

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest ...

Smoky Park bridge named for heroic firefighter

The N.C. Board of Transportation this morning unanimously voted to rename the Smoky Park Bridge on I-240 over the French Broad River in Asheville for Capt. Jeff Bowen, an Asheville firefighter who lost his life fighting a fire in July 2011. The bridge will be known as the Capt. Jeffrey Bowen Bridge.



Bowen

"We have heard a strong outpouring of support for Capt. Bowen from the local community and want to be responsive to their concerns," said Board of Transportation Chairman Judge Robert Collier.

The vote was taken based on the recommendation of the Board's Road Naming Committee, which unanimously voted yesterday to rename the bridge after Bowen.

Additionally, the Road Naming Committee voted to examine existing procedures regarding the naming of state-owned roads, bridges and ferries. In the interim, the Board will not consider similar naming requests.

Essence site earns kudos

ESSENCE.com won in the Best Redesign award during MinOnline's 2012 Best of the Web Awards. The site also received an honorable mention in the Best Consumer Relaunch category.



Ebanks

Min's "Best of the Web Awards" is the industry's top honor in the digital space, recognizing outstanding Web sites and digital initiatives.

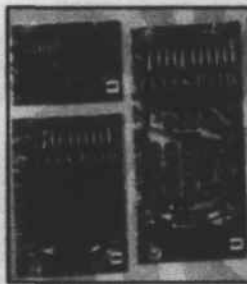
During ESSENCE.com's relaunch process in June 2011, the team re-imagined the site as a neighborhood beauty shop, where African-American women could gather to set their own agendas on the topics of romance, fashion and celebrity. The resulting new design highlights key ESSENCE franchises within a layout that makes each easy to identify at a glance.

"ESSENCE.com is extremely proud of this honor. Over the years, the brand's long-time mission has always been to serve our audience and provide them with the tools they need to live their best life," said Michelle Ebanks, President, Essence Communications Inc. "ESSENCE.com's relaunch has not only helped to provide our audience with an even more robust user experience."

Taxes Paid games make debut

The N.C. Education Lottery has rolled out three new "Taxes Paid" instant games, giving players the chance to win top prizes up to \$100,000 with the initial taxes already paid.

A \$5 ticket for the \$100,000 Taxes Paid game gives a player the chance to take home one of six after-tax prizes of \$100,000. Players can also match numbers to win one of 1,100 prizes ranging from \$500 to \$50,000. Scratching to reveal certain symbols will win more. For example, a "money bags" symbol wins double the prize shown and a "money stack" wins \$50 instantly. The game begins with more than \$20.1 million in prizes.



Players who buy a \$2 Taxes Paid ticket could win one of eight top prizes of \$30,000 with initial taxes paid. The game starts with more than \$8.2 million in total prizes, including more than 106,000 prizes between \$20 and \$100. Players who scratch and reveal a "money bag" symbol win \$20. A \$1 version of the game features a top prize of \$5,000 with the initial taxes paid.

The lottery will pay the minimum mandatory required federal and state tax withholding as part of the top prizes awarded for each of the three instant games, so the actual top prizes for each game are as follows: \$7,353 for the \$5,000 game; \$44,118 for the \$30,000 game; and \$147,059 for the \$100,000 game.

Fulbright Scholar from India speaking today at WSSU

Dr. Ananda Amritmahal, a Fulbright Scholar from India, will speak on "Myths, Folklore and Gender-role Stereotypes in India" today, Thursday, April 12, at 2 p.m. in Diggs Gallery on the Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) campus. Her lecture is free and open to the public.

An expert in women's studies, Amritmahal has published a number of articles on issues related to women and serves as a guest speaker and resource person for training programs and workshops in addition to her academic efforts.

Amritmahal specializes in women's writing and feminist literary criticism, and Indian writing in English, as well as women mystic poets, children's literature, and the place of myth and fantasy in shaping our responses to life.

Amritmahal is currently a Visiting Fulbright Scholar at Loyola University in Chicago and was also appointed the Gannon Visiting Research Scholar for the 2012 spring semester. In India, she is head of the English Department at Sophia College in Mumbai and coordinator of the Sophia Centre for Women's Studies and Development.



(Back row) Mondre Moffett and the North Carolina A&T State University Jazz Ensemble with (center) Jamia Tucker, Frank Viveros, Angela Birchett, Richard Waits and Soara-Joye Ross.

"Ain't Misbehavin'" at Triad Stage

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Greensboro's Triad Stage, 232 South Elm St., will stage "Ain't Misbehavin'" beginning on Sunday, April 15.

The acclaimed musical is being directed by Donna Baldwin-Bradby and presented in collaboration with the North Carolina A&T State University Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Mondre Moffett.

"Ain't Misbehavin'" is a tribute to the black sound, and the men and women who made it famous, of the 1920s and '30s. The musical takes its name from a Fats Waller classic and made its Broadway debut in 1978 with a cast that included Nell Carter, Irene Cara and Andre DeShields.

In addition to the Waller classic, the show features 30 beloved tunes, including "Ain't Nobody's Bizness If I Do," "Honeysuckle Rose," "Mean To Me" and "I Can't Give You Anything But Love."

The A&T Jazz Ensemble - featuring Tyvoris Finch, Eric Giles, Johnny Jackson, Kyle Leitch, Kasey Polk, Tyrissa Swilley and Patrice Ware -

will bring the music to life, while a talented cast of actor/singers will belt out the classics. The cast includes several Triad Stage veterans, including Angela Birchett, Jamia Tucker, Frank Viveros, Richard Waits and Soara-Joye Ross.

Baldwin-Bradby is an acclaimed director and choreographer who serves as an adjunct professor and director of Marketing and Publicity for the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at North Carolina A&T.

She has directed, choreographed and performed for professional, community and educational theatres locally and regionally. Most recently, she directed productions of "Mad at Miles: A Black Woman's Guide to Truth" at Triad Stage, The National Black Theatre Festival, N.C. A&T and Atlanta's Seven Stages and Spelman College.

"Ain't Misbehavin'" will be staged at various times through May 13. Ticket prices vary depending on seat location and the day of the performance.

Go to <http://www.triaddstage.org> for more information.



Symphony performing '80s hits

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Winston-Salem Symphony is going retro. "Hits of the 80s!," part of the Symphony's Plugged-in Pops Series, is the theme of the Saturday, April 21 performance, slated to take place at Reynolds Auditorium, 301 N. Hawthorne Road at 7:30 p.m.

Under the baton of Maestro Robert Moody, the Symphony will perform some of the tunes that made the '80s great, including Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean," Madonna's "Holiday," Kenny Loggins' "Footloose," Cyndi Lauper's "Time After Time," David Bowie's "Let's Dance," The Police's "Every Breath You Take" and "(I've had The) Time of My Life," the theme of the hit film "Dirty Dancing."

Broadway stars Jenn Gambatese and Matt Cavanaugh will provide vocals. Gambatese, a native of Cleveland, has toured both Europe and North America as Serena Katz in "Fame," earning a National Broadway Theater



King Pop Michael Jackson

See Symphony on A9

Billboard touts student art show

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

You may have seen the work of three talented young artists on a jumbo digital billboard along Business 40 East.

Creations by Annie Tyner, Yadira Dorantes and Kenaz McMillan began their rotations on the 14-by-48-foot billboard - which is on the Southside of the highway just past Stratford Road - late last month to promote the 2012 Spring Art Extravaganza.

Yadira Dorantes is an eighth-grader at Clemmons Middle School who studies art under teacher Katherine Howard. Kenaz McMillan, a first-grader at Bolton Elementary School, is taught by Heidi Wicker.



Kenaz McMillan's artwork

The Spring Art Extravaganza features the work of more than 1,500 art students. Artwork by elementary school students was displayed at the Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts from March 30 - April 8. Art by middle and high school students will be displayed at the City Market, 301 N. Cherry St., through April 15.

The art was selected by art teachers, and all elementary, middle and high schools in the system are represented. The works on display will include drawings, paintings, digitally-created images as well as ceramics and other three-dimensional works.

The school system has been putting on an annual show of student art for more than 35 years.

The billboard images promoting Art Extravaganza will be displayed for eight seconds once every three minutes through April 15. Fairway Outdoor Advertising is providing the billboard ads - a donation to the school system that is worth \$1,500.

Fashion, inspiration on tap for 'Unity' day

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The youth organization Victory In Life will present its 3rd annual Unity In The Community Day on Saturday, April 14 at 1 p.m. at Parkland High School, 1600 Brewer Road.

The family-friendly day will feature guest speakers like local NAACP President S. Wayne Patterson, County Commissioner Everett Witherspoon, City Council Member James Taylor, Mechanics & Farmers Bank's Wendy Williamson and Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke, who will issue a proclamation.



Braithwaite

The Victory in Life Models will present a fashion show featuring African, casual and designs created by Miles King, a 10th-grader at Carter G. Woodson.

Performers include the Winston Lake Family YMCA Jazzy Jumpers, the Exalted Praise Gospel Choir, Fulfilled, Paris Johnson, Inner Rhythm City Choir, Naeema Graham, Antonette Farmer and dancers Ariel Gary, Sharika Bey and Anasa Melton. Spoken word and poetry artists Rocia Terry, Silent War, Renee Andrews (Aza Ashe), Amani and Judy Willis will also perform. Parkland student Robert Dula will be honored during the event for academic excellence.

Unity In The Community Day was started by Victory In Life Founder Masika Braithwaite. Through the collaboration of the performing arts and the use of various educational tools, Victory in Life, a non-profit organization, engages youth while providing mentoring, developing positive self-esteem, enhancing social skills and promoting cultural awareness.

Tickets for the event are \$10. A percentage of all proceeds will go to Group Homes of Forsyth, Inc. Attendees are also encouraged to bring non-perishable food item(s) for donation to the Central Terrace Methodist Church Food Ministry.

For more information, call 336-473-2082.

Deac on the Rise



PR/NewsFoto/Wellesley College

Wake Forest University alum Melissa Harris-Perry will give the commencement address on May 25 at Massachusetts' Wellesley College. Harris-Perry is a noted author and college professor but is best known as the host of "Melissa Harris-Perry," a weekend news and opinion show on MSNBC. She earned her undergraduate degree in English from Wake Forest in 1994 before earning a Ph.D. in political science from Duke University.