



Rams make time to give back

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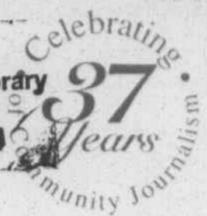
Author tells of time with SNCC

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Toy exchange room

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# THE CHRONICLE

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Vol. XXXVIII No. 17 WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. THURSDAY, December 22, 2011



## Kwanzaa kicks off on Monday

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem is gearing up for its annual City Wide Kwanzaa Celebration, a long-standing tradition of observing the cultural holiday for many in the local community. The seven day celebration will be staged at venues across the city, beginning with the opening ceremony at the Winston-Salem Urban League on Dec. 26.



"We're really excited about this year's Kwanzaa celebration. We have a lot of new locations and a lot of new programs," said Cheryl Harry, founder of Triad Cultural Arts, convener of the event since 2007. "We think the community is going to really learn a lot and have a deeper appreciation for African American culture."

Submitted Photo  
Writer/storyteller  
Judy Marie Willis

The 6 p.m. opening celebration at the Urban League will include the observance of "umoja," (unity) the first principle of Kwanzaa, and a special tribute to State Rep. Larry Womble, a longtime supporter of the city celebration who remains in critical condition after a Dec. 2 car accident.

New to the celebration this year is a name-changing ceremony that will be performed on Tuesday, Dec. 27 during the observance of the principle "kujichagulia," which means self-determination. The event is sponsored by Victory in Life, a local organization that instills self-esteem, cultural pride, proper etiquette and other values in youth.

Five individuals will take on new African names as part of the ceremony, which is scheduled for 6 p.m. at Sprague Street Recreation Center. Victory in Life Founder Masika Braithwaite and Nana Vee led the group through self exploration and educational activities designed to help them find names that reflect

See Kwanzaa on A10

## Picture-Perfect



Official White House Photo by Pete Souza  
The First Family of the United States has a new official portrait. President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, and their daughters, Malia, 13, and Sasha, 10, posed for the photo on Sunday, Dec. 11 in the White House's Oval Office. The First Family's last official family portrait was snapped in 2009.

## Weight-loss journey includes heartache and triumph

King-Scales turned to food as her husband fought to stay alive

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Loss affects everyone differently. For Winston-Salem resident Johnnie King-Scales, the passing of her husband of 17 years was a wake-up call.

The Rev. James W. Scales was an assistant pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church when he passed away in January.

For five years, King-Scales, an office assistant at Educational Loan Servicing, said she had turned to food for comfort as she grappled with the melancholy that accompanied caring for her ailing husband.

"When he was sick, eating kept me going," confessed the 59-year-old, who grew up in Boston, Mass.

After Scales' death, King-Scales, who weighed 300 pounds and was dangerously close to contracting diabetes, says she began to think about her own health for the first time in



Photo by Layla Farmer  
Johnnie King-Scales shows off the souvenirs from her first half-marathon.

See King-Scales on A9

## Leaders vow to address concerns

Burke says Public Safety Committee will take up checkpoints issue next month

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

In the wake of a growing public outcry over a seeming Winston-Salem Police Department practice of staging most of its license checkpoints in minority communities, city leaders say that they are working to find a solution that will help alleviate the strain between police and citizens who feel their lives are adversely affected by the checkpoints.



Burke

Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke, chair of the city's Public Safety Committee, and City Council member James Taylor, who serves as vice chair, both said they had not known the checkpoints were a concern until the ACLU of North Carolina brought the issue to the forefront a few months ago.

Taylor, whose Southeast Ward is the most affected by the checkpoints, says his ward has also seen the greatest reduction in crime in recent years. Taylor said many in the community have thanked him for the added police presence.

"The black community, they do feel good when they see police presence," Taylor related. "But I am learn-



Joines

See Leaders on A11

## Pastors preach about church's storied history



Photo by Todd Luck  
Rev. Darryl Aaron speaks. Also pictured is Rev. Prince Rivers.

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

St. Philips African Moravian Church, the oldest still-standing black church in North Carolina and one of the oldest in the country, celebrated its 150th anniversary last Thursday during a spirited service that featured music and a slew of special guests.

The original church buildings are located at Old Salem Museums and Gardens. The church was started by slaves and free blacks in the 1820s. They first worshipped in a church made of logs. In 1861, the congregation relocated to an adjacent, larger brick church. Today, the St. Philips congregation worships at church on Bon Air Avenue, miles away from Old Salem, but still holds services several times a year at Old Salem.

Old Salem has done restoration work at the church site, and it has become one of its many his-

torical attractions. Old Salem President and CEO Lee French said during last week's anniversary service that St. Philips should not only be celebrated for its longevity, but for the many men and women who made the church special and sacred.

"It's not just a historic building," he said. "It's a place of God and a place of people."

Both God and the strong faiths of the people who worshipped at St. Philips were highlighted during the service as several local pastors reflected on the church's legacy from the brick church's pulpit.

Union Baptist Church Pastor Sir Walter Mack Jr. served as master of ceremonies, first introducing Pastor Darryl Aaron of First Baptist Church on Highland Avenue. Aaron spoke about the Union Calvary chaplain who announced at St. Philips on May 21, 1865 that slavery had



French

See St. Philips on A2

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