

Happy  
Birthday?



See Opinion/ Forum pages on A6&7

Mustangs  
Ready to go!

See Sports on B1

2015 FOOTBALL \$40  
GENERAL ADMISSION  
SEASON TICKETS



336-750-3220

# THE CHRONICLE

Volume 41, Number 47

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, August 6, 2015

NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL

## NBTF takes first steps toward Hall of Fame

Vision of Larry Leon Hamlin closer to reality

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

It was in the mid-1970s when Larry Leon Hamlin envisioned a hall of fame dedicated to the cultural contributions of black actors, playwrights, directors and others of significance.

On Tuesday, Aug. 4, Hamlin's vision took one step closer to becoming a reality when a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at 713 South Marshall St. for a preview of the National Black Theatre Hall of Fame and Museum.

An initial campaign in 2016 will provide seed money for detailed planning and design for the hall.

The National Black Theatre Festival is one of the most significant events in the

history of black theater and is produced by the North Carolina Black Repertory Company. The Hall of Fame and Museum features exhibits on the careers of Hamlin and Mabel P. Robinson, who had a long and distinguished career as a dancer, actor, choreographer, playwright and director.

A new group of honorees will be inducted into the hall of fame each year of the festival, which runs every two years. Robinson attended the ceremony and was excited to see the museum finally come to life.

"This is really amazing," said Robinson. "I know Larry would be very proud of what this festival has become."

The museum also features exhibits documenting the origins of the National Black Theatre Festival. One exhibit even features an original playbill from the first festival in 1989.

"This museum will make sure presence

See Hall of Fame on A2

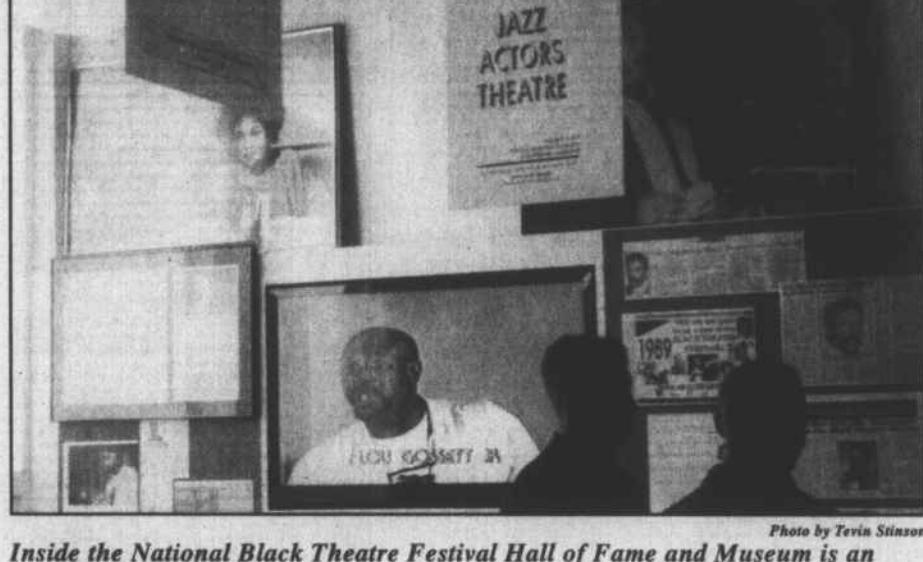


Photo by Tevin Stinson

*Inside the National Black Theatre Festival Hall of Fame and Museum is an exhibit dedicated to the late Larry Leon Hamlin, who started the National Black Theatre Festival in 1989.*



Photo by Donna Rogers

ESOSA (Emilio Sosa), left, and Idris Goodwin walk down the runway as people who came to see the stars engage them at the 2015 National Black Theatre Festival Gala on Monday, Aug. 3.

## Festival opens with revelry, awards and some 'fireworks'

Some stars urge more money be given to keep community black theater alive

BY TORI P. HAYNESWORTH  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

The National Black Theatre Festival kicked off with the Gala and Awards Ceremony on Monday, Aug. 3 at the MC Benton Convention Center on West Fifth Street.

Citizens of Winston-Salem gathered to witness the star studded event that included co-chairs Debbi Morgan and Darnell Williams, Jackee Harry, Rain Pryor, and Naturi Naughton to name a few. Some stars who came, such as Robert Hooks, Bill Cobbs and Maurice Hines, were award-winners.

The Carver High School marching band welcomed the celebrities at the entrance way to the convention center.

Mayor Allen Joines, who have been involved with

See Festival on A2

Plaintiffs optimistic about decision in N.C. voting rights trial in W-S

Legal hearing has ended, with a ruling to come later

BY TODD LUCK

After a three-week trial, N.C. NAACP vs. McCrory came to a close last Friday, July 31, as both sides gave their closing arguments.

The N.C. NAACP, The League of Women Voters, U.S. Justice Department and other groups

challenged the state's voting reform law, House Bill 589. Judge Thomas Schroeder, who had many questions for both sides during final arguments, is expected to rule on the case later in the year.

Plaintiffs argued that Republican lawmakers crafted the law knowing it would suppress the vote of young and minority voters, who are likely to vote Democratic, by scaling back or abolishing voting measures that those groups used disproportionately. The lawyers representing the state said there was no discrimination or disenfranchise-

ment, pointing to how black turnout and registration was higher in 2014, after the law went into effect.

After the trial, N.C. NAACP President Rev. Dr. William Barber II gave his own rebuttal to the state's closing arguments in front of the Federal Building, where the trial was held.

"Just because you overcome a barrier, does not mean that barrier is constitutional," said Barber, using an example of an increase in graduation

See Trial on A8



MOVE IN  
SPECIAL  
\$25  
(for first month)

ASSURED  
STORAGE  
of Winston-Salem, LLC

(336) 924-7000

[www.assuredstoragews.com](http://www.assuredstoragews.com)

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm Sat 9am-3pm

Gate Hours: 5am-10pm

4191 Bethania Station Road • Winston-Salem

68907632439