**SPORTSWEEK** Deacons have reason

Yellowjackets score big in opener

to celebrate



COMMUNITY

Carver alumni recall good times

A link between health, religion?

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2001

The Choice for African-American News

## honors grand patriarch

Peter Oliver, a free black man, was a prominent resident of Salem in the late 18th century

WINSTON SALEM NC

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

He's the patriarch of his ever-growing family, but even Henry Thomas Oliver did not know that his roots grew from the heart of Salem, the 200year-old community that planted the seeds for the city we call Winston-Salem.

Oliver learned two years ago that his greatgrandfather was Peter Blackburn Oliver, a bira-cial man who was a popular member of the Mora-vian religious community in the latter part of the 18th century. With the help of Mel White - director of African-American programs at Old Salem (which Salem is now known) - the grave of Peter Oliver was found last year among the thousands at God's Acre, the breath-taking cemetery where

Moravians have been buried for centuries.
"I was just amazed," 89-year-old Henry Oliver said, describing his reaction to learning of his heritage. "I had no idea for all these years

Henry Oliver, a resident of Clemmons, joined many other descendants of Peter Oliver, some of whom he just met for the first time last year, to celebrate the replacement of Peter Oliver's old, barely readable headstone with a new marble one.

"We wanted it replaced because we did not want to come here 10 years from now and not be able to read it," said Paulette J. Robinson, a Peter Oliver descendant of a different branch than Henry Oliver. There are three known branches of the family. All stem from Israel Oliver, one of Peter Oliver's three surviving children (three other children were stillborn and are buried just feet away from their father at God's Acre).

White, who has already connected the three branches of the family, is still searching for other branches of the family. The lives of Peter Oliver's other surviving children - Joseph Oliver and Anna "Nancy" Nickolas - remain a mystery, including the years they died and possible chil

Peter Oliver, born into slavery in Virginia but freeman during his years in Salem, died in 1810. He is believed to be the last African-American Moravian to be buried alongside whites in God's Acre. The cemetery became segregated in 1820, as did the Moravian Church with the creation of St. Phillips Church in 1827, the oldest black church in the state.

The headstone to the right of Peter Oliver's belongs to John Rights, a white Moravian who died soon after Peter Oliver. Rights' great-greatgreat-grandson was on hand for the rededication.

Also named John Rights, he came to support the relatives of Peter Oliver and to celebrate the rededication of the headstone

Rights said the fact that blacks and whites are buried side by side in the cemetery should be seen as a positive

'I think that's a beautiful symbol and image to

But the part of Old Salem's past relating to slavery is not a pleasant topic for some Mora-

See Olivers on A10



Jones shows his children, Leah, the headnew for Oliv-Peter grave. The Joneses descenare dants Oliver, who God's Acre, a Moravian cemetery.

# A Woman's Touch



Local women continued a Labor Day tradition last weekend, partaking in an all-female build for Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County. Women from local companies such as RJR, GMAC and Sara Lee gave up their holiday to haul and hammer at a site in Neil's Place off University Parkway, where people of both genders were busily working on other homes as well. The all-female house should be completed by year's end, and a local family will move in soon after it is completed.

## oman celebrates 100 years of life



Odessa Hunter Carelock, (center) chats with (left to right) her granddaughter Trudy Starnes, her daughter Ada Starnes and her granddaughter Lisa Starnes Carter.

BY FELECIA P. MCMILLAN COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

Odessa Hunter Carelock is the matriarch of five generations of the Carelock family, the mother of 12 children and the church mother of St. Paul AME Methodist Church in Lancaster County, S.C. Her grandson George Carelock II of Texas served as the guest speaker for this auspicious

occasion. Born on Sept. 2, 1901, to the late George Hunter and Maggie Caroline Carelock, the centenarian was the center of attention at her 100th birthday celebration held at her home church in South Carolina. Carelock attributes her long life to 'serving God, hard work and keeping a sense of

She still enjoys cracking jokes and making smart remarks among family and friends. She loves jewelry of mul-

ticolored stones, and her appearance is still very important to her. She must be ready to receive her gentlemen callers at anytime. She said, "I don't have to go out on a date now. He comes to see me. When he comes, I'll act so pretty you won't even know me." She said. "I don't allow other women in our presence when he is around. But even that doesn't matter because if another woman is around, he will still be looking at me. He wouldn't pay her any attention because I'm pretty."

Her word cannot be disputed.

Dressed in a gray straw hat and a gray dress with matching jacket, Carelock turned heads. Her flawless skin accented her red lipstick and white gold earrings. Behind her winsome smile are life experiences that span a century. Having grown up on a farm, she followed the traditions of her par-

See 100 on A4

### Sunset will not kill state's payday loan industry, say many

Legislators could take up issue again this week and put stricter laws on controversial business

BY T. KEVIN WALKER

THE CHRONICLE

It was a minute after midnight on Saturday when the sun set on North

lucrative pay-day lending industry. But critics of the controversial business and even some legislators believe that the industry may still have legs, even

though it no

longer has the authority of the state commissioner of banking to operate.

"They won't just die and disappear at 12:01," state Rep. Larry Womble said last Friday, a few hours before the

sunset. "That simply will not happen." Sunset is a symbolic term used by legislators to describe bills that have expired. That's exactly what happened

to the 1997 legislation passed by the General Assembly that "I am opposed made way for p a y d a y lenders to set to the industry. I believe it exploits up shop in the

Pete Oldham

poor people."

state. There are more than 1,000 payday leaders (also known as cash advance oper-

ations) in the state. They've made hundreds of millions of dollars in the last four years by providing short-term loans of up to

#### Friends, listeners coming to aid of embattled station

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The smooth, silky soul of WAAA 980 Triple A radio turned to dead air earlier this year after the station experienced financial

But the beat may go on. Help is on the way for the popular and long-running rhythm and blues station. A fund-raiser has just been announced for Saturday in Rupert Bell Park. It is the latest in a number of grassroots movements currently afoot to help get the station back on the air.

The fund-raiser is actually being billed as a community rally for WAAA, during which organizers will attempt to raise money for the station. The goal is to raise enough money to purchase a facility for the station as well as a transmitter so that the station can again reach city homes.

"I have really been encouraged and gratified by the outpouring of support from the large and diverse number of people who have ral-lied to this cause," said Mütter Evans, owner of WAAA. "It just



gives me a good feeling to know that the people WAAA has served for more than a half-century care about what happens to their sta-

The station went off the air early this summer after the owner WAAA's building, William Haubrich, padlocked the station, saying that rent had not been paid in more than three years.

Ser WAAA on A3



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