

COMMUNITY

Your stories, your voices

MAY 3, 2007

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Community Calendar

Crossing 52 youth poetry slam

Crossing 52 Initiative is holding a Poetry Slam Contest "Wake up, Winston!" on May 5 from 2 - 4 p.m. at the Sawtooth Center, 226 N. Marshall St. Students from grades 5 to 12 will present original poems on topics of racial harmony or disharmony, culture or ethnic clashes, or civil and human rights. Prizes will range from \$25 to \$100. Refreshments will be served and the public is welcome to attend.

There is still room for late entrants. Pre-registration is required. If interested, please call 659-2464 or mdickinson@triad.rr.com for details.

Streetball legends unleashed tour

Your favorite Streetball Players are coming to the Triad. Posterboy, Sik With it, Big Swoal, Fifty, Go Get It, Helicopter, and the Air Up There will be performing their skills as seen on the AND! Mixtape Tour at Carver High School on May 6, 6 p.m. An open run will be held at 2 p.m. at Carver for those persons interested in competing against the Streetballers. This event is free and opened to the general public.

For ticket information call 336-575-9520.

Yadkin Shootout

All USSA and AAU members, Division 2 & 3 teams are invited to participate in the Yadkin Shootout Tournament, May 19-20, Yadkinville, N.C. There is a three game minimum guarantee and awards to 1st and 2nd team. Entry fee is \$175 per team, deadline May 17. Method of payment is cashiers check or money order. Make checks payable to Brent Winslow. Please be prepared to provide birth certificates and report cards. Contact for 12U is Brent Winslow at 336-244-8759. Contact for 11U is Coach "BB" Patrick at 336-416-0907.

RibFest returning

AKA Entertainment & Media's third annual Twin City RibFest will return to downtown Winston-Salem June 14-16.

Last year's event attracted 30,000 people. "I'm pleased to once again bring this event to Winston-Salem..." says Allen McDavid of AKA, "and I'm excited about our music lineup, and a greatly expanded Kids Zone."

The 2007 Twin City RibFest will once again be located in the parking lot of First Presbyterian Church between Cherry and Marshall Streets in downtown Winston-Salem. There will be seven nationally known "ribbers" at the event. The festival will also include two performance stages with regional and national music acts; including Confederate Railroad, The Asylum Street Spankers, The Craig Woolard Band, Afromotive and many others.

DRIVEN

Transportation union presents honors

BY DR. FELECIA P. MCMILLAN
THE CHRONICLE

"You have to love people to do what we do."

Kay Williams said those words Sunday, referring to the special qualities needed to be a bus driver. Williams was one of the special honorees at the first-ever awards dinner for Local 248, a union for local transportation workers. The event was held at the NAACP Enrichment Center.

She was the first female president of Local 248, and served as president of the Transportation Workers Union of America for 12 years. She was also a member of the team of operators who collaborated on the first contract for operators when Safe Bus Company became the Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA).

"We stayed up all night long trying to come up with a contract that would be fair," said Williams.

The Safe Bus Company, founded in 1926, is historic. For decades, it served the city and was the world's only black-owned transportation company.

Another honoree, J. B. Dunlap, 82, was an operator for 35 years. One of the oldest living drivers, Dunlap retired in 1991 and then returned to the job and worked 13 more years as a part-time driver.

"I raised my family with this job, but I really enjoyed it," said Dunlap.

Williams and Dunlap were among several operators who were honored on Sunday by the union, which was founded in 1946. Union Local 248 President Marvin Artis, a bus operator for 22 years, organized the dinner to honor retired operators. Artis brought along one of the few surviving seats from the old Safe Bus vehicles. Several of the honorees wanted to sit in the seat for the sake of history. Artis was pleased with the first gathering.

"This is the first time that the Local 248 has invited retired, faithful members who helped to pioneer this organization," said Artis. "Our inspiration has been Mr. Clark Campbell, who worked as an operator for 60 years. He start-

See Awards on B13



Photos by Felicia McMillan

Kay Williams served as president of the union for 12 years.



One of the seats from the old Safe Buses.



Veteran operators Jacob Johnson, Patsy Rogers and Robbin Britt.



Guests enjoy a wide variety of tasty items.



Patsy Rogers, center, with Jimmy Gardner and the Rev. Robert Coleman.



Willie Meadows with J.B. Dunlap and Jacob Johnson.

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