



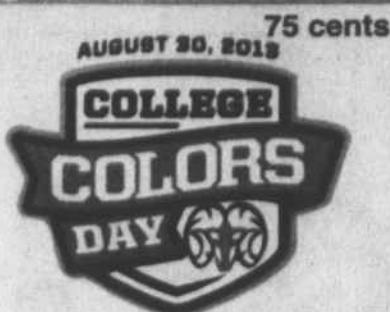
C.J. Harris to play pro ball in Germany

-See Page B10



Drag queen car wash raises PRIDE cash

-See Page B1



THE CHRONICLE

Volume 39, Number 50

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, August 8, 2013



David Villada (right) works with George Dominguez.

Photos by Layla Garmis

Fighting the Odds

Boxing/MMA programs keep teens off the streets, out of trouble



Da'Quan Blair poses during training.

BY LAYLA GARMIS
THE CHRONICLE

Nineteen year-old George Dominguez used to spend his free time on the streets, and has had more than a few brushes with local law enforcement as a result.

"I used to get in too much trouble," he confessed. "I used to always be chased by police for doing bad things."

This summer, Dominguez, a rising senior at Parkland, has found another way to spend his time. He's one of several teens who are serving as junior counselors at David Villada's Beating Up Bad Habits boxing camp. The camp, which Villada founded two years ago has two purposes: to get kids off the streets and out of harm's way and to teach them a positive outlet for the negative emotions they may feel.

"I started sponsoring a couple of kids from my neighborhood because I saw how much trouble they were getting into," Villada said. "...I got to a point

See Camp on A2

Beat goes on for musician battling cancer

BY LAYLA GARMIS
THE CHRONICLE

From the moment he first picked up a guitar, Herb Stephens was in love.

And, for almost as long, the Winston-Salem community he has called home for the bulk of his life has been in love with him. Stephens has been a fixture in the local music scene and beyond for decades, playing regular gigs on Sundays at Milner's American Southern Cuisine & Cocktails and Emmanuel Baptist Church, and performing for audiences far and wide as a member of Envision.

"He's the local hero of musicianship. He'll never tell you that, but he really is," declared Michael Thomas, Envision's founder. "...His musicianship is so keen. It's so strong. He's got this tremendous flair and style when he plays. He's just so comfortable."

Stephens began playing guitar as a youth at the behest of local blues player Ronald "Big Ron" Hunter, who first introduced a young Stephens to the craft.

"I used to ride my bicycle 14 miles to Germantown just to play a guitar, so he was the sole advocate for me ever touching a guitar," he related. "That was the only time I got to touch a guitar."

Even as a youth, Stephens says he recognized the value of being musically skilled.

"I just knew if I learned how to play, it's something you can't take away from a person," said the father of two. "I always had something that I don't have to worry about money."

The Fairmont native dabbled in auto repair and carpentry as well, but says music was his true passion.

"The love of music," he said when asked of his motivation to keep playing year after year. "With all the hectic stuff going on, you grab your instrument, you can forget everything. When I'm playing with other guys ... it's a super feeling, a real high. You don't need anything else."

Over the years, Stephens has belonged to a number of bands, playing everything from blues to jazz, top 40, R&B and punk rock. Envision has more than 300 songs in a variety of genres in its repertoire, and Stephens says he likes playing them all.

"It's all styles - that's how you work. If you're one style, either you're lucky or you don't play that often," he remarked. "I could play every weekend if I wanted to, and most times I do."

For over two decades, Stephens has juggled a busy schedule, working full time as an IT consultant by day and playing gigs in the evenings.

"They say 'You're burning the candle on both

See Stephens on A8



File Photo

Herb Stephens plays with Envision at a recent Summer on Trade concert.

Local VA: progress made in dealing with case backlog

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The many challenges facing veterans, including stalled legislation that could benefit them and a backlog of claims at the Veterans Administration, were among the subjects discussed Saturday at a forum sponsored by HARRY Veterans Community Outreach Services held at West Salem Square.

Cheryl Rawls, director of the VA Regional Office in Winston-Salem, was among the speakers. Her office, which processes claims from vets from North Carolina and numerous other states, made national headlines last year when an

See VA on A10

MR. MARVTASTIC REMEMBERED



Photo by Kevin Walker

Annie Hamlin Johnson - the mother of the late Larry Leon Hamlin - is comforted by actor/singer Horace Rogers during an emotional tribute to the National Black Theatre Festival founder held in the wee hours of Sunday morning. The tribute, held at the permanent Larry Leon Hamlin memorial at Fourth and Marshall streets, closed the 2013 NBTF and included a libation poured by Dr. Sope Oyelaran and a song by Rogers.

Single mom earns first Rotary Big House Gaines scholarship

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Sandra Quinsaas is the recipient of the first Reynolda Rotary Club Clarence "Big House" Gaines Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship to Winston-Salem State University was established by Reynolda Rotary in 2005 in memory of Gaines, a charter member of Reynolda Rotary and legendary basketball coach at Winston-Salem State University. Since then, club members have raised funds to endow the scholarship through the annual Reynolda Rotary Big House Gaines Golf Tournament.

The scholarship will be awarded each year to help former Cook

See Scholarship on A3



Reynolda Rotary Photo

(From left) Valene Franco, Clara Gaines (the coach's widow) and Sandra Quinsaas pose beside a portrait of the legendary coach.

005 009
N C ROOM
FORSYTH CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
860 W 5TH ST
WINSTON SALEM, NC 27101-2755 60
CR LOT 0077A "C007

Personal, convenient, secure, professional self-storage.

MOVE IN SPECIAL \$25 for first month

ASSURED STORAGE of Winston-Salem, LLC

(336) 924-7000
www.assuredstoragews.com
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-3pm
Gate Hours: 5am-10pm
4191 Bethania Station Road • Winston-Salem

