



Lash tournament is now in full-swing

-See Page B1

Food bank celebrates

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Children unwrap the gift of books

-See Page A8



THE CHRONICLE

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SHATTERED (AMERICAN) DREAM

Black family victims of racial vandalism in posh Clemmons community

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

It sounded like a gunshot. The shattering glass roused the Rev. Tejado Hanchell and his wife, Victoria, from a dead sleep.

"I was awakened by a loud sounding noise and the sound of breaking glass," said Rev. Hanchell, who pastors Mount Calvary Holy Church in Winston-Salem. "I originally thought that someone shot a bullet through my window."

In the next room, Victoria Hanchell's mother, Cheryl Binford, stood wide eyed in front of her armoire, hearing the words the men had yelled echoing in her head.

"She heard two or three men scurrying about in front of our house and one of them yelled out, 'F___ you, niggers,' as he threw the bottle into the windows," explained her son-in-law.

"It really scared me when it happened," Binford confessed. Victoria Hanchell rushed to check on the couple's 18-month-old daughter, Zaria, and found the toddler cowering in her crib. "Normally, when she wakes up, she stands up in the crib," she explained. "This time, she didn't stand up; she was in her crib ducking ... She knew something wasn't right."

It was 3:30 a.m. on the morning of Dec. 18, barely three weeks after the family had relocated from a townhouse in



See Hanchells on A6



Victoria Hanchell looks through the window that was damaged by vandals.

Photo by Layla Farmer

Johnson to face lesser charge

Forsyth County prosecutor decides there is not evidence for a murder case

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

A Forsyth County assistant district attorney has decided that 21-year-old James Johnson of Wilson will not face first-degree murder charges in connection with the 2004 slaying of a 17 year old. He will face a lesser charge, though.



Johnson

Belinda Foster, a prosecutor in the office of Forsyth County District Attorney Tom Keith, has been appointed by the N.C. Administrative Office of the Courts to review Johnson's case to determine if there was significant evidence to charge him with the murder of Brittany Willis.

The Chronicle contacted Keith last week for more information on his office's involvement. The DA left a message at the paper the evening of Dec. 19, after The Chronicle's deadline for its Dec. 20 edition, to say that murder charges had been dropped.

Prosecutors in Wilson were criticized for their handling of the case and agreed to let a special prosecutor take over. The case had also caused racial ripples in Wilson, a town about 50 miles outside of Raleigh. Kenneth Meeks, who admitted to killing and raping Willis, who was white, is African-American, as is Johnson. Meeks had initially said that Johnson helped him kill Willis, but he later admitted that he acted alone. Johnson was arrested and remained in jail even after Meeks said he lied

See Johnson on A4

Angelou Center on a mission to save lives

Photo by Todd Luck

Center Director Ronny Bell, right, with Jaimie Hunter and Sarah Langdon, left.



BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

For the last five years, the Maya Research Angelou Center on Minority Health has been fighting health disparities through research and education.

The Angelou Center, part of Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, has 10 employees and dozens of affiliates in different departments throughout the hospital. The center primarily focuses on areas such as research, community outreach and the development of minority faculty members and students at Wake Forest School of Medicine.

Ronny Bell, the director of the center, says the center is not only trying to end health disparities between minorities and whites but also working to uncover why the disparities exist in the first place.

"First of all, we want to help identify why those disparities exist and also to try to do things that will help address and eliminate those disparities," said Bell, who took over the agency after the center's original director, Dr. Kristy Freeman Woods, left in

See Center on A4

A MERRY MELODY

Photo by Jason Pitt

The sounds of the season rang out recently inside the walls of historic Lloyd Presbyterian Church. Three groups - the Grace Presbyterian Church Youth Choir, the Central Carolina Children's Chorus and the Downtown School Children's Chorus performed during a fundraiser for the church, which is trying to raise \$200,000 for renovations. Read more about the effort on B5.



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