

INSIDE!

THE CHRONICLE National Black Theatre Festival

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THE CHRONICLE

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Black theater to take center stage in W-S

60,000 people are expected

BY DONNA ROGERS THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem is about to have an explosion, of the good kind. Next week, the city can expect 60,000 people — including 50 celebri-

ties of film, television and stage — to come for the National Black Theatre Festival (NBTF).

Over 100 performances by 30 of the best black theatre companies from the United States and places worldwide will be part of the festival, says the N.C. Black Repertory Company, which produces the festival every two years. The com-

pany is based in Winston-Salem.

The festival runs Monday through Saturday, with a private reception for celebrities on Sunday and a star-studded gala on Monday night. The festival will offer all kinds of plays, from ones that center on well-known people to ones based on history and new

See Expected on A2

Vanessa Bell Calloway ready to go

BY NIKKI BALDWIN FOR THE CHRONICLE

The National Black Theatre Festival (NBTF) begins Monday, Aug. 3. It will feature over 100 per-

formances. "Letters from Zora: In Her Own Words," is one of the plays. It stars stage, screen, television actress and dancer Vanessa Bell Calloway.

She will be performing at NBTF on Aug. 4 and Aug. 5 at the SECCA-McChesney Scott Dunn Auditorium in two shows on both days at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

In an interview last week, Calloway said that when channeling Zora Neale Hurston, it was like singing a beautiful song or doing a dance, for she just loves being Hurston. She said the play, which has received great feedback, is a story she tries to tell the best way she can.

The play "Letters from

See Calloway on A2

NATURAL HAIR ISSUE



Ayana Hardin, back left, owner of Ayana's Glory Locs, catches up with client Angel Lee as Hardin provides her expertise in "sister-locking" Lee's natural hair, interlocking her hair between itself to tighten and form the desired locks.

Editor's note: This is the first part of a two-part series.

FELECIA PIGGOTT-LONG, PH. D. FOR THE CHRONICLE

Hair politics in the workplace has been around as long as black women have been there.

Some black women have lost their jobs for wearing their hair in natural styles.

For instance, Shreveport, Louisiana television station KTBS fired meteorologist Rhonda Lee after she responded to racially charged remarks about her short natural hairstyle.

The topic has even popped up in panel discussions, such as the one sponsored by Georgia State University, which formed a panel discussion titled "Black Women, Their Hair & The Work Place — A Dialogue."

However, the new millennium has set the stage for a paradigm shift in hair politics and hair fashion in the workplace.

Today, it is not surprising to see women sporting kinky

twists, locks, Nubian Knots, braids, afro puffs and even afros. The twist now is that many of the black women wearing the natural styles are women in charge. "Naturally kinky hair was viewed as dirty, unkempt and unattractive into the mid-20th century," Tiya Miles,

See Hair on A9

\$40 million initiative to boost young kids

BY DONNA ROGERS THE CHRONICLE

With those who will gain the help that the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust will give — young children — playing in the background, the Trust launched its decade-long, \$30 million to \$40 million Great Expectations initiative on Tuesday, July 28 at the Carver School Road Public Library branch.

The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust was established in 1947 and is now one of the largest private trusts in North Carolina. Its mission is to improve the quality of life and health for the financially needy of North Carolina.

"For the last several years, we have been working closely with individuals and organizations to design a strategy that ensures every child in Forsyth County has the opportunity to succeed from a young age," said Karen McNeil-Miller, president of the Trust. "Now it is time to roll up our sleeves and get to work to help build an effective early childhood system that helps meet the challenges created when families live in poverty."

Trust officials say they want to ensure that the thousands of children in Forsyth County, many from financially disadvantaged families, are meeting age-appropriate developmental milestones in their first five years, such as entering kindergarten ready for education and leaving kindergarten ready for learning and life success.

McNeil-Miller said, "It takes a community, all kinds

See Kids on A2



Children from Winston-Salem State University's Head Start program enjoy Dylan Rowe as he entertains them by making animals from balloons on Tuesday, July 28, at the Carver School Road Library branch. The Great Expectations initiative was launched at the library minutes earlier.

Photo by Donna Rogers

Lawmakers, BOE director testify on new election practices

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

Lawmakers and the N.C. State Board of Elections director were among those testifying on potential disenfranchisement under North Carolina's controversial voting law in federal court.

The plaintiffs challenging House Bill 589, an election reform bill, rested their case last Friday after calling 40 witnesses to the stand, most of whom were voters affected by the law or experts



Michaux

with a verdict to come after the judge has reviewed the evidence.

on election law.

The plaintiffs, which include the N.C. NAACP, League of Women Voters and the U.S. Attorney General, contend that the law suppresses young and minority voters. The state made its case starting Friday and was expected to rest later this week, after *The Chronicle's* press time.

Two Democratic lawmakers, N.C. Sen. Josh Stein, a member of the Senate Rules committee, and N.C. Rep. Henry "Mickey" Michaux, a member of the House Elections committee, testified on the legislative process for the bill. Stein said it was originally a 16-page voter ID bill that passed the House and sat for months in the House Rules committee. Then the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the pre-clearance requirement of the Voting Rights Act. It was less than a month later that Stein

See Voting on A8

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