



Giving props to the late Mr. White

- See Page B1



Popular dinner parties to restart

- See Page A9



Local artists fuse talents

- See Page A3



Local rapper making noise

- See Page C5

45 118805 *****CAR-RT-LOT**0022
NORTH CAROLINA ROOM
FORSYTH CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
660 W 5TH ST
WINSTON SALEM NC 27101-2705

THE CHRONICLE

For Reference
Not to be taken
from this library

75 cents

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

Vol. XXXI No. 18

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2004

JAG finds success in unity

Group of black investors trying to help the community

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The first time Robert Norris led a financial management lesson during Sunday School at his church, about a dozen of his fellow congregants showed up to

learn about debt reduction and wealth building.

"I think by the second Sunday, we had

like 30 people who came, and by the third Sunday, we just went out of the sky with people," Norris said.

That was in the summer of 2003. Interest in those Sunday School lessons has grown into the Joint Association for Growth, or JAG, which is made up of about 20 African-Americans who have invested their time and money into an innovative economic development venture. Although members envision a day when JAG is multifaceted, for now the organization focuses on purchasing old homes, refurbishing them and renting them for what JAG members say are reasonable rates.

"You should not have to have Oprah's salary to have a decent place to live," said Jackie Williams, who co-chairs JAG with Norris.

Barely a year old, JAG has hit milestones as of late. Its first house, off of Old Hollow Road, will soon have tenants. The house cost about \$32,000 just to renovate. The new tenants, a married couple, will pay \$600 a month in rent.

Norris is proud of the fact that all of the money in JAG's kitty, more than \$130,000 and

See JAG on A9



Norris

'Ms. Zura' counts 100 years of blessings

Despite age, local woman still does for herself

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Zura Miles McFarlin says she doesn't know the secret to long life. There is no homemade elixir that she concocts and no good-luck charms that she wears around her neck or keeps underneath her pillow.

One hundred years of life have taught McFarlin to live each day to the fullest and to thank God for each breath, because, as she says, the next breath is not promised to anyone.

"When I look back over all these years, I see just how good God has been to me," McFarlin said Monday with a big smile.

The love of a big, supportive family has been one of the blessings that the Almighty has

bestowed on McFarlin. Yesterday her family and dozens of her friends celebrated McFarlin's 100th birthday at a party at St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, where McFarlin still attends.

"Seeing her gives me hope. If I live a good, clean life, then I can reach her age one day," said William Fulton, McFarlin's nephew.

Her family is a hardworking clan that has done well in the world of business. Members of her family learned their traits of hard work and dedication from their matriarch. McFarlin was born in Kernersville on Dec. 29, 1904. Teddy Roosevelt had just defeated Alton Brooks Parker to win a second term in



Photo by Kevin Walker

See McFarlin on A9

Zura Miles McFarlin is surrounded by some of the pillows she made.

KWANZAA IS IN THE AIR

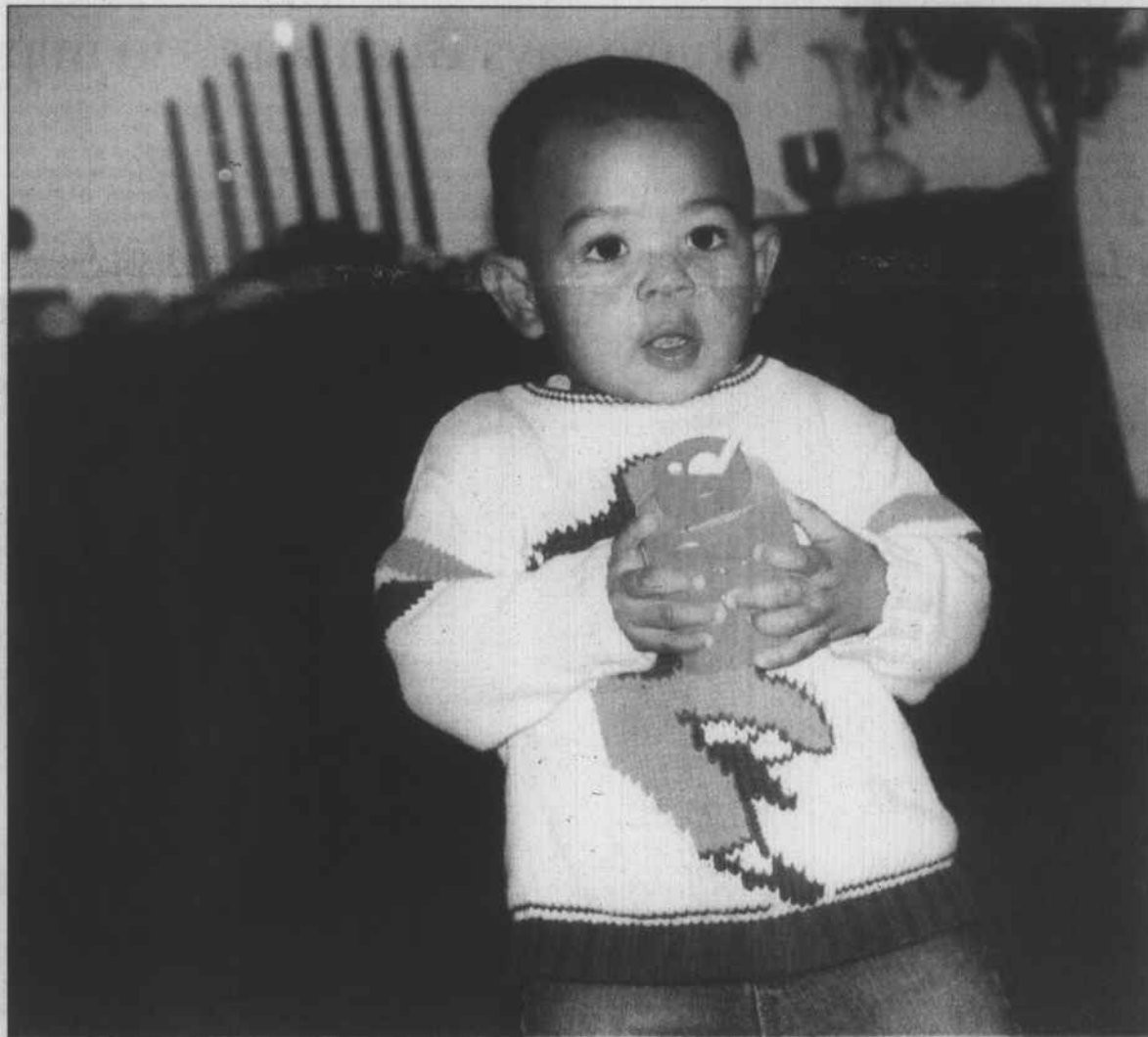


Photo by Kevin Walker

Little Kamal Muhammad was among the dozens of people who enjoyed festivities Sunday for the first night of Kwanzaa. Here Kamal moves to the beat of African drums as the kinara burns behind him. First-night activities were held at the Winston-Salem Urban League and featured a variety of arts and cultural performances. To read more about the event, see page C1.

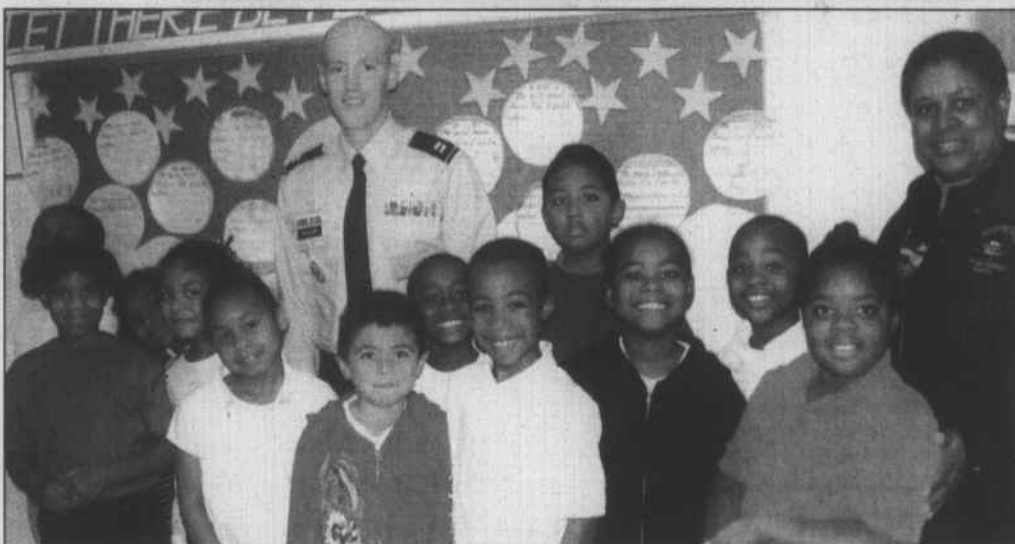


Photo by Courtney Gaillard

Capt. Christopher Pulliam poses with Pat Bitting's third-grade class at North Hills Elementary School.

School welcomes home local soldier

Capt. Christopher Pulliam has served one tour of duty in Iraq

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

North Hills Elementary School was one of Capt. Christopher Pulliam's first stops upon returning home to Winston-Salem last Wednesday after an eight-month tour of duty in Iraq. Students in Pat Bitting's third-grade class made a poster for him several months ago to let him know

how grateful they are to him for his service to their country. He dropped by class to meet the students and thank them in person for their support.

"It's so much fun to put the faces with the names. I'm fortunate because I have a family, Ms. Bitting's class and friends who care about me.

See Soldier on A10



In Grateful Memory of Our Founders,
Florrie S. Russell and
Carl H. Russell, Sr.

"Growing and Still Dedicated to Serve You Better"

Russell Funeral Home

Wishes to Thank Everyone For Their Support

822 Carl Russell Ave.
(at Martin Luther King Dr.)
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
(336) 722-3459
Fax (336) 631-8268
russhome@bellsouth.net

The Only Choice for African-American and Community News