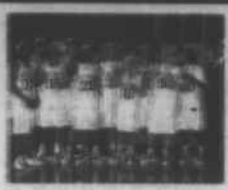


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- See Page B1



Project Welcome to end soon
- See Page A3



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CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2006

DSS to keep better watch over foster kids

Program designed to meet critical needs of young people

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

There are about 385 children in the legal custody of Forsyth County Social Services. These children are usually taken into custody in cases of abuse and neglect. As they age out of the system, the lack of a family to help them can make things difficult.

The transition into adulthood can be very difficult financially and emotionally, especially for teenagers who have already experienced trauma and don't have a family to fall back on. The Forsyth County Social Services LINKS program is designed to give them the help they need during that critical time to become self-sufficient teenagers and adults.



Raymond

LINKS is designed to create a network of services that will give young people aged 14 to 21 long-term connections to family, friends, education, skills training, financial assistance, and other services that can help them.

So far the program has been handled by various people with other duties. However, later this month, LINKS will have a full-time coordinator, Carmelita Coleman, who has been working with the program for about a year now.

According to Joe Raymond, director of social services, the new coordinator will help bring more focus and consistency to the program. There will be a focus on planning ahead and building the resources that the young people need. There will also be a greater effort to get the young people involved in selecting the services they, as individuals, need.

"We've got to be more proactive and less reactive," said Raymond.

One of the things the program does is provide money for college that supplements scholarships and grants. This way the teens can come out of college without debt. Though 21 is the normal cutoff age

See Foster kids on A12

WORK (OF ART) IN PROGRESS



David Joel Listokin paints last week outside near the corner of Trade and Sixth streets. He's one of the artists in Atelier Studio at 619 Trade Street, which is right next door. He also teaches at R.Homer Andrews Elementary in Alamance County. He enjoys painting outside as he draws inspiration from the natural light and the people passing by.

Photo by Todd Luck

Racial unity theme of upcoming exhibit

BY SANDRA ISLEY
THE CHRONICLE

It's time to talk. That's the reaction that local artists and gallery personnel are hoping to evoke with their latest exhibition, Blurring Racial Barriers. The exhibit is a collaborative effort of four different art galleries to celebrate the racial and cultural diversities of Winston-Salem.

According to Dianne Caesar, curator at Delta Art Center, the primary reason for the exhibit is to bring the artist community together by displaying their works in galleries normally not used by a particular artist. In doing so, they hope to evoke conversation, not just between the artists, but the community, as well, allowing everyone the opportunity to come together, regardless of their ethnic backgrounds.

"We (Winston-Salem residents) have a high level of generosity. We will help each other, but as far as forming



Mitzi Shewake's "Fatima's Hand."

Photo courtesy of Diggs Gallery

close friendships and ties, we're not good at doing that," Caesar said. Beginning with the Diggs Gallery at Winston-Salem State University on Jan. 14, artwork of more than 200 artists will be on display throughout the majority of

the year. The exhibit will journey from there to Salem (College) Fine Arts Center Gallery in March, to the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Arts in May, with its final destination ending at the Delta Arts Center in September. There will be a change in artists and the artwork being showcased at every venue, but the theme of racial harmony will remain.

"There are Asians and Hispanic artists represented, as well as Caucasians and African-Americans. There's certainly men and women, and older artists and younger artists. So it's really a pretty diverse group," said Vicki Kopf, curator for SECCA.

Blurring Racial Barriers arts initiative is the end result of an idea envisioned by artist Trena McNabb, who approached the galleries almost two years ago about taking on the project. McNabb formulated the idea following a book discussion about healing racial

See Exhibit on A5



File Photo
Earnestine Rainey Huff's work hangs in the home of the rich, famous and accomplished. She died recently of cancer, leaving behind many fans, friends and family members.

REMEMBERED

Community turns to say goodbye to talented artist

BY SANDRA ISLEY
THE CHRONICLE

"We've got to stay busy living the life that God gave us. That's certainly what she did," said Carol McDowell about Earnestine Rainey Huff.

A great artist, a pillar of the community, a caring friend and nurturing mother - these are the words of family and friends as they gathered to celebrate the home-going of Huff on Monday at Emmanuel Baptist Church.

McDowell, publicity chair for the Winston-Salem Black Chamber of Commerce, continued: "A total and complete encourager, she would point out gifts in me and tell me to use them. She was very supportive." Huff was a member of the Black Chamber.

Born April 28, 1952, Huff lived a life engulfed in the arts. Although most of her talents were cap-

tured on canvas, her artistic background included ballet, piano and clarinet performances.

Along with her husband, artist James Huff, she established the Huff Art Studio, located on Patterson Avenue, in 1972. Over the years, she was commissioned to do both public and private artwork. Those known to have commissioned work from her include Tina Turner and the late Johnnie Cochran. On public display, her work can be found at Guilford College in Greensboro and at Special Occasions in Winston-Salem.

"She did not only paint portraits or pictures on a canvas. She was too deep for that. She painted a life, a cause, a purpose... a victory," said the Rev. John Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel, in his eulogy about Huff.

During her lifetime, Huff received many acco-

See Huff on A9



Mendez

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