



Wake's Johnson ready for Tar Heels

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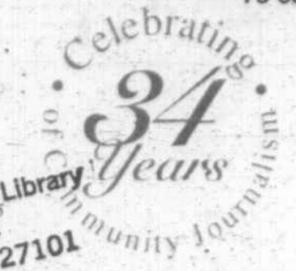
Hundreds honor the late Clark Campbell

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Freedom ceremony lifts up Obama

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



# THE CHRONICLE

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## TRAGEDY OPENS HEARTS

Family devastated by fire receives outpouring of support

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

When Shannon McCrimmon received word last year that her family had been chosen as the beneficiaries of a Christmas giving program at the Women's Wellness and Fitness Center in Winston-Salem, she was relieved to have the burden of gift buying lifted from her already challenged budget. She had no idea then how much she would soon come to need the members of the fitness club.

McCrimmon, who works part time at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, was the chief breadwinner for her family of six, which included four children, ages 14, nine, eight and four, and husband James McCrimmon, who suffered from kidney failure and was unable to work.

James McCrimmon, 32, affectionately known to his children as "Poppy," died suddenly of a heart attack just days after the family had learned that they would be adopted by the Fitness Center. In addition to the shock and overwhelming grief she suffered at the loss of her high school sweetheart and husband of eight years, McCrimmon was faced with the added financial burden of footing the bill for her husband's funeral.



Shannon McCrimmon, center, is flanked by Helen Naples (right), Linda Rich (left) and other supporters.

"Because of his renal failure, he did not have (life) insurance," she explained. "That left me with nothing."

Just when McCrimmon thought things couldn't get any worse, her sister Tanja Cash's family was also struck by tragedy.

A fire broke out at Cash's residence just days after McCrimmon's funeral, claiming

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Submitted Photo  
Business legend Bob Brown will receive an award.

## Locals will be honored at inaugural celebration

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem's own Maya Angelou is among an elite group of 25 black dignitaries who will be honored with "Keepers of the Flame" awards at the African American Church Inaugural Ball on Jan. 18 in Washington, D.C.

The prolific poet is one of four honorees who have strong ties to North Carolina. Bob Brown, CEO of High Point-based marketing firm B&C Associates, Inc; former Bennett College President Dr. Johnetta B. Cole; and Duke University Professor Dr. John Hope Franklin are also being recognized.



Still

Spearheaded by national leaders from African American churches of diverse denominational backgrounds, the Inaugural Ball was designed to celebrate the accomplishments of President-elect Barack Obama, while recognizing the efforts of those who made it possible for a black man to rise to such extraordinary heights, explained Event Planner Phanalphee Rhue Still. Still is president and CEO of Square One Communications, a Broken Arrow, Okla.-based strategic marketing and public relations agency.

"The church has always played a significant role in issues that affect the African American community ... and civil rights concerns," commented Still, a native of Lilesville, North Carolina.

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## WHAT FORECLOSURE FEELS LIKE

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

The news media has steadfastly covered the who, what, when and why of the nation's mortgage collapse, but readers and viewers are too often asking themselves "how" can so many people lose their economic footing so swiftly.

Rita Hash Maxwell Tucker knows how - unfortunately. She spends most days in her North Winston-Salem home waiting - waiting for the next court date, the next past-due house note. She's mostly content, ready to accept whatever tomorrow may bring, even if it is homelessness.

"Don't think that I have not had my down days. I have," she said on Christmas Day from her favorite chair in a living room filled with family photos and varied Biblical figurines. "After awhile, you just come to a place where you have to face reality."

Her reality is that she owes her



Photo by Kevin Walker  
Rita Hash Maxwell Tucker chuckles at one of the many, many family photographs that adorn her living room walls.

mortgage company more than \$10,000, a figure that increases almost daily with penalties, taxes and legal costs. Tucker has turned

to Legal Aid of North Carolina for help. The agency, which provides pro bono legal services to those who qualify, is working with the

N.C. Banking Commission and N.C. Bar Association to hammer out negotiations between homeowners and their lenders.

Legal Aid has bought Tucker some time, if nothing else. She expected to be booted from her spacious six-bedroom home in September, and then again in November. December came and went and she was still living there, but she feels she has spent her last Christmas in the house that she has called home for nearly 15 years.

She bought the home, which, from the outside, appears much smaller than it actually is - soon after she took an early retirement settlement from R.J. Reynolds. The settlement did not make her rich, but it was enough to live comfortably and easily handle her 30-year mortgage payments. Over the years, she also had help. Relatives, including Tucker's daughter and her late sister, lived

See Foreclosure on A11



Photo by Todd Luck

Mayor Allen Joines is known for his many public appearances. Here, he speaks at the recent Emancipation Celebration at Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian Church.

## Mayor says he wants to stay put

Joines withdraws name from state post, plans run for third term

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

If home is where the heart is, then Winston-Salem will always be home for Mayor Allen Joines.

"It's such a special place, so much history, so much wonderful diversity that's here," declared the Wilkes County native. "I really care about this community and I think we're poised to do a lot of good things."

Joines, now in his second term, has

seen many changes come to pass during his tenure. He is credited with helping to land the contract that enticed Dell, Inc. to set up shop in the area, bringing with it hundreds of technological jobs and ushering in a new kind of employment in the wake of crippling layoffs from the textile, furniture and tobacco industries that had once sustained the local economy.

Downtown revitalization has been in full swing in the last eight years, and the

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In Memory of Charlene Russell Brown  
"Growing and Still Dedicated to Serve You Better"  
Russell Funeral Home  
Wishes to Thank Everyone For Their Support

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