



**Reagan JV squad impressive this season**

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**Candidate faces long odds in the Fifth**

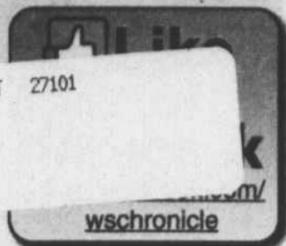
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# THE CHRONICLE

Volume 39, Number 7

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, October 11, 2012

## Fundraising event honors legacy of NBTF founder



Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin stands beside an image of her late husband, Larry Leon Hamlin.

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

Party-goers celebrated the legacy of Larry Leon Hamlin on Saturday.

The North Carolina Black Repertory Company, which Hamlin founded in 1979, held its annual Marvtastic Bash at the Benton Convention Center. While the evening of food, dancing and entertainment is a fundraiser for next year's National Black Theatre Festival (NBTF) – a biennial showcase of some of the world's best black stage productions that Hamlin created in 1989 – it is also a grand celebration of the larger-than-life theater icon who passed away in 2007. Sept. 25 would have been Hamlin's 64th birthday.



Photos by Todd Luck  
Geraldine Patton

"We remember him as a visionary who knew that in order to save black theater throughout the African diaspora, there had to be a way for the companies to come together to dialogue and to showcase the best of the best," said Elwanda Ingram, a member of the Black Rep Guild, a volunteer and fundraising board.

Wende Walker, the Black Rep's marketing coordinator, read a tribute to Hamlin penned by Perri Gaffney, a writer/actress whose "The Resurrection of Alice" was such a success at the 2011 NBTF that the Black Rep recently staged it as a fundraiser. Hamlin's son, Larenté

See Gala on A5



Photos by Layla Garms  
Vernetta Cockerham speaks at Family Services, Inc.

## Survivor's Tale

Daughter's death pushes woman to push for end to domestic violence

BY LAYLA GARMS  
THE CHRONICLE

Vernetta Cockerham is one of the countless faces of domestic violence.

A few days before Thanksgiving in 2002, her estranged husband, Richard Ellerbee, murdered her 17 year-old daughter, Candice, and battered Cockerham, a Winston-Salem native and mother of three, within inches of her life. The tragedy took place in Jonesville, a small town in Yadkin County.

Cockerham says the man she once loved brutalized her beloved first born child before lying in wait for her at her home. In a desperate attempt to get to save her daughter, Cockerham sustained knife wounds to her hands, head and neck. The scar that snakes down her neck is a stark reminder of how close she came to death.



These purple flowers represent local residents lost to domestic violence.

Her estranged husband then choked her and left her for dead. She still remembers the desperate break she made for the Jonesville Police Department, which was within sight of her home at the time.

She collapsed once she reached the Police Department. It all happened less than 24 hours after officers had vowed to protect her by arresting Ellerbee, who had violated a restraining order that prohibited him from going near Cockerham many times over a four-month period.

Despite the devastation, anger and grief she felt, Cockerham was determined that her daughter would not die in vain. In 2009, after years of court battles, Cockerham was awarded a \$430,000 settlement in the lawsuit she waged against the Jonesville Police Department. She used the money to found a domestic violence shelter in Yadkin County – a resource she said was not previously available in the area – and named it Candice's Heart.

"I made it my life purpose to help each and every individual (I could)," Cockerham declared. "Sometimes, I have to do what other people won't do, which is go into your environment and come get you. It's a liability, but that's okay."

Today, Cockerham's harrowing story is well known across

See Awareness on A8

## Housing Authority honors heroes

BY LAYLA GARMS  
THE CHRONICLE

The first-ever Winston-Salem Housing Authority Heroes celebration was held Tuesday during the monthly meeting of the agency's Board of Commissioners.

The Housing Authority showed its appreciation to employees and community partners who go above and beyond the call of duty to help the agency and its residents.

"Today, we are going to honor some very special individuals who have done extraordinary things," HAWS Human Resources and Public Relations Director Alisa Quick told the capacity audience that packed the meeting room for the lunchtime gathering.



Photo by Layla Garms

HAWS employee Louis Todd holds two year-old Janarri Wright. Also pictured are (from left): Janarri's uncle, Antwon Dobson, his mother, Cieda Dobson and his great-grandmother, Gwen Dobson.

Riverside, Calif. native Louis Todd was an honoree. Todd, who works in HAWS' maintenance unit, has earned the moniker "superman" after his actions on Sept. 6.

"I left work from Cleveland Avenue Homes, and I got on the freeway. Right there, I noticed traffic was heavy, but there was no obstruction. I looked to the

right and I saw a car in a ditch. It was overturned," said the father of three. "I thought it was my son's car

See HAWS on A10

### Yellow Jackets Swarming



Carver High School's marching band, dancers and cheerleaders perform during the school's spirited Homecoming Pep Rally last Friday. Read more on page B1.

## Pastors nudge residents to polls

BY LAYLA GARMS  
THE CHRONICLE

Local pastors are using their spiritual gifts and community influence to get out the vote.

Dr. Sir Walter Mack Jr., pastor of Union Baptist Church, hosted a two day revival last week that was designed to educate and engage local voters. The more than 1,200 attendees heard from powerful speakers like Rev. William Barber III, president of the state NAACP, and Dr. John Mendez, pastor of



Jenkins



Mack

Emmanuel Baptist Church and a well-known social justice advocate.

"We feel like this election is critical, and we thought that a revival would

be a way to awaken people to the reality of the urgency and to get people motivated and excited, as well as informed about this upcoming

See Polls on A9

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