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Members of the Otesha Creative Arts Ensemble perform during the Kwanzaa festivities at the Urban League on Dec. 26.



Patricia Sadler was the honoree during the Kwanzaa celebration held on Dec. 26. Photos by Alphonso Abbott Jr.

First day of annual citywide Kwanzaa celebration focuses on unity

BY NIKKI BALDWIN FOR THE CHRONICLE

Celebrations ignited all over the world for the first day of Kwanzaa. Among those celebrations was Winston Salem's annual citywide Kwanzaa celebration held on Wednesday, Dec. 26, at 6 p.m. at the Urban League, 201 West Fifth St., that celebrated Umoja (unity), the first of the seven principles. The ceremony united young and old in honoring the African heritage with music, family, inspirational messages, dance and art.

The ceremony began with a musical tribute, libation and invocation from Dr. Felicia Piggott-Long, a ritual honoring the ancestors, followed by recognizing the oldest female (90) and male (82). The speaker for the night's event was Elder Tembila Covington, Ministers' Conference president.

Covington expressed the importance of unity in joining together to honor heritage. Through her speech, she discussed the meaning of the ants and elephant in the Burkina Faso country. "The ants can be interpreted for when the village assembles and people come together for a purpose, then success can be achieved. The elephant is obstruction toward progress, justice and suppression of African-Americans' right to vote." Covington ended her speech by calling for everyone to inspire to be like the ants, for when everyone collectively gathers, then abundance can be reaped and the power to remove elephants can be achieved.

The oldest male, Clarence H. Seniors, who was in the Civil Rights movement, expressed his joy in being the oldest male this year, since he lost the title last year. Seniors explained the significance of Kwanzaa to the African heritage. "Kwanzaa means a lot in renewing our heritage; it reminds us and the world of the rich history, a history concentrated in movement. This is an African-American holiday that holds great value; it provides knowledge in learning about us and our future." Seniors have close roots with the Urban League, having known

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Left to right: Shabaka James, grant recipient; Julie Knabb, AFAS board member; Ramon Dickerson, grant recipient; Tim Adams, AFAS board member; Terri Beam, AFAS board member; and Owens Daniels, grant recipient.

Arts for Arts Sake awards grants to local artists

BY JUDIE HOLCOMB-PACK FOR THE CHRONICLE

Three local artists have been awarded \$1,000 grants to further their career development, thanks to Arts For Arts Sake (AFAS). Shabaka James, Ramon Dickerson and Owens Daniels were honored with Wild Dog Initiative grants at the annual AFAS Christmas party held on Dec. 15.

AFAS began the Wild Dog Initiative in 2014 with board approval to give up to five grants annually in amounts up to \$1,000. Julie Knabb, art director and chair of the arts education committees at AFAS, said, "We have always had mentoring

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Commissioners hold off on rezoning along Ebert Rd.

The petition filed by Tyler and Todd Leinbach will go back to the planning board

BY TEVIN STINSON THE CHRONICLE

After listening to several residents from the community speak out in opposition to a rezoning petition for a piece of land in the northwest portion of the county, the Board of Commissioners elected to hold off on a vote until a later date during their last meeting of the year.

The land in question is located on the southeast side of Ebert Road and North Evans Road. The rezoning petition submitted by Tyler and Todd Leinbach calls for the land to be changed from RS9 or residential to GB-L or storage services, retail. Instead of building a permanent structure for storage use, if rezoning is approved the Leinbachs plan to use mobile shipping containers. Tyler Leinbach said the advantages of using the mobile shipping containers is that if Ebert Road is ever widened for any reason they can move the containers farther from the road. During the public hearing, Leinbach also addressed concerns from residents

about the impact a storage facility will have on the area and possible light and noise pollution caused by the facility, along with other concerns.

"As Ebert Road continues to develop, we can be flexible and accommodate that," he continued. "...There will be no run-off or environmental hazards because this is just simply storage. We're not processing chemicals or inventory. There's shipping containers and storage, simple as that."

Leinbach said the lighting on the facility will be low hanging and have motion sensors. He said they also plan to create a natural buffer of trees to keep lighting from invading on others' privacy. He also mentioned that the containers would not be stacked on top of each other, creating an "eye-sore" for neighbors.

"There will be no light or ongoing noise or even odor pollution. It's not a hog farm, it's not a car dealership and it's not a rock concert," he said.

When discussing the nature of the business, Leinbach said the 320-square foot shipping containers will be for commercial use only. He said they only plan to put 25-30 containers on the land. Because they are targeting businesses to use the storage units, Leinbach said there will be

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