



Boxing matches come to K'ville

- See Page B1



Fourth St. film series finding its niche

- See Page A5



Happy Hill holds annual reunion

- See Page A3



Students get look around the world

- See Page C1

THE CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2003

'Jackie Wilson' creator returns to the NBTF with new musical

"Doo Wop Shoo Bop" will resurrect the music of several artists from era

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Jackie Taylor said she doesn't like to be bogged down with all the emotions that high expectations can bring. So she doesn't have expectations. The veteran theater writer, director and producer said she just puts out the best work that she possibly can and then lets audiences decide its fate.

But expectations are through the roof for "Doo Wop Shoo Bop," the musical that Taylor's Chicago-based Black Ensemble Theatre will bring to the National Black Theatre Festival next month. The last time a Taylor production was staged at the festival - 2001's "The Jackie Wilson Story...My Heart is Crying, Crying" - it set festival records, selling out the Stevens Center for a straight week. When the Jackie Wilson musical returned to Winston-Salem the following year, it was a sellout once again. The enthusiastic thumbs-up from NBTF crowds inspired Taylor to take the Wilson



An actress from the hit musical "Doo Wop Shoo Bop" performs as soulful LaVern Baker in a scene from the production.

play on the road. The tour was a hit at every stop, including the famed Apollo Theatre in Harlem.

"Doo Wop Shoo Bop" uses the same formula that made the Wilson show a blockbuster. There is a cast of

talented actor/singers who can fool even the most keen music lovers with their dead-on versions of songs. There is a resurrecting of a musical era and the stars that made that era great. And thrown in amid all of it are

the stories of their highs and lows and joys and pains.

"Doo Wop Shoo Bop" is right on the same plane as "Jackie Wilson," Taylor said last week by phone from Chicago. "The (NBTF) audience is the most sophisticated theater audience in the country, and I expect the audience will be just as thrilled by this production."

"Doo Wop Shoo Bop" has already been tried and tested again and again. The Black Ensemble Theatre first staged the musical in 1995. It has been brought back to life several times since then. Written by Taylor and Jimmy Tillman, "Doo Wop Shoo Bop" features a cast of nine that will seem like a cast of dozens. The actors go through several wardrobe and octave changes to become more than 15 doo wop-era musical talents. Legends such as The Shirelles, The Platters, The Moonglows, The Chantels, The Skyliners, Dinah Washington and, yes, Jackie Wilson, will be brought to life in such a way that Taylor predicts that audience members will swear that the actors are lip-synching. But they are not.

The actors had to study video and audio tapes of the performers in order

See Musical on A9

Three local schools are first to feel NCLB's fury

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Parents of students who attend three local schools should have gotten a letter this week informing them that they have the right to transfer their child to another school for the upcoming school year.

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School system has a school-choice plan that gives parents the leeway to send their children to any one of a variety of schools, but the notification letters were sent out as result of the new, sweeping No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation.

For the first time last year, state schools began to take into consideration federal NCLB guidelines. Atkins and Hill middle schools and Forest Park Elementary School fell short of those guidelines out of the gate. And since the schools receive Title I money (federal funds given to schools with high numbers of low-income students), NCLB stipulates parents must be given the option of transferring the children, presumably to a school that is doing a better job of meeting NCLB standards.

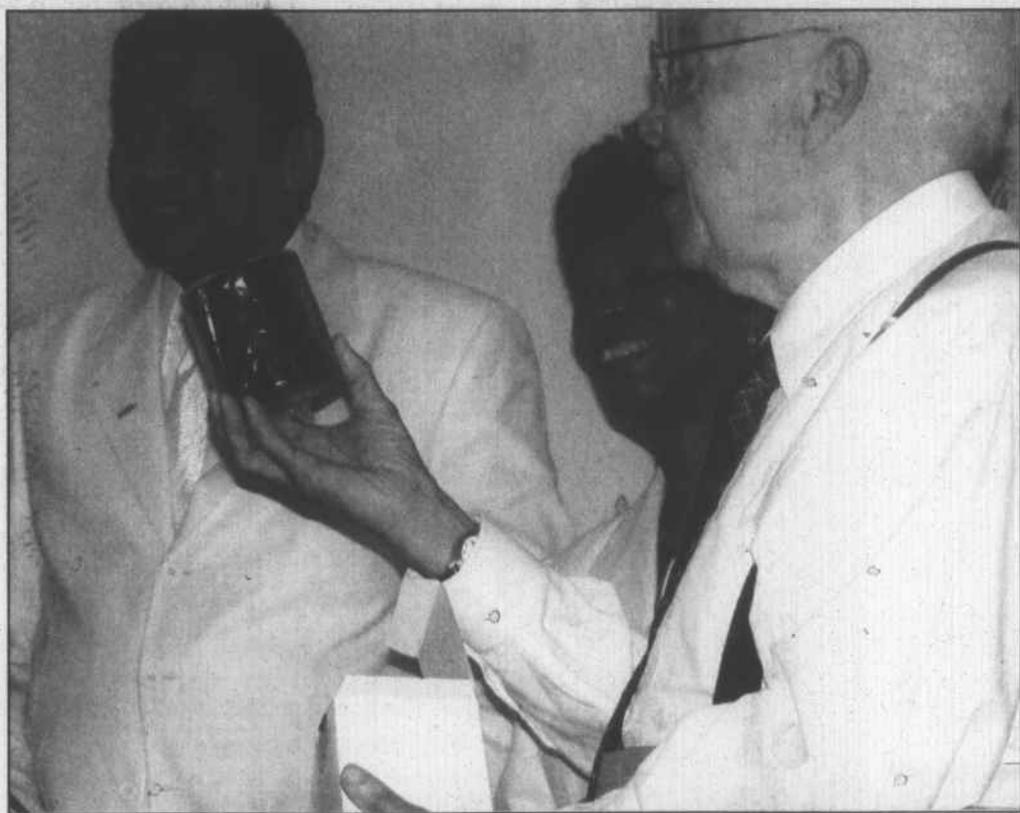
NCLB has been applauded and criticized since it was signed into law by President Bush in 2002. As its name implies, the legislation is pushing to have every student test at his or her grade level by 2014. Schools that fail along the way will face penalties, which

See NCLB on A10



Martin

A Humble Community Servant



Retired surgeon is feted by friends and former patients at 90th birthday celebration

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

People in this town have long memories.

Dr. H. Rembert Malloy found that out Saturday afternoon as a bunch of his former classmates, patients and longtime admirers and friends crowded the Ivy Arms Clubhouse for his 90th birthday celebration.

Not a year of Malloy's life has been wasted, friends said. Nearly all of the 70 or so people on hand for the party had personal stories about Malloy, a Hamlet native who moved to Winston-Salem when he was about 10 years old.

"His mother lived down the street (from) our house, and we used to sit on the porch and wait for the good-looking doctor to walk by," Velma Friende recalled as Malloy blushed. "It was so unusual for us to see such a young black doctor."

Malloy was a well-respected surgeon in this town for nearly 40 years, working mostly at the city's black hospital. He was among the first black surgeons on staff at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, where he retired in 1981 as clinical assistant professor of surgery.

Malloy's healing hands have changed and touched lives, and his bedside manner earned him a slew of dedicated patients and countless longtime friendships.

Irene Hairston has known Malloy for most of his life. She was one grade behind him in school, and her late husband, Walter M. Hairston, a one-time treasurer of Winston Mutual, was a good friend of Malloy.

"There were many times I would call him about someone who needed care, and I would say, 'Rembert, they don't have any money.' He would always say, 'Send them on anyway,'" Hairston said.

Bernice Davenport also has ties to Malloy that stretch back half a century. Malloy's late wife, Elaine, the woman everyone

See Malloy on A10

Women rule at the city's AME churches

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Lula Mae Williams remembers a time when she didn't believe that women should preach the word of God. This daughter of and wife of a Baptist minister certainly never foresaw that some 50 years later she would be appointed pastor of Union Bethel AME Church in Winston-Salem. Nearly two months ago, Williams became the first woman to pastor 107-year-old Union Bethel - "the church that sits on the hill."

"In my early years, I didn't believe in women preachers. When I was called to the ministry, it was in this church, and I ran from (the Spirit) for 10 years because I didn't believe a woman was supposed to preach," Williams said.

Originally from South Carolina, Williams and her husband, Hubert, moved to Winston-Salem in 1953 and joined Union Bethel, where they became active members of the church. Her husband is the pastor of Bethel Pleasant Garden AME Church in Greensboro.

Once sickness fell upon Williams in 1971, she said it became very clear to her that she could run no more from the Spirit, which was calling her to evangelize.

"I was in the hospital for 31 days and they



Williams



Peterson

See AME on A10

Photos by Kevin Walker

Top: Rembert Malloy admires a mug featuring the state seal and the seal of Winston-Salem. The mug was a gift from state Reps. Larry Wamble and Earline Parmon, who smile after presenting the gift to Malloy.

Right: Longtime friends of Rembert Malloy such as Irene Hairston, far left, look on as D.W. Andrews performs a special birthday song for the retired surgeon who turned 90 on Saturday.

