

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest ...

Local magazine has new owners

"Winston-Salem Living" magazine has new owners.

Charlotte-based Arundel Capital Holdings, owned by Greg Girard and Kyle Gearhart, purchased the publication from Renee and Andy Honey, the couple who founded it in 2003.



McMillan

Leigh Somerville McMillan, a local author and frequent contributor to the magazine and other area publications, has been named the editor. The magazine's offices have relocated to the Chatham Building on Fourth Street.

The new owners say they look forward to re-launching the magazine with the October issue and to building on the community relationships the Honeys worked hard to establish. "Winston-Salem Living" will be distributed free of charge, in both print and digital versions; will target a general readership and focus on stories that illustrate the many facets of life in Winston-Salem. A graphic artist has been hired to work on minor changes to the design of the magazine. "We want the magazine to be a reflection of the community and all that's going on in Winston-Salem and the lives of the people who live and work here," Gearhart says. "Everyone is a participant in the culture of Winston-Salem, and we hope to reflect that in the magazine."

Popular reality show seeking homes to redo in North Carolina

The producers of ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" are looking for homes in North Carolina to feature on upcoming episodes. Host Ty Pennington and his crew will soon drive their famous bus to the Tar Heel State.

"We are looking for the deserving people and inspiring families that America can really root for," says Casting Supervisor Morgan Fahey.

What does it take to be picked for an Extreme Makeover?



"We're looking for those special people who have a amazing strength of character and never give up. Whether it's keeping their chin up in really tough circumstances or going out of

their way to help others. We want to help people whose stories have really affected their community or made a big difference in other people's lives," Fahey said.

The "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" producers are looking for families whose homes desperately need to be rebuilt.

"We really want to help families whose homes present major problems for the family, those big issues that affect the family's quality of life on a daily basis," said Fahey. "We want to find deserving people who just don't have the resources, ability, or time to fix those serious issues without our help."

To be eligible, a family must own their own single family home and be able to show producers how a makeover will make a huge difference in their lives.

Interested families should e-mail a short description of their family story to: CastingNorthCarolina@gmail.com. Nominations may be submitted by the family or by a member of their community. Each nomination must include the names and ages of every member of the household along with a description of the major challenges within the home. Anyone submitting a nomination should be sure to explain why the nominated family is deserving, heroic, and/or a great role model for their community. If possible, include a recent photo of the family. All nominations must include a contact phone number. The deadline for nominations is Aug. 7.

Arts Council says farewell to Chris Koenig

The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County is looking for a new director of grants after Chris Koenig, who formerly served in that role, accepted a position as development officer/corporate relations with the Wexner Center for the Arts at Ohio State University. The Center was conceived as a research laboratory for all the arts and has emphasized commissions for new work and artist residencies.



Koenig

"We congratulate Chris on his association with an arts institution with the vision and creativity of the Wexner Center," said Arts Council President/CEO Milton Rhodes. "He started with us as an intern only four years ago and is leaving as a key member of our staff. We wish him well and will continue to follow his career and accomplishments in the arts management world."

Koenig, who received a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from Miami of Ohio, was bid farewell at a recent Arts Council board meeting. He began working for the Arts Council in 2005 as a part-time intern while attending the graduate Performing Arts Management program at UNCSA.

SOMETHING NEW



Photo by Todd Pitt/PictureGroup

Singer Chrisette Michele performs Monday on the debut installment of the new "Rising Icon" series on BET. The network will run a series of 30-minute specials in the weeks to come featuring live performances and profiles of some of music's stars of tomorrow. Hal Linton, Keri Hilson, Kid Cudi, Melanie Fiona, Ryan Leslie, The Dream and Wale will be featured on future shows.

Area woman crowned Ms. N.C. Senior America

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Rebecca "Becky" Buckner Ross has been crowned Ms. North Carolina Senior America 2009. The former Kernersville resident will represent the state this October in the Ms. Senior America Pageant in Atlantic City, N.J.

Ross - who recently moved away from the Triad to relocate to Rockingham with her husband, Marty - also walked away with the Miss Congeniality award. The 70-year-old credits her glowing personality and stage presence to the years she's worked in the customer service industry.

Ross spent 15 years in the insurance industry, and then several more years working in the retail industry. For the past decade, she has been an independent beauty consultant for Avon, which led to her current position as district manager for Arbonne International.

An accomplished singer, Ross has been a member the Triad Chapter of Sweet Adeline's International for the last 40 years. She used her voice to stand out in the competition's talent portion. Contestants also competed in evening gown and interview competitions.

The Ms. Senior America Pageant is the world's first and foremost pageant to emphasize and give honor to women who have reached the "Age of Elegance."

Ross often shares her philosophy on life. "Serve God first; live life to the fullest; find fun in everything you do; dance and sing every chance you get; be kind to everyone you meet; and live every day as if it were your last," she believes.

Even with such a full schedule, Ross still finds time for family. She is the mother of two, a grandmother of three (with another on the way), and the great-grandmother of two. As Ms. North Carolina Senior America, she wants to set a good example for senior citizens and her family.

Becky Ross is available for appearances and performances. She can be reached at 910-206-0182 or via e-mail at beckybross@yahoo.com.

Wendy Williams dumps radio for T.V.

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

It seems that television has killed the radio star.

Wendy Williams announced last week that she will give up her job as host of a highly-rated New York City radio show to devote more time to "The Wendy Williams Show," her nationally-syndicated talk show. She made the announcement last week on the talk show, which is broadcast on BET and other stations throughout the country.

"What I wanted to share with you about me is that after twenty-three years in radio, I have elected to leave, for now," she said. "I elected to leave radio and focus on the TV show. This is truly a dream."

Williams, who is also a New York Times bestselling author, has had several top-rated radio shows in New York City over the years, most recently at WBSL 107.5 FM. She also worked at NYC's Kiss FM and Hot 97.

Infamous to many, Williams was known for spreading celebri-



FerenComm PR Photo

Wendy Williams, right, interviews singer/lactress Vanessa Williams on a recent episode of her television show.

ty gossip and for an heated on-air exchange she had with singer Whitney Houston in 2003, during which Houston threatened Williams with bodily harm for gossiping about Houston on her show.

Williams has admitted to bat-

ting drug problems in the past, but says those days are long over. She credits her husband and child (her "Kevins": Little Kevin and Big Kevin) with helping her to stay clean and focused. She hopes that letting go of the radio gig will allow her more time to

be a wife and mother. "I am a woman of a certain age. I need time to get into my groove here (on television)," she said. "I was working 12-hour days and having no time for them and for myself."



File Photo

Larry Leon Hamlin performs a scene from "Papa C. W. Brown and the Black Moravians" in 2005.

One-man play starring Hamlin will be screened next week at Old Salem

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The late Larry Leon Hamlin will star in one of this year's National Black Theatre Festival productions via videotape.

Old Salem Museums & Gardens will host a screening of "Papa C. W. Brown and the Black Moravians," a one-man show that Hamlin wrote and starred in. The origins of the play stretch back to 1996, when Hamlin first staged readings of it while it was still a work in progress.

The play explores that rich heritage of blacks in historic local communities like Salem and Bethania. Enslaved black Moravians worked side-by-side with white Moravians to build these communities.

The screening will be on

Wednesday, Aug. 5, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Philips Moravian Church, 911 S. Church St., in Old Salem. St. Philips is the oldest black church in the state.

The free screening will be followed by a historical perspective on Black Moravians presented by Old Salem staff members Michael O. Hartley, an archaeologist, and Martha B. Hartley, a researcher.

Hamlin founded the National Black Theatre Festival 20 years and the N.C. Black Repertory Company 30 years ago. He passed away in 2007.

For more information, call the Old Salem Visitor Center at 336-721-7350 or visit www.oldsalem.org.

Hosts announced for ALMA Awards

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - "Desperate Housewives" star Eva Longoria Parker and comedian and actor George Lopez will host September's ALMA Awards celebrating Latino achievement in entertainment.

For the first time, the ALMA Awards will air during National Hispanic Heritage Month. The ceremony honoring those who work in film, TV and radio also will feature new categories, including one for emerging young talent and a sports award.

Longoria Parker is one of the ceremony's executive producers as well as its co-host.

"The ALMA Awards is a special show because it represents the determined spirit and soul of the Latino people, and I cannot think of a better person to help celebrate and co-host with me than my good friend George Lopez," Longoria Parker said in a statement Monday.

The American Latino Media Arts Awards were created in 1995 by the National Council of La Raza, a national Latino civil rights and advocacy organization, as part of its effort to promote diverse and fair portrayals of Latinos in the media.



Lopez