

SPORTSWEEK

**Vikings win
Frank Spencer**

**County B-ball talent
on the rise**



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COMMUNITY

**Youngsters win
essay contest**

**Pictures from
Kwanzaa events**

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CHRONICLE

The Choice for African-American News

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Road to clash with black heritage in Bethania

BY SHERIDAN HILL
THE CHRONICLE

The descendants of Rev. Joseph Lofton Lash want the impossible: to save the family's land from being split apart by a thoroughfare proposed by the city transportation department.

Lash (1867-1953) was a minister, an educator, and president of the 1916 Forsyth County Colored Agricultural Fair, back in the day when blacks were not welcome at the main fair.

The city has proposed to build a four-lane road similar to Silas Creek Parkway through the Lash family tract, connecting Bethabara Road to Bethania-Rural Hall Road just east of Main Street in Bethania. This road is a short-

ened version of the thoroughfare plan that has been on the books since 1991, according to Greg Turner of the city Transportation Department. A consultant hired by Bethania is trying to come up with a plan that satisfies both the

"This house, this land and these artifacts are a part of who we are and how we see life." — Robert Wayne Glenn

city's desire for road connectivity in the northwest part of the city and Bethania's desire to keep traffic away from the historic town center.

For years, the family has endeavored to preserve the historical integrity of the land and buildings known informally as Lash Heights, a dozen acres of

land that has been in the family for more than 150 years. Walter Glenn, one of Lash's grandsons, recently built a fence around the foundation of the school-house on Walker Road where Lash taught black children reading, writing and arithmetic. Several years ago, the family reluctantly agreed to tear down the original Lash home after receiving complaints that it had fallen into disrepair.

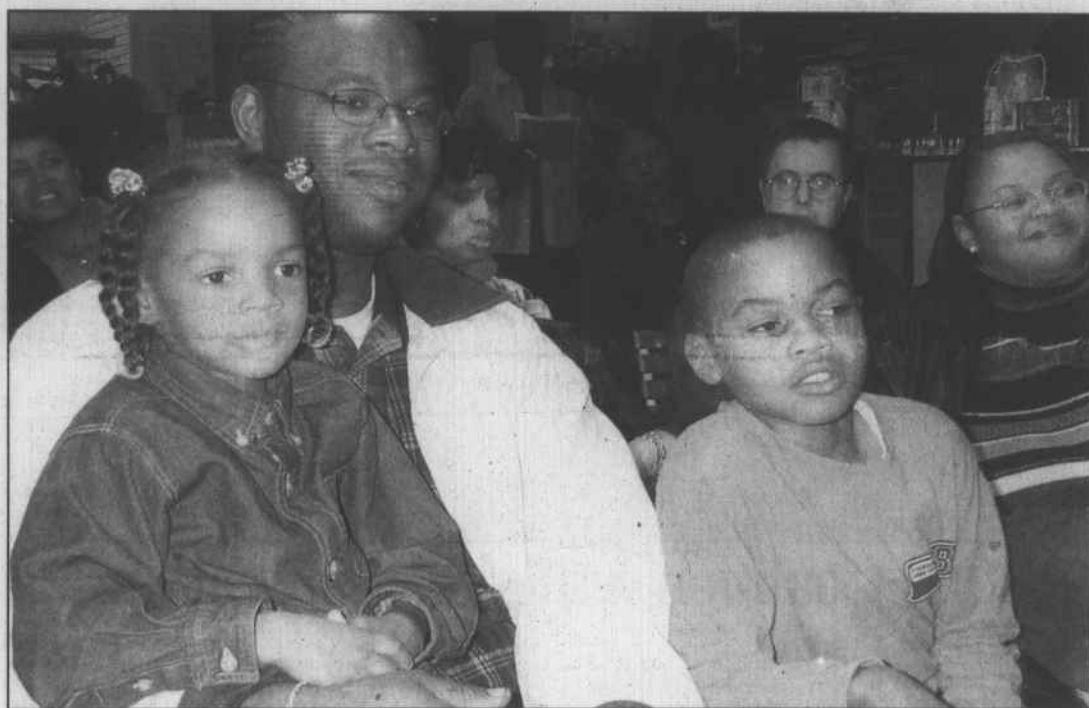
A house built 100 years ago by Lash's son-in-law still stands at the corner of Walker Road and Bethania-Rural Hall Road, and is home to Lash's granddaughter. Inside are precious historical artifacts, including a small, hand-bound booklet believed to be a listing of slaves, in a flowery handwriting that includes dates as far back as



Photo by Sheridan Hill

See Road on A8

Descendants of Joseph Lash are up for a fight to save the historic property.



Kevin and Sharon Johnson brought their two children, Kayla and Tyshon, to Kwanzaa last Thursday night. Below, the kinara is lit at another Kwanzaa event in the city.

City celebrates Kwanzaa

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Susan Benjamin isn't relying on the school system to teach her three children about their heritage. That's a matter she has decided to take into her own hands.

Benjamin and her children were among the hundreds last week and early this week who took part in city Kwanzaa celebrations. Benjamin hopes that the cultural and historical elements of the fairly new but steadily growing African-American holi-



day celebration will help her little ones realize they come from a past steeped in centuries-old values such as respect and humility

and time-proven traditions such as helping one's neighbor and placing elders on pedestals.

"We have been coming to

Kwanzaa for the last five years," Benjamin said. "I believe events like this are important. If we don't take our kids to things like this, how will they ever learn about their culture?"

Since its creation 35 years ago, Kwanzaa has grown into an international phenomenon. It is believed that more than 28 million people around the world take part in Kwanzaa, a nonreligious-based holiday celebration that begins the day after Christmas and ends on New Year's Day.

See Kwanzaa on A9

Black voices prominent in fight for CAT-TV

Board will consider fate of public-access station later this month

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Even those with satellite television and the hundreds of channels that that technology provides would be hard pressed to find a station as brow-raising as CAT-TV, the city's eight-year-old public access station. It is probably the only channel where one could see an atheist, a fire-and-brimstone Baptist preacher, an up-and-coming local musical artist, and get tips on lowering cholesterol all within a two-hour span.

Those who have become fans of the station's sometimes quirky shows and those who use the channel to promote a variety of interests are in a fight to save CAT-TV from a permanent state of dead air.

The Board of Aldermen will soon vote up or down a proposal between the city and Time Warner Cable, a proposal that would mean probably \$2 million

a year for the city from the cable provider, but no long-term commitment for financial support for CAT-TV. In fact, after three years, the Board of Aldermen will have to allocate money annually for



Griggs

CAT-TV from money generated by the city from Time Warner, under the proposed deal.

porters say if that happens, the station's budget, which is about \$140,000 annually, could be dwindled down to nothing when it comes time for city officials to crunch numbers at budget time. They want this proposal trashed and another one drawn up that includes a commitment from the cable company to fund CAT-TV, preferably at a higher level of funding.

"If we could get (an economic commitment), it would give CAT the luxury of not having to worry about the cycle of funding, and we would have time to come up with an economic infrastructure," said Khalid Griggs, chairperson of the station's board.

CAT-TV has aired a series of programs over the last month touting the importance of the station. A petition drive and letter-writing campaign have also been under way. The drive will end early next week, and the signatures collected will be presented at an aldermen's finance commit-

See CAT-TV on A9

Dr. Maya Angelou captivated a crowd Tuesday at United Metropolitan Baptist Church. She said African Americans have come quite a way since slavery. "I see the faces of blacks today and it shows me that we've come a long way."



Hundreds celebrate freedom

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

"Amazing" is the word Dr. Maya Angelou used to describe the African-American experience in the country at Tuesday's Celebration of Emancipation, which was sponsored by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Emancipation Association.

Angelou — the noted poet, author, actress and current Reynolds professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University — brought the audience at United Metropolitan Baptist Church to its feet with her rousing orations depicting the plight of African Americans in this country.

Angelou took the audience back to the early days of slavery when

millions of Africans were taken from their homeland and brought to this country. During her speech, she constantly reminded African Americans that they should be proud of their past, but be mindful of all that they have endured.

"I am not ashamed of a past wilted in pain," Angelou said. "I see the faces of blacks today and it shows me that we've come a long way."

"This is where we started," she said. "They drug you from your homeland, yet somehow you found a way to survive and make it. In every phase of life today you can find an African American."

Angelou said she attributes the survival of African Americans to something that seems endemic to

their existence.

"What we're the best at is pressing and praying," she said. "That's how you find liberation. What we've done is taken the alloy — great abuse — and somehow managed to continue forward. That's why you can walk down the street today and see a young man who is a second- or third-generation welfare recipient walking down the street as if he has oil wells in his pocket."

That type of resiliency is one reason Angelou said African Americans should be happy to celebrate emancipation. President Abraham Lincoln signed the bill that freed blacks in September 1862 and it was enacted on Jan. 1, 1863. Since that time,

See Emancipation on A3

