

# ARTS & LIFESTYLE

## Of Interest ...

### G'boro Fun Fourth Festival

The 35th Fun Fourth Festival will be held in downtown Greensboro on Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4.

On Friday, the Kickoff Block Party will begin at 7:30 p.m., featuring The Soul Brothers Band and The Embers. Admission is \$10 per person. The party will be held at the corner of Summit and Lindsay streets across from the Greensboro Historical Museum.

On Saturday, the Independence Day Parade will begin at 9:30 a.m. at Greene and Market streets in downtown Greensboro. The Fun Fourth Street Festival will open at 10 a.m. in the Cultural District and feature five stages of music, food, arts, crafts, heritage and children's activities and more.

At 6:30 p.m., gates will open at Grimsley High School for the Fun Fourth Festival Fireworks Spectacular, featuring the Philharmonia of Greensboro playing patriotic pops music. Fireworks will be launched from 9:30-10 p.m.

Admission is free for the parade, street festival and fireworks show. The fireworks rain date is Sunday, July 5.

For more information, go to [www.FunFourthFestival.org](http://www.FunFourthFestival.org).

### UNCSA faculty recognized

The University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) has recognized six faculty members with UNCSA Excellence in Teaching Awards.

The award recipients are: Wayne Crawford, School of Filmmaking; Michael Dodds, School of Music; Dayna Fox, School of Dance; Lynda Moss, High School Academic Program; David E. Smith, School of Design and Production; and Marilyn Taylor, School of Music.

The University of North Carolina (UNC) Board of Governors established a series of "Excellence in Teaching" awards in 1994. At UNCSA, six teachers are chosen each year from those current, full-time faculty members who are nominated to receive an Excellence in Teaching Award; one of them is then forwarded on to the UNC Board of Governors to receive a system-wide teaching award, which went to Taylor this year.

Nominations for the Excellence in Teaching Awards are submitted by faculty, students and alumni. The award recognizes teachers who have demonstrated: personal interest and concern for the students; enthusiasm for and interest in the subject they teach; the ability to stimulate and motivate student effort; the ability to fairly critique student effort and communicate that critique to the student; organization and/or demonstration of knowledge for student use; good command of the subject being taught; up-to-date scholarship and/or creative work and awareness of recent developments in their field; ability to integrate professional development into curriculum development and classroom teaching; and a commitment to the entire school community as well as to the greater community.

### Local project awarded grant

The North Carolina Humanities Council, a statewide nonprofit foundation and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, has awarded over \$73,000 in grants for public humanities projects.

The funding supports a range of humanities projects including North Carolina's changing landscape, African American coastal history, American Indian public school curriculum, videography, ethnography, a literary festival, scholarly research and publications, touring humanities exhibitions, and public symposiums. Program events begin in July 2009 and continue throughout 2010.

Among the agency awarded grants is Winston-Salem-based Yadkin Riverkeeper Inc. The agency will use its \$10,011 award for "A River of People," a multimedia humanities project exploring the complex dynamic between people and natural resources. The project, which will include a traveling exhibit and catalog, uses as an entry-point the farming and immigrant communities of Surry, Yadkin, and Forsyth counties.

It will show through images and interviews how the Yadkin River's natural ebb and flow has historically affected the region's economy, industry, demographics, environment and recreation patterns. Project partners include the Yadkin Arts Council and the Forsyth County Library.

### Director fined for death on set

PARIS (AP) - A Paris appeals court fined French filmmaker Luc Besson's movie company \$140,580 on Monday over the death of a cameraman who was hit by a car during a 1999 stunt shoot.

The court also handed stunt director Remy Julienne, 79, a six-month suspended prison sentence.

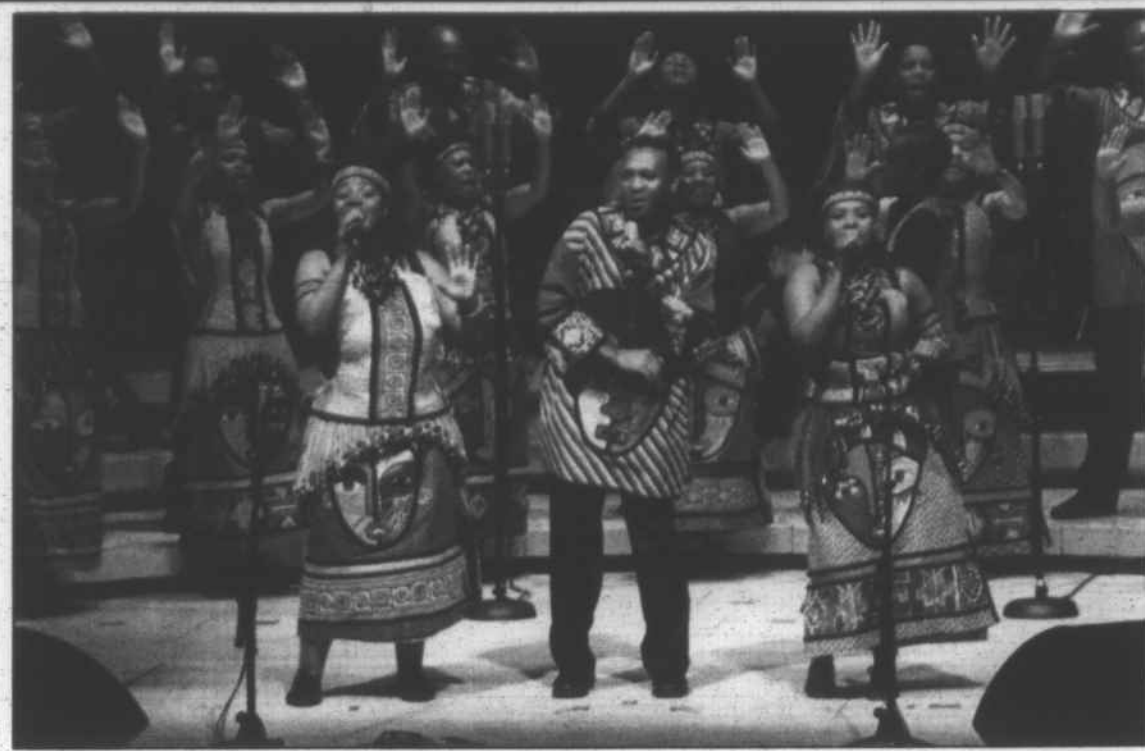
A lower court had originally acquitted Besson's company, Europacorp, of wrongdoing in the case and given Julienne an 18-month suspended sentence.

The appeals court convicted Europacorp of manslaughter and fined it. In addition, the company and Julienne were ordered to jointly pay each of the cameraman's parents and each of his two brothers.

Alain Dutartre, a 41-year-old cameraman, was hit during the August 1999 shooting of "Taxi 2," a French car chase film. Besson produced the film, and has also directed such movies as "The Fifth Element," and "La Femme Nikita."



Besson



Members of the Soweto Gospel Choir perform.

## Stellar acts set to hit stage

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The world-renowned Soweto Gospel Choir will bring a joyful noise to UNCG's Aycock Auditorium early next year. The choir was among the acts announced last week as part of the school's 2009-10 University Concert & Lecture Series.

Under the direction of David Mulovhedzi and Beverly Bryer, the Soweto Gospel Choir was formed to celebrate the unique and inspirational power of African gospel music. The Grammy-winning choir draws on the best talent from the many churches in and around Soweto, South Africa. The choir, which performs in six of South Africa's 11 official languages, is dedicated to sharing the joy of faith through music with audiences around the world. The group will perform on Jan. 24 at 8 p.m.

This will mark the 83rd year of the UNCG series. Four other acts will also perform. They are:

- Sept. 26, Patti LuPone's "The Gypsy in My Soul," a concert featuring hit Broadway tunes and some of the singer's favorite pop songs. A two-time Tony Award winner, LuPone has performed in numerous Broadway productions, including

"Gypsy," "Oliver!" and "Anything Goes." She swept the theater awards in 2008, winning the Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for Best Actress in a Musical and the Drama League Award for Distinguished Performance for her portrayal of Rose in "Gypsy."



LuPone

- Oct. 24, The Martha Graham Dance Company, the oldest and most celebrated contemporary dance company in America. The company has toured in more than 50 countries and performed in some of dance's most storied venues, including the Metropolitan Opera, Carnegie Hall, the Paris Opera House, Covent Garden and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

- March 21, 2010, "Porgy and Bess," the masterpiece that intertwines a human story of pride, prejudice and passion with a jazz and blues-infused score. The opera introduced the classic Gershwin songs "Summertime," "I Got Plenty O' Nuttin'" and "It Ain't Necessarily So" to the songbook of American standards. This production of the jazz opera is by Living Arts, Inc. which has performed the work all over the world for more than 15 years.

See UNCG on A10

## Mural replaces graffiti along Asheville highway

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

ASHEVILLE - As motorists drive down heavily traveled Lexington Avenue in Asheville, they will see something other than graffiti.

The I-240 bridge underpass is now home to the Asheville Mural Project. It strives to replace the graffiti with elaborate and colorful paintings, which reflect the unique history, context and culture of Asheville.

The project is an unprecedented collaboration between the N.C. Department of Transportation, the city of Asheville and the non-profit organization Arts 2 People. To date, 11 local artists have volunteered to work on the project.

Before the project began, commuters driving on Lexington Avenue under the I-240 bridge saw concrete "tagged," or written on, with offensive graffiti. Despite efforts by NCDOT and the local police to stop the graffiti, the "taggers" continued to deface the property.

"We hope this mural inspires graffiti artists to use their talents and energies in other ways," said NCDOT Division 13 Operations Engineer Ken Wilson. "Asheville



NCDOT Photo

### A motorist drives by the mural.

is a beautiful place, and this effort helps us celebrate that beauty."

The Asheville Mural Project was proposed in May 2005 by Project Coordinator Molly Must.

Must held a "call to artists" and selected six artists who volunteered to work on the project. They worked collectively to design and paint the mural. Five more artists are now working to complete the project.

## Miss N.C. Pageant crowns new queens

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Miss Thomasville's Outstanding Teen Katherine Puryear was crowned Miss North Carolina's Outstanding Teen on Friday night at Raleigh's Meymandi Concert Hall. She will compete in the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Pageant this August in Orlando.

Puryear is a rising sophomore and honor roll student at Trinity High School. During the talent portion of the pageant, Puryear performed an acrobatic dance to a selection from the Broadway musical "Cats." For the physical fitness competition, she wore the same yellow two-piece



Submitted Photo

Miss North Carolina's Outstanding Teen Katherine Puryear.

See Queens on A10

## He's Back!

Maxwell returns to the top of the charts

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

NEW YORK - Columbia Records artist Maxwell has made a return to the top of the charts with "Pretty Wings," the first single from his long-awaited fourth studio album, "BLACKsummers'night."

Last week, the song climbed to the top of urban adult radio stations' playlist in record-breaking time - less than eight weeks after its release. The single had a run earlier this month as the nation's #1 Greatest Gainer/Most-Added song in the Urban Mainstream format.



Maxwell

A deeply emotional soul ballad evoking loss and transcendence, "Pretty Wings" became available through digital service providers on Tuesday, April 28, while a haunting video for the song, directed by Philip Andelman, premiered that same day on BET's "106 & Park" and on musze.com. Maxwell's Web site.

"BLACKsummers'night" will be released on CD and in a Limited Edition Deluxe CD/DVD set on Tuesday, July 7. It is the first full-length Maxwell release since "Now," his critically-acclaimed third studio album, debuted at #1 on the Billboard 200 in August 2001.

"BLACKsummers'night" is the sensuous opening installment of the artist's monumental "BLACKsummers'night" trilogy, which is also expected to include the CDs "blackSUMMERS'night" in 2010 and "blacksummers'NIGHT" in 2011.

The soon-to-be released disc reunites Maxwell with long-time collaborator Hod David, who serves as co-producer and co-writer of the album.

Maxwell - who is scheduled to headline the main stage of the Essence Music Festival in New Orleans on July 4 - is taking his new music on the road with a major North American tour in support of the CD. The emerging Irish soul singer-songwriter-performer Laura Izibor will open for Maxwell through the July 4 Essence Festival concert. The chart-topping Grammy-winning American R&B artist Christette Michele will be his opening act beginning July 12 in Nashville.

## 2 CARES



Submitted Photo

Broadcasting and Cable Publisher Larry Dunn; Gannett Broadcasting President Dave Lougee; WFMY News 2 President and GM Deborah Hooper, U.S. Rep. Howard Coble and "Inside Edition" Host Deborah Norville pose for a photo after the presentation of the National Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation 2008 Service to America Award to Greensboro-based WFMY News 2 for showing the "utmost commitment to excellence in serving its community." The station - whose community service initiatives include Food 2 Families, 2 Those Who Care and Tools for School - beat out 1,621 other stations across the nation for the honor.