

COMMUNITY

Your stories, your voices

JUNE 26, 2008

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Community Calendar

AKA Clothing Sale

The Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., will hold a Clothing Consignment Sale on Saturday, June 28 from 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Ivy Arms Community Center, 5 East 2nd St. Items for sale will include women, men and children's clothing, accessories, shoes and purses.

AA available to those in need

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (AA) offers information and support for alcoholics and their families through group discussion meetings offered on a daily basis at a variety of convenient times and locations. For a schedule, visit www.w-saa.org or call Alcoholics Anonymous Hotline at 336-725-6031.

Community Bowling

Piedmont Nursing Group and Goler Metropolitan AME Zion Church will sponsor the Silver & Green Community Bowling Day on July 12, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Creekside Bowling Lanes, 1450 Trade Mart Blvd. This event will be held every second Saturday of each month along with a canned and non-perishable food drive. Attendees will enjoy free games of bowling and fellow-shiping. Sponsorships and donations are welcome. For more information, call 336-497-4708.

Family Reunion

The descendants of John Wesley and Lucinda B. Pledger will be celebrating their 70th family reunion on Saturday, July 12 from 5 - 9 p.m. The reunion will be held at Brown and Douglas Neighborhood Recreation Center, 4725 Indiana Ave. All family members and friends are invited. For more information, call Willie Downs at 336-788-4355 or Charlotte B. Vincent at 336-924-5038.

LEAP program accepting applications

Kennedy Learning Center is accepting applications for 2008-2009. There are limited 6-7, 7-8, and 8-9 Leap slots available. Students must have been retained and be over the age for his or her current grade. Students must apply to LEAP and participate in a parent/student interview with KLC personnel. Students most likely to be successful are those who are proficient in reading and math with few behavior or attendance problems. KLC is at 1000 Highland Avenue. Call 336-727-2085 for more information.

Happy Hill Reunion

The William C. Sims, Sr. Recreation Center's 15th Annual Happy Hill Reunion will be held July 11 at 7 p.m. and July 12 from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. It will feature horseshoe tournaments, bingo, swimming, a youth talent show, live entertainment, a car, truck and motorcycle show (\$5 entry fee), a historic display table and vendors (vending fee \$50). Attendees should bring lawn chairs. This event is sponsored by Winston-Salem Recreation & Parks Department and the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem. For additional information, please contact Ben Piggott at 336-727-2837 or William "Rock Biting" at (336) 784-8475.

A FEAST OF FREEDOM

Juneteenth Celebration brings out thousands

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Thousands gathered Saturday to celebrate freedom with a day of food, music and fun.

The masses gathered Saturday for the annual Juneteenth Celebration in Rupert Bell Park.

Juneteenth celebrates the ending of slavery in the United States. It's celebrated around June 19, which is the date in 1865 that slaves in Texas became the last in the nation to learn of the Emancipation Proclamation, which cleared the way for the eventual abolishment of slavery.

Cheryl Harry has organized Juneteenth events in Winston-Salem for the past several years through her non profit, Triad Cultural Arts. She believes that the holiday is a good way to pay homage to those who struggled in slavery.

"It's a major milestone in American history that does not need to be forgotten," said Harry.

Tents with dozens of vendors covered the park - vendors that sold everything from watermelons, to artwork. Vendor Pat Fortune sold hand-made crafts. She's been involved with Juneteenth events since they became popular in the Triad in the 1990s. She says all African-Americans should be proud of Juneteenth, which she calls "our own holiday that celebrates freedom."

Her admiration of the holiday led her to pen the play, "Juneteenth: A New Beginning," which was performed Saturday. The play portrays the last day of slavery in Galveston, Texas. She called Juneteenth a significant event for African Americans.

"It's been our mission to educate African Americans and others about what this holiday means," said Fortune of her play.

Other booths offered not products for sale, but information and services. Attendees could register to vote at one booth, and get their blood pressure checked at another. Linda Hopson and Denise McCoy manned a booth promoting the free tutoring services offered by The Center for Accelerated Learning.

Attendees were not only educated, but entertained. The

See Juneteenth on B11

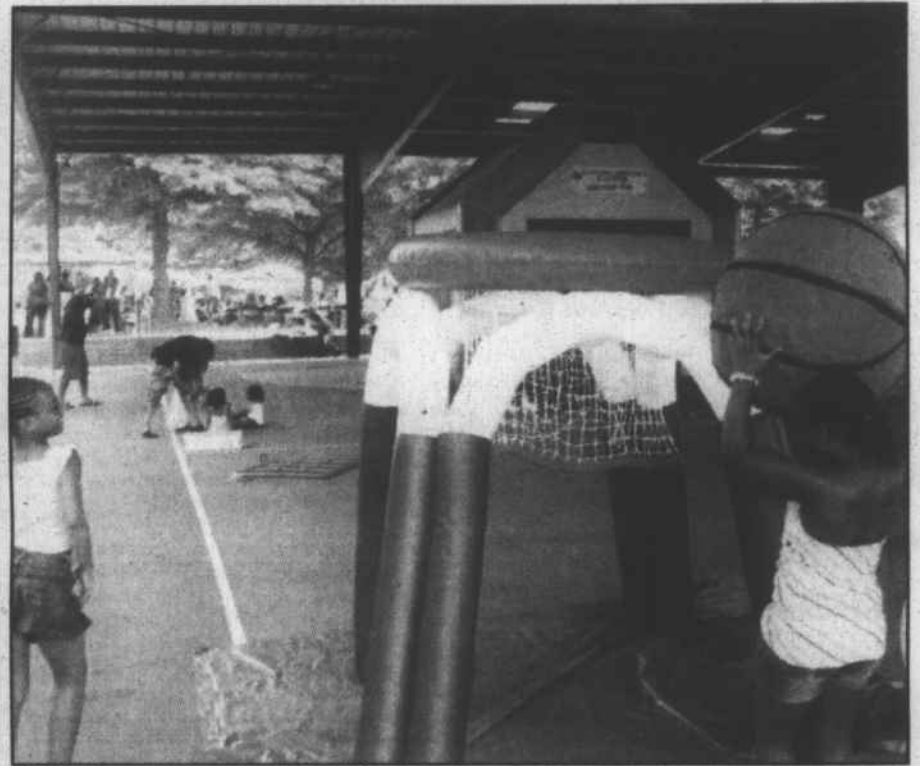


Photos by Todd Luck

Some of the actors that appeared in "Juneteenth: A New Beginning."



Sasha Morfaw performs.



Kids take part in youth activities.



Longtime Juneteenth supporter State Rep. Larry Womble chats with community icon Darryl Hunt, right.



Mary Samuels poses with her granddaughter.



Tony Dove and Evolution entertain the masses on Saturday.



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