



**JV b-ball  
action set  
to begin  
in earnest**

-See Page B8



**Doctor  
swears by  
sleep's  
benefits**

-See Page A3



**New city  
computer  
lab opens  
its doors**

-See Page A12

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**Celebrating  
37  
Years  
of Journalism**

# THE CHRONICLE

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, January 5, 2012

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Newlyweds Debra and Roger Martin (left) and Kina and James Washington exit the sanctuary after the ceremony.

## Couples begin 2012 with 'I Do'



BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

When the clock struck midnight on Dec. 31, James and Kina Washington had more than just the dawning of a new year to celebrate.

The two had tied the knot earlier that day during a mass Marriage and Renewal Ceremony at Union Baptist Church and were celebrating their first night as a married couple. Two thousand eleven was a year of ups and downs for the Washingtons, who were homeless just six months ago, but it ended on a high note, as the couple joined Deborah Orr and Roger Martin — who were also married during the ceremony — and 12 seasoned couples who renewed their vows on Saturday.

"I feel like new money, hot off the printing press," James Washington, said with a wide grin after the service.

The Washingtons, who have nine children between them,

See Weddings on A10

## FREEDOM'S ANNIVERSARY

*Annual celebration marks issuance of  
Emancipation Proclamation*

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Eighteen year-old Sharonda Wright has seen her share of hardships. She lost her mother at age five, and at 10, her father, who was raising her on his own, passed away following a period of illness.

Wright, a Sioux Falls, S.D. native, was forced to leave her home and come to Winston-Salem, where her cousin Beverly Milligan and her husband John took her in. Despite the setbacks, Wright has maintained good grades and has been heavily involved in her church, House of a Delivered Praise, where Mrs. Milligan pastors.

"I wanted to exceed the expectations that my family had set for me," said Wright, who helps with the Children's and Outreach ministries and serves on the Praise Team at her church.

Wright has recently begun to see the fruits of her

See Emancipation on A11



Emancipation Association members present scholarships to (from left) DeVaughn Nance, Elaine Stackhouse and Victoria Lee.

## Businesses take Kwanzaa's center stage



Evelyn Terry (left) accepts a picture of her famous grandfather from Leverage Smoot and Ben Piggott.

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

Kwanzaa's focus on Ujamaa, or cooperative economics, last Thursday brought out a slew of local African American-owned businesses to the Carl H. Russell Sr. Community Center, one of several sites that played host to citywide Kwanzaa celebrations from Dec. 26 — Jan. 1.

Local entrepreneurs and non-profit organizations were invited to help drive home the true meaning of Ujamaa by setting up displays booth in the Russell Center Gym.



John Raye and Rosie Smith

Each vendor was given an opportunity to address a crowd of more than 150 Kwanzaa-goers during the program,

See Kwanzaa on A2

## Top of the World



Photo by Layla Farmer

School Board Member John Davenport surveys the view from the rooftop of the new Career Center, which opened Tuesday. Read more on page B1.

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