



Tournament title goes to Reynolds JV squad

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Marriage group promotes happiness

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Museum hosts popular holiday event

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A BROTHER'S PRIDE

Local attorney proud of sibling's history-making Congressional swearing-in

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Minnesota Rep. Keith Ellison made history last Thursday when he placed his hand on a Quran once owned by Thomas Jefferson and became the first Muslim to be sworn into the United States Congress.

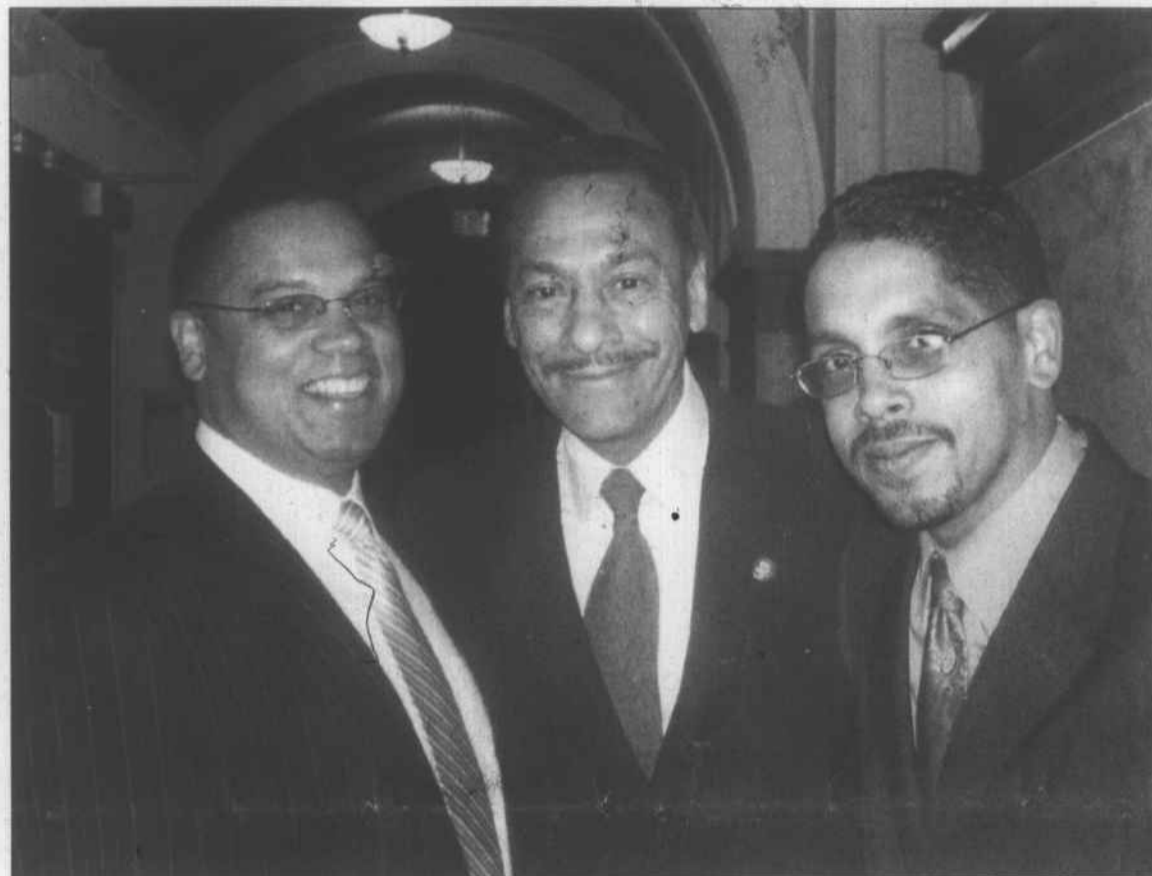
Watching him make history were proud members of his family including his brother, Eric Ellison, who is a lawyer in Winston-Salem. Keith and Eric come from a family of five brothers, all born and raised in Detroit, Mich.

Eric Ellison said about 30 members of his family attended the inauguration as well as the day's other events like the congressional church service, the Congressional Black Caucus swearing in ceremony, and the reception held in the congressman's new office after the inauguration. Eric Ellison said the family got to rub elbows with the likes of Mel Watt and Nancy Pelosi and that Barack Obama even congratulated his parents.

Keith Ellison, a state representative from Minnesota, became the first African-American U.S. congressman from that state when he won in last year's midterm elections. Ellison's religion and request to be sworn in using a Quran have received nationwide attention.

Eric Ellison described his brother as a man with a long history of service who is approaching his new position with humility. He said his brother knows he's in Congress to serve.

"He sees this as an opportunity for us as Americans to learn from one another and to break down (barriers) and to build bridges," said Eric Ellison.



U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison (left) with U.S. Rep. Mel Watt and local attorney Eric Ellison in the U.S. Capitol.

Photo courtesy of Eric Ellison

Eric Ellison said he comes from a close knit family, all of whom went to Minnesota at various points to help with his brother's election. The weekend he went there he said he ended up mainly just following his "big brother" around and providing moral support.

He said, of the five Ellison brothers, four of them, including

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THE NEW YEAR

HOMETOWN COLUMN

By Maya Angelou



We spend a large portion of our time on earth greeting and saying farewell. The first days of romantic relationships are delightful and full of promises.

Flowers seem to bloom everywhere. Birds sing joyful little songs and the paths we select are smooth and down hill all the way.

Then life happens. Alas, the golden days turn pale and gray. The beloved's voice, which once sounded like angels whispering turns harsh and raspy. The conversations, which at one time lightened our hearts and made us laugh cheerfully, offers only sour words, mean phrases and sarcasm. And we start to wonder what we saw in our chosen one in the first place.

We begin to plan our farewell. We may not, in reality, act upon our plan, but secretly we plot and imagine how wonderful life will be once we have said goodbye.

I realize the truth in those statements when I remember how glad I was to see the year 2005 depart. I had had enough of it. I had lost friends and family to 'times' dateless night. Meaningful relationships had been compromised. I had found a great lie in the mouth of a beloved. And my body had aged beyond my will. I did make a few valuable new friends. But I was glad to let go of 2005 and welcomed 2006 with open arms and a hopeful heart.

As it turned out, I found that 2006 had been no kinder than the year which preceded it. I did make some new friends and I did find some old friends, loyal to a fault, but I was quite tired of 2006 and it was okay for it to leave.

And, now here is 2007, looking just fine. It feels full of good promise. I am counting on it to be really great.

So, welcome 2007 and Happy New Year to us all.

World-renowned poet and author Dr. Maya Angelou, the city's most famous resident, is the Reynolds professor of American studies at Wake Forest University.

A QUILTING STORY

Exhibit examines belief that slaves spoke through fabric

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

A message in a quilt about a path to freedom for American slaves - woven in the fabric of what, at first glance, appeared to be an ordinary household object - is an intriguing tale of resourcefulness and ingenuity.

There is some debate about whether the story of slaves using quilts to communicate information about the Underground Railroad is an unsubstantiated romanticized tale, or a truth buried long ago with the ancestors of modern day African-Americans, surviving only in the retelling of their oral history. It is doubtful that the truth will ever be known for sure, but the story is nevertheless embedded in American lore.

The Delta Arts Center in Winston-Salem opened "Samplers & Symmetry," the center's first quilting exhibition Jan. 7. A youth quilting workshop preceded the opening Jan. 6 and a lecture, "How Secret Codes In Quilts Provided Maps to Freedom for Slaves On the Underground Railroad," was given by Phyllis Bailey, who is an amateur historian and genealogist of blacks in Iredell County.

Quilting patterns such as the shoofly, which is said to identify a friendly guide who is nearby and can help, the drunkard's path, which urged escaped slaves to treat a



Caesar

See Quilts on A13

Phyllis Bailey, an amateur historian and genealogist, poses with one of her many quilts.



Hispanics getting home-buying help from company

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO - Buying a house can be a complicated process. Mortgages, credit scores and utilities are just a few of the things a new home owner may have to deal with before moving in. Now imagine dealing with all that, but in a foreign language.

That's the problem NC tu Casa is trying to fix. The new business, which will open soon in Greensboro, plans to offer real estate services to members of the Hispanic community in their native tongue.

NC tu Casa will house Spanish speaking independent contractors who will cover all aspects of

purchasing a home. Some of the services provided will include real estate and mortgage services, credit counseling, legal services, insurance and assistance with utilities set up. All of it will be housed inside of a 5,800 square foot building at 2627 Grimsley St., which used to house the regional offices of McDonald's restaurants many years ago.

Several investors have put their money and resources into the venture including Roger McManus, who has owned the building, for 18 years, that will house NC tu Casa.

"Serving the community is very simple for us. You come in, you can speak your native tongue

See NC tu Casa on A13



Salvador Santana, left, and Roger McManus stand in front of NC tu Casa in Greensboro.



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