



**Atkins
honors
sports
legends**

- See Page B1



**Famous
daughter
talks to
graduates**

- See Page A3



**Unity
event
draws
thousands**

- See Page B14

Celebrating
32
Years
of Community Journalism

75 cents

22 110807 1 *****5-DIGIT 27101
NORTH CAROLINA ROOM
FORSYTH CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
660 W 5TH ST
WINSTON SALEM, NC 27101-2755

Vol. XXXIII No. 39

THURSDAY, June 7, 2007

... AND THE SHOW GOES ON

2007 NBTF will raise curtain
in wake of Hamlin's death

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Ironically, just hours after the grand plans for the 2007 National Black Theatre Festival were announced, the festival's founder and biggest star, exited this world.

Larry Leon Hamlin died early Wednesday, according to the N.C. Black Repertory Company, which Hamlin also founded. He had been ill since last summer, and his wife, Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin, and others, have been filling in as organizers of the 2007 festival.

During Tuesday's news conference, at the Sawtooth Center, to announce 2007 festival highlights, those involved in putting together the event were already focused on keeping Hamlin's legacy alive through the festival.

"Larry always said that we have to reach beyond excellence," Brian McLaughlin, the festival's media liaison, told the assortment of press members, NBTF supporters, sponsors and participants.

Hamlin's family had not disclosed the nature of his illness. Hamlin's mother, Annie Hamlin-Johnson, read a statement on the family's behalf on Tuesday.

"Our family wishes to take this time to thank each and every one of you for the prayers, words of encouragement and support you have shown since Larry became ill," she said. "He asks that I tell you that he is most appreciative of all of the love and support you have given us. He is recovering and we anxiously await his return to the helm of the North Carolina Black Repertory Company and the festival. Until such time, please keep us lifted in prayer and keep supporting the magnificent vision of my



Actor Tommy Ford chats with a fan at the Sawtooth Center.

See NBTF on A12

Forum tackles hunger problem

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Every day, 16,000 children worldwide die of hunger-related causes - amounting to one child every five seconds - and 854 million people go hungry, according to Bread of the World organization's website.



Clayton

It was statistics like these that led former Congresswoman Eva Clayton, a longtime supporter of anti-hunger initiatives in the United States, to establish a series of hunger forums in North Carolina, her home state.

"The severity of it worldwide is much more than it is here. Nevertheless, there are 850 million people who are hungry - more of them are children and women," Clayton said. "I thought of it in terms of America being a developed country - we should never tolerate our neighbors being hungry, and we could do something about it. This is very important - this is life and death - I couldn't (not) be involved."

Free and open to the public, Clayton brought her second forum to Winston-Salem's United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church Monday morning. The church's pastor said that it is the duty of the faith-based community to take a stand against the problems that affect their congregants.

"I think the church's role is to help its own community see that it has enough, we do really have enough, but it's a matter of getting the information and the resources out to the people who need them," the Rev. Prince Rivers commented. "Everyone can do something and everyone should do something."

Second Harvest Food

See Forum on A11



Cheryl Oliver and Brian McLaughlin announce Hal Williams as one of the 2007 NBTF celebrity co-chairs. He will share duties with Vanessa Bell Calloway.

'Bridge' connects residents with computer know-how

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Computer knowledge is vital in this increasingly high-tech world and yet many people still don't know how to hold a mouse. A new program offering free computer classes at recreation centers and libraries across Forsyth County is looking to bring everyone into the digital age.



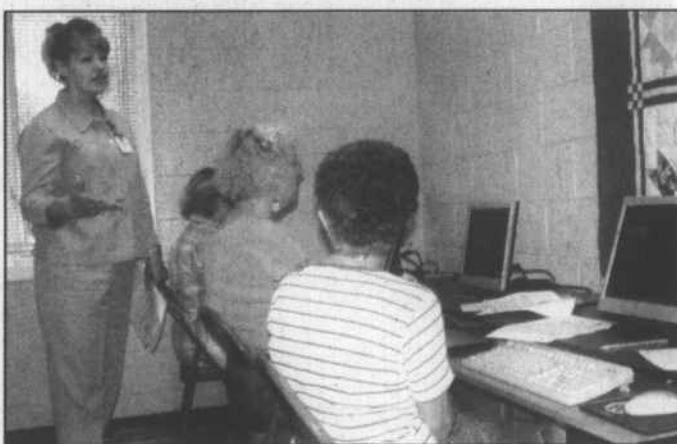
Oglesby

The Computer Training Bridge, which started offering classes in February, is a collaboration of the Forsyth County Public Library and WinstonNet, a local non-profit trying to bridge the digital

divide with computer labs all over the city. The program has already offered 94 classes with more than 400 registered students. The classes range from the very basics of how to use a computer, to the training of very specific programs such as PowerPoint.

Classes have even focused on how to perform specific tasks on a computer, such as how to sell on eBay.

Jane Jester teaches a small "Computer ABCs" class at the South Fork Community Center. Her four-week class covers computer basics, Microsoft Word, e-mail and the Internet. The class has a waiting list, with mostly sen-



Photos by Todd Luck

Jane Jester instructs a group at the South Fork Community Center last week.

ior citizens taking advantage of the instruction.

"I'm always surprised how many people are interested,"

Jester said. "They're always surprised when I tell them it's free."

Jenny Wall - one of

Jester's students - said that she took the class because she's going to buy a computer soon

See Classes on A9

Woman in need of transplant seeks help

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

You may or may not know Karyn Hillian, but she's asking for your help.

Hillian - an Atlanta native who calls Winston-Salem home - needs a liver transplant due to a disease called Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis. The procedure itself costs about \$382,000 and her Medicare and Medicaid coverage only cover part of that. On top of that, there's medications she must take, in home care after the surgery and transportation to and lodging in Chapel Hill,



Karyn Hillian is fighting Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis.

where the procedure will take place. All of it adds up to a pretty penny which is why the Karyn Hillian Liver Transplant Fund was formed. The nonprofit is run by a committee of Hillian's family and friends from several different states.

Hillian has not yet secured a new liver. She was put on the waiting list of the United Network for Organ Sharing in January. The call telling her that an organ is available could come at any moment. But on the other hand, due to the shortage of organ donors, she may be waiting awhile, even though the doctors tell her

the sooner, the better.

"They're looking at the transplant (from) now to the next five years," she said. "What they would like is for patients not to be ill so they can undergo the surgery that it requires. So they like to transplant you before you really get sick."

Currently, most symptoms of Hillian's liver disease are controlled by medicine.

Fatigue, though, is a problem. The disease is progressive and, without the transplant, may cause liver failure. Though nothing is for certain, she said her chances are good after the

See Hillian on A12

GRAND CANVAS



Photo by Jackson Pitt

World-renowned artist Kenji Hirata paints a large scale mural in SECCA's Main Gallery this week as a part of SITEings, a year-long evolving exhibition that also includes artists Mark Dean Vaca, Gary Panter, Laura Lashley, Ricky Needham and Elana Herzog. SECCA will host a free Community Day on June 23 in conjunction with the new exhibit.



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

