

COMMUNITY

Your stories, your voices

PAGE 8

JULY 3, 2008



Community Calendar

Trip to Crumpler

The Funtime Club will travel to Crumpler, N.C. Aug. 16. There, the group will tour the Cheese Factory and store and visit the Farmer's Market and enjoy traditional country food. The bus will leave Northside Shopping Center at 7:30 a.m. and return by 6 p.m. Call 336-767-0105 for more information.

NARFE picnic

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) will hold its annual Independence Day picnic on July 11 at Miller Park, Shelter #1, starting at 11:30 a.m. The meeting is open to current and retired Federal employees. For more information call 336-721-1783.

July AARP meeting

The local AARP chapter will host the program, "The Creativity Within Us," featuring Sofiya Griggs on Tuesday, July 8 from 9 - 10:30 a.m. at Winston-Salem State University's Anderson Conference Center. The meeting will be followed by an ice cream social.

All AARP Chapter Meetings are open to the public, particularly persons age 50 and older. For more information, contact Nancy Hall at 336-765-2215 or at nancapyp@msn.com.

AA available to those in need

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (AA) offers information and support for alcoholics and their families through group discussion meetings offered on a daily basis at a variety of convenient times and locations. For a schedule, visit www.w-saa.org or call Alcoholics Anonymous Hotline at 336-725-6031.

LEAP program accepting applications

Kennedy Learning Center is accepting applications for 2008-2009. There are limited 6-7, 7-8, and 8-9 Leap slots available. Students must have been retained and be over the age for his or her current grade. Students must apply to LEAP and participate in a parent/student interview with KLC personnel. Students most likely to be successful are those who are proficient in reading and math with few behavior or attendance problems. KLC is at 1000 Highland Avenue. Call 336-727-2085 for more information.

Church Anniversary

Red Bank Baptist Church will be celebrating its 118th Church Anniversary on Sunday, July 27 during the 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. services. The Rev. Ronald Fisher, pastor of Dreamland Park Baptist Church, will be the 3 p.m. speaker.

The chairpersons for the program are Deacon William and Sister Rematha Harris. The pastor is the Rev. James R. Clyburn Sr. Everyone is invited to attend.

The church is located at 6405 Red Bank Rd. in Germanton.



Photos by Layla Farmer

The Code 3 for a Cure has logged thousands of mile.



Local Battalion chief Franklin Stowe, right, chats with the Lorenzo Abundiz and his wife.



Jennifer Stanley, center, holds a photo of her deceased son as she is surrounded by her family.



Lorenzo Abundiz receives a hug from Hugh Stanley's aunt, Rene Collins.

EXTINGUISHING THE FLAME OF CANCER

Cure Caravan comes through Winston-Salem

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

As a retired fireman, Lorenzo Abundiz knows a thing or two about staring danger and death in the face.

So when he was diagnosed with a rare and highly aggressive form of cancer known as leiomyosarcoma in 1998, Abundiz wasn't about to roll over and die.

Since the cancer was discovered, he has been medically retired from the Santa Ana, Calif. Fire Department. The cancer's origin, he was told, likely stemmed from his job.

"(Firefighters') rates of cancer are going a lot higher than the normal people because we're exposed to all these carcinogens," he explained. "A lot of the cancers are attributed to the tar from roofs, roof fires. I'm fighting bladder cancer now, and that was attributed to tar and I've never been a smoker."

Though it lacked the intense heat and bright flames he had become accustomed to extinguishing, Abundiz knew his new enemy was just as powerful and every bit as capable of devastation.

"I got tired from the cancer battles, and I thought to myself, 'Well, I've got to do something,'" he related. "I was laying in bed when they took my kidney out and I said, 'One day ... I'm going to take a fire engine across the country and celebrate my victory over cancer.'"

On June 13, Abundiz set out to make his dream come true. The Code 3 for a Cure crew, made up of Abundiz's wife, Peggy, son, Jeremy, and longtime friend and fellow fireman John McKnight, piled into a donated fire truck and embarked on a journey that none of them would soon forget. Winston-Salem welcomed the team to its downtown Arnold Bullard Fire Station Monday afternoon.

"He came to me six months ago and he asked me point blank if I would mind driving a fire engine to New York City and back," related McKnight. "... I was fully committed to whatever needed to be done. I knew it was going to be a little hot, a little bouncy - (fire trucks) aren't designed for interstate travel - but my whole train of thought was that that's a very small price for me to be part of this mission."

By the time the 8,800-mile excursion is complete, the crew will have visited 60 fire stations across the nation.

"We've been meeting a lot of firefighters along the way, there's a lot of camaraderie, a lot of stories of hardship and struggles over cancer," Abundiz related. "It's been an eye

See Cancer on B9



The fire engine arrives in Winston-Salem.