the nation's slaves learned of their freedom. It has been called the African-American Fourth of July since blacks



Yvette Parham signs a petition to make Juneteenth a national holiday.

remained without freedom for nearly a century after the U.S. declared its independence. "This is such a noteworthy event in our history," said Cheryl Harry, who spent months organizing the festival, and commemorating her legacy during a festive reception. Those on hand included her husband, the Rev. Samuel Stevenson; her 91-year-old mother, Vinell Hicks; her daughter, Joy Ami Stitt; and her two grandsons, Jeffrey and Jalon.

See Juneteenth on A13

Host Homes will lose its leader

Mable Stevenson headed the agency for 15 years

BY SANDRA ISLEY
THE CHRONICLE

"She's just like wine. With age, she gets even better." Those are a few of the kind words that Dewey Haley had to say about Mable Stevenson. Haley worked with Stevenson at Host Homes, an outreach program established by Catholic Social Services. Stevenson served as Host Homes' director for 15 years. She will end her tenure tomorrow and enter retirement.



Stevenson

"It has been a humbling experience," said Stevenson. "It has given me the opportunity to find out I had some skills that I didn't even know I had."

Friends, family members and longtime colleagues gathered Saturday at the Downtown Embassy Suites to bid Stevenson farewell and commemorate her legacy during a festive reception. Those on hand included her husband, the Rev. Samuel Stevenson; her 91-year-old mother, Vinell Hicks; her daughter, Joy Ami Stitt; and her two grandsons, Jeffrey and Jalon.

Stevenson plans to devote much of her retirement to them, but she has other dreams as well. Her retirement plan is to return to school to receive her realtor's license.

"People always said I could sale anything. I guess we're about to find out if that's true," she said.

You would never know by the many strong connections she has in this city, but Stevenson is not a city native. She relocated here in 1990 after her husband was named pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church. Once here, Stevenson

See Stevenson on A5

SWEET, PLENTIFUL



Photo by Todd Luck

Leroy Richardson holds one of his ready and ripe watermelons. He hawks melons and other fruit at the busy intersection of New Walkertown Road and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. He says his products are the best because they are all grown to perfection in the Sunshine State (Florida). He can sell hundreds of watermelons and cantaloups in a single day.

Library continues youth reading program

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The Forsyth County Public Library is doing its part to make sure that the reading skills of young people stay sharp over the summer.

The library kicked off its long-running and popular Summer Reading Program Saturday during a street festival that featured fun and games for kids and a bargain book sale for adults. The festival, held outside the library on Spring Street, also celebrated the library's 100th anniversary. Special events for the centennial are planned throughout the year.

Although arts and crafts, singers, a clown and storytellers kept kids busy and fascinated, they found time to sign up for the 2006 Summer Reading Program, which encourages young people to read by awarding prizes and recommending hot titles.

"Kids really have embraced this program," said library director Sylvia Sprinkle Hamlin.



Photo by Kevin Walker

See Reading on A8 Latesa Brown's five-year-old daughter colors at Saturday's festival.

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