

Remembering Dr. Manderline Scales

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

The community was shaken to its core last weekend when news surfaced of the passing of Dr. Manderline Scales.

Although small in stature Scales, 91, was a giant when it came to educating children here in Forsyth County. Scales started her teaching career at the original Atkins High School before becoming one of the teachers that integrated Parkland High School. Scales is also credited

for starting the first Spanish program for local high schools and Winston-Salem State University. During her three decades at WSSU, Scales also served as Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Chair of the Scholarship Committee for the Emancipation



Submitted photo
Dr. Manderline Scales

Association.

As the news started to spread through the city last weekend, dozens took to social media to talk about Scales' legacy here in the Twin City and sent condolences to her family and friends. Equilla Allen wrote on Facebook: "Many Years Ago, I Met The Most Fascinating Person. Someone That Would Change My Life Forever!!! Dr. Manderline Scales!!! There Aren't Words To Convey The Depth Of The Sorrow In My Heart!!! I Pray That The Peace That Only God Can Provide Be w/ The Scales Family During This Most Difficult Time!!! Paradise Awaits A New Angel!!!"

At the time of publication funeral arrangements for Dr. Manderline Scales had not been announced.

Mabel Robinson feted at surprise 80th birthday party

JUDIE HOLCOMB-PACK
THE CHRONICLE

Mabel Robinson, dancer, director, choreographer, actress, and retired artistic director of the N.C.

Black Repertory Company, was caught totally off-guard at her surprise 80th birthday party Saturday evening, Jan. 19, at the Urban League. She was told she was going to the

Urban League to celebrate a friend's birthday and was greeted with applause by over 75 guests as she walked in the door. Being the actress that she is, she quickly composed herself and posed in front of the Happy Birthday banner to the delight of her guests. A DJ, music and dancing entertained the guests while Robinson hugged and thanked family and friends for celebrating her special day.

Robinson's career began in New York, where she graduated from the NYC High School of the Performing Arts and the Julliard School of Music. She has appeared on Broadway, television, and in the movies "The Wiz" and "Cotton Comes to Harlem." She is well known locally for choreographing and directing Langston Hughes "Black Nativity" musical for several years. She retired in 2015.

The Chronicle extends happy birthday wishes to Ms. Robinson.



Photo by Judie Holcomb-Pack
Mabel Robinson is assisted by her grandson as she cuts her birthday cake.

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Local student set to play at Carnegie Hall

BY TEVIN STINSON
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Next month Isaac Cooper, a senior at Reynolds High School, will have the opportunity of a lifetime when he performs with students from around the world at Carnegie Hall.

A member of the marching band, concert band and the orchestra at Reynolds, Cooper said he picked up the trumpet about five years ago and never looked back. During an interview with The Chronicle, Cooper said he initially wanted to play the saxophone but he couldn't find a teacher. But the stars aligned and he was introduced to his first trumpet instructor, Brian Roberts, and the rest is history.

"I was pretty skeptical at first because I wanted to

play saxophone but I figured I would just see how it would go. But over time, I learned to really enjoy it and I'm happy I made that choice." Cooper said.

When he first started playing, Cooper said he would practice six to seven hours a day. He said he would spend hours working on one note, trying to perfect his craft. Cooper's hard work and determination earned him All-County, All-State and even national recognition. In 2017 Cooper had the opportunity to play with students from the country during Nationals in Florida.

For the opportunity to play in the 2019 High School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall, Cooper only had to fill out an application. The fact that



Isaac Cooper

his talents had already been recognized on a national stage, he was able to skip the recommendation process.

Despite all the accolades he's received since picking up the trumpet, Cooper remains humble.

Johnathan Hamiel, who has been the band teacher at Reynolds for the past three years said, "This could not have happened to a sweeter, more humble, more talented student."

"He's the person who helps other students and

goes the extra mile, in marching band, in concert band and jazz band."

Cooper said, "I try to make it a point to not come off as pompous or being a naturalist when it comes to playing trumpet because it took a lot of practice. The

younger kids never see the years of practice I put in to get to this moment.

"...Getting into Carnegie Hall is reflective of how much effort I put into it."

Cooper, his parents and Hameil will travel to New York Feb. 7-11 with the performance at Carnegie Hall scheduled for Monday, Feb. 11.

When asked what is going to be going through his mind when he walks out to perform on one of the biggest platforms in the world, Cooper said the first thing he's going to do is try to find his parents to help comfort feelings of stage fright.

"After I find my parents, the next thing I'll do is look at my music because that ultimately just takes me to a different place," he said.

SOMEWHERE IN A DREAM I GOT LOST

WORKS BY LONNIE HOLLEY

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Lonnie Holley, *Beneath the Water*, 2017. Steel, 90x35x30