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Celebrating 99 Years
North Carolina Room
Forsyth County Public Library
660 W. 5th Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Community Journal

THE CHRONICLE

Vol. XXXIV No. 39

THURSDAY, June 12, 2008

WOMAN TO WOMAN

Greensboro mayor says that unity among females is the Christian way

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

The glass ceiling-shattering mayor of Greensboro told congregants Sunday at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church that women's empowerment would be a moot issue if there were not still so many barriers to keep females back.

"So many of the world's difficult issues impact women and girls the most," stated Mayor Yvonne Johnson, a life-long Episcopalian. "We've come a long way, but if gender bias were no longer a reality, we would not need to talk about the empowerment of women here today."

Johnson, Greensboro's first African-American leader took part in Women's Day events at the church, which began a day earlier with remarks from Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin, a member of the church and the first woman and African-American to head the Forsyth County Library System.

Johnson, who spoke during the church's regular Sunday morning service, geared her message to the women in the sanctuary, urging them to recognize their own ability to make a difference.

"First, we must empower ourselves; we must know what our gifts and talents are and then we need to put them to



Mayor Yvonne Johnson is flanked by Demetria Dove, left, and Shirley Sadler.

Photo by Layla Farmer

work," said Johnson, who spent 14 years on the Greensboro City Council before assuming her current role. "We need to be motivated by what we can

best offer the world." Johnson cited several issues that she says disproportionately affect women in general, and black women specifically.

Predatory lending, lack of healthcare and violence all made the list.

"Women and girls are being brutalized in shocking and

totally unacceptable numbers," she declared.

She offered a solution, stating that each and every woman

See Mayor Johnson on A13

Legal world focus of magazine

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

To settle or to try? Over the course of his 15-year legal career, Roderick Todd McIver had often wrestled with this very question.

As a personal injury lawyer, McIver's livelihood depends upon his ability to deliver jury verdicts in favor of his clients.

To this end, McIver found himself spending more and more time in the courtroom, even when he wasn't trying a case, watching the juries, trying to unlock the secrets of their decision making processes.

Though every jury is unique, McIver says he began to notice some parallels.

"Juries are different, but they're the same," he commented. "Juries really do want to get at the truth."

As he worked to gain knowledge to help his own clients, McIver began to realize that he possessed some potentially valuable information.

"I thought this would be great information, not just for myself, but for other attorneys," he declared.

McIver wanted to share what he was learning, but he needed a vehicle to spread the word. He enlisted the help of younger brother and employee Joel McIver.

The younger McIver, a published novelist, remembers that day five years ago well.

"He pulled me out on the porch and he said, 'I have an idea. I think it may be the idea of the century for the legal



Roderick McIver

Summer jobs for teens is just one STRIDES' component

Photos by Kevin Walker

Terryl Dozier of the Winston-Salem Youth Arts Institute chats with Carver student Chris Douglas, who will work at WSYAI this summer.

Inset Photo: Carver senior Keenan McMahan hugs his mom, Nadean.



BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Eleven Carver High School students are expected to join the workforce Monday as part of an innovative program aimed at broadening their horizons, improving their grades and bettering the chances that they'll leave Carver with a diploma.

The YWCA along with the city-county school system and Exchange/SCAN have high hopes for STRIDES, an experimental effort that is being funded by a grant from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and being tried at Carver only.

The jobs the students will take on this summer is just one component of the program. In the fall, they began working with tutors to improve their classroom performances and attending regular life



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THEY'LL SIT WHILE YOU GO

Black-owned business provides care for infants, elderly, pets ... whatever



Owners Nicole Henry and Lisa Jenkins.

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Nicole Henry's idea was simple. She wanted to provide a service that virtually everyone needs. Yet the niche she now fills was largely unoccupied prior to the foundation of Salem Sitters, LLC in 2006.

Salem Sitters is just what the name implies - a sitter service. Through it, Henry and Co-Owner Lisa Jenkins provide a breadth of services under four main categories - baby sitting, house sitting, pet sitting and elder care.

The company, which the women have operated from Henry's home since its inception, has a reserve of more than 75 sitters available for dispatch to over 200 homes, churches and businesses across the Triad.

Both mothers themselves,

Henry and Jenkins put each sitter through rigorous screenings, background checks and training to ensure that they are suitable to be entrusted with some of life's most precious gifts.

"As a mother, you kind of know what you want in a sitter," Henry said. "Lisa and I are very particular."

The vast majority of the sitters hail from the student populations of local colleges, but retirees also make up a considerable portion of the sitter pool, Jenkins says.

Henry formed the company at the urging of friends in Ohio who had started a similar effort there. She began by offering her services strictly to private homes.

Henry says she knew right away she would need help to get the small compa-

See Sitters on A11

FATHER & SON



Photo by Layla Farmer

Jonathan Milner has a laugh with his son, Erral, at a graduation ceremony at the Children's Center for the Physically Disabled. Read more about the event on page B7 of this week's issue.



In Memory of
**Charlene
Russell Brown**

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