



Young golfer ready to make splash

-See Page B10



New chief pays visit to East Winston

-See Page A2



THE CHRONICLE

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Photo by Layla Garms
Tony Burton III stands outside the new Mudpies.

Weight-loss impetus for new lease on life

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

If you were acquainted with Dr. Tony Burton III a decade ago, you might not recognize him today.

That's because Burton, the CEO of Northwest Child Development Centers, has reduced his body weight by two thirds. The former athlete, who tipped the scales at a whopping 650 pounds in 2004, now weighs in at under 240, a weight the six foot two father of three hasn't seen since his middle school days.

"I'd always been big," said the University of Tennessee at Martin alumnus. "I was a football player. In high school, I played at about 350 pounds."

Burton remained active throughout his college career, playing football all four years as an undergrad, but after graduation, his physical activity waned, and his weight began to creep up.

"I was always a big eater," related the Richmond, Va. native. "I just didn't have the activity to take care of it."

Despite his considerable stature, Burton said he was always mobile, confident and light on his feet, refusing to allow his weight to interfere with his life. Around 2002, Burton says his health began to suffer.

"I started developing high blood pressure, started having difficulty with my legs and back," the 46 year-old recalled. "...I decided I needed to make a change in my life."

Burton began to diet and exercise, but says the fluctuations in his weight only served to frustrate him. He consulted several physicians about pursuing more permanent weight loss solutions, but was advised against undergoing surgery because it was too risky for a man of his size, Burton said, noting that his chances of survival were around 50 percent.

After two years of prayer and deliberation, Burton decided the reward was well worth the risk. In April 2004, he underwent duodenal switch surgery, where a portion of the intestines and stomach are removed. It was the most drastic - and the most invasive - gastric bypass surgery offered at the time, and Burton says the challenges surfaced right away.

"Going into the surgery, I knew that there was a

See Burton on A8



Submitted Photo
The old Tony Burton.

SHOWTIME!

Stars come to town for National Black Theatre Festival



Staff Photo
(From left, front row, squatting) Antonio Fargas and Toneya Stewart with playwright Micki Grant (center) and (from left, backrow) Andre DeShields, director Charles Randolph-Wright, Taurean Blacque, S. Epatha Merkerson, Tonya Pinkins, Rain Pryor, Dawnn Lewis, Sandra McClain and Winston-Salem's own Fay Hauser-Price.

Award celebrates legacy of NBTF founder

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

National Black Theatre Festival Executive Producer Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin was feted for her leadership of the National Black Theatre Festival on Sunday, the eve of the start of the 2013 NBTF.

Sprinkle-Hamlin has been hands on at both the NBTF and its parent organization, North Carolina Black Repertory Company, since the death of her husband, Larry Leon Hamlin, in 2007.

The Black Theatre Network (BTN) honored her with the inaugural Larry Leon Hamlin Legacy Award during its Luncheon and Legacy Celebration at the Brookstown Inn. The Network,



Hamlin

See Hamlin on A4



Photo by Layla Garms
Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin accepts the Larry Leon Hamlin Legacy Award from BTN President Michael Dinwiddie.

SHE WILL ALWAYS LOVE HER

Honoree remembers her onscreen daughter

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Whitney Houston was just her on-screen daughter, but Starletta DuPois reacted to her death the way a real mom would.

"I screamed," the veteran actress said Monday. "I was so shocked ... I am still grieving."

DuPois played the mother of Houston's character, Savannah Jackson, in the 1995 film version of "Waiting to Exhale." The duo's telephone exchanges are among the movie's most memorable scenes.

DuPois was slated to join Houston, Angela Bassett, Loretta Devine and Lela Rochon in a sequel to the film in February 2012 when Houston died at age 48.



Staff Photo
Show-biz vet Starletta DuPois.



Houston

See DuPois on A5

Carolina's Vineyards and Hops offers one-of-kind experience

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Those looking to taste wine and draft beers from breweries and vineyards around the state have to travel no further than Carolina's Vineyards and Hops (CV&H) on South Marshall Street.

CV&H is a tasting lounge with a unique concept: it carries only products produced here in North Carolina. Its menu offers new selections every two weeks, constantly offering customers a different experience, and its selec-

See CV&H on A2



Photos by Todd Luck
Owner Christopher Megginson (left) and Mike Robinson (far left) tout CV & H's uniqueness.



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