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## Students compete in food contest

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# THE CHRONICLE

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## Theatre Festival season starts early

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Two multifaceted performers will headline this year's highly-anticipated National Black Theatre Festival, slated for Aug. 1-6.

Lamman Rucker, who portrays Will Brown on Tyler Perry's successful television series "Meet the Browns," will serve as co-chair of the international festival, alongside actress/writer/director T'Keyah Crystal Keymáh, who is best known for her work on "In Living Color," "The Cosby Show" and "That's So Raven."

The co-chairs were announced Monday, during the first Pre-Festival Press Conference of the 2011 season. The initial press conference was held earlier in the year this time around, to allow for expanded promotional and sponsorship opportunities, explained Gerry Patton, executive director of the North Carolina Black Repertory Company (NCBRC), which stages the biennial event. The six-day extravaganza costs more than \$1 million to stage, so the support of sponsors in the community is crucial, she added. She believes the notoriety of the co-chairs will also aid in the effort.

"The co-chairs we have are so highly visible. Their visibility will certainly increase awareness for us," Patton said. "It just helps us to build a bigger audience and I think it's going to bring some younger people in here as well."

Both Rucker and Keymáh are longtime supporters of the NBTF. Keymáh, who recently directed the world pre-



Celebrity Co-Chair Lamman Rucker greets the audience.

miere production of the "Route 66: Finding Nat King Cole" stage play, said she first became aware of the Festival in 1999, when the late Founder Larry Leon Hamlin, honored her with an award.

"I was introduced to this thing that I

call 'the best kept secret there is' and it was utterly overwhelming. There is no other gathering of African American artists like this," she declared. "I remember thinking, 'A long time from now, people will talk about a man who

See NBTF on A10



T'Keyah Crystal Keymáh speaks to the crowd.



Horace V. Rogers performs.



Dr. Sir Walter Mack Jr.

## Awards ceremony will feature Dr. Mack

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

One of the Triad's most prominent religious leaders will deliver the keynote address at The Chronicle's 26th Annual Community Service Awards.

Dr. Sir Walter Mack Jr., pastor of Union Baptist Church, will give remarks during the Saturday, March 19 ceremony in the Grand Pavilion of the Embassy Suites Hotel. A noted author, respected leader and an undeniable innovator, Mack has been called one of the nation's most gifted young pas-



Rev. Hines



Lindsay

tors by national icons like the Rev. Al Sharpton. His church is one of the most vast in the city and his voice is among the most regarded.

More than a dozen local men and women will be feted during the ceremony for going above and beyond the call of community duty. Top honors - Man and Woman of the Year - will go to Winston-Salem State University Chancellor Donald Reaves and Michelle Cook, who wears the hats of vice chancellor for University Advancement and executive director of the Foundation at WSSU.

See Awards on A5

## Puppy Love

Students give back by bringing comfort to pets

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Cory Roseboro is only 10 years-old, but the Forest Park fifth grader has already realized the importance of leadership, and he intends to do his part.

"If it was no leaders, people would have just been doing anything," said Cory, a member of his school's Student Council. "We have to lead people to do the right thing so that they won't get into trouble."

This semester, Cory, an aspiring computer technician, and a group of his peers are getting the chance to hone their leadership skills, through HandsOn Northwest NC's Youth Leadership Council. Just over a dozen Forest Park students are currently taking part in the YLC, which began in January and is open to Student Council members and classroom representatives in grades 3-5. Cory says taking part in the Council,



Michelle Bennett assists Young Leadership Council members in making the blankets.

which meets every Tuesday for one hour after school, has taught him "to never give up, encourage others and do your best at everything you do."

The Youth Leadership Council, which was launched in January, is an outgrowth of a partnership that has existed between the school and the

HandsOn agency, which works to empower communities through initiatives that strengthen volunteer efforts and nonprofits' capacities since last summer.

This semester, the Council will complete two service learning projects using a five-point model that calls for research, planning, action, reflection and celebration phases. The youngsters spent their time Tuesday working on the "action" phase of their first effort, by creating blankets and puppy toys for the Forsyth Humane Society. In the weeks leading up to the action phase, the students were divided into committees that handled different tasks for the project, including communicating with the press and other community members to spread word about the project from their own custom YLC email address, surveying their peers about animal issues such as the importance of spaying

See Students on A5

## Wiley bridging the past and present



Principal Sean Gaillard has led Wiley for the past two years.

The Chronicle will periodically spotlight local residents who record stories about their lives as part of the ECHO Network's StoryLine project. This is the second such feature story.

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

For more than two decades, Jay Wise walked the halls of Wiley Middle School, longer than any other principal to date. Last week, Wise and many other legends from Wiley's storied past returned to its campus to help create an oral history for generations to come.

Wise was among many who shared their memories about the school abroad the StoryLine bus. Created by the ECH

See Wiley on A5

## DAN IS THE MAN



Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County Executive Director Sylvia Oberle presents Dan Pearson, 71, with the Clive Rainey Award for Lifetime Achievement - a national Habitat honor awarded to only four people this year. Since retiring from RJR, Pearson has been a loyal Habitat volunteer - spending 20-25 hours a week at building sites for the last 16 years.

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