



Shown are some of the about 90 elementary, middle and high school students participating in the 18th annual Vic Johnson Junior Golf Clinic on July 9.

Golf clinic helps students learn and have fun

BY KIM UNDERWOOD
WINSTON-SALEM/FORSYTH COUNTY SCHOOLS

Cameron Adams is still working on keeping her head still when she hits a golf ball.

"The coach says, when I swing I dance because I move my head," said Cameron, who will be in the fourth grade at Middle Fork Elementary School.

Cameron likes to dance — just talking about dancing got her feet going — but, for the sake of her golf game, she is working on not moving her head when she swings.

On the morning of July 9, Cameron was one of about 90 elementary, middle and high school students at the driving range at Reynolds Park Golf Course. They were participating in the 18th annual Vic Johnson Junior Golf Clinic.

Johnson, who is a member of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education and a retired assistant principal, started the annual clinic in 1997 because he thought that golf had a lot to offer young people. This year, it has been held on Tuesdays and Thursdays since the school year ended. Most participants go to a school in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system.

Tai Springs, who will be in sixth grade at Clemmons Middle School, has been enjoying learning to play golf. "Once you get the hang of it, it's fun," Tai said.

"We hit the balls so they can go far," said Caman Chaplin, who is 9 and goes to Caleb's Creek Elementary.

The youngest participant was Cameron Clement, who will start kindergarten at Petree Elementary School this fall. His favorite part? "When the golf club makes it fly."

Young coach

One of the coaches was Malcolm Gant, a high school junior who is on the golf team at Parkland High School. Gant started participating in the clinic when he was 5 and graduated to being a coach last year.

"I want the kids to learn the game of golf," he said. For one, he thinks it's a fun game. He also thinks it's a skill that will serve them well as adults. Should anyone ever ask them whether they want to play a round, they can say, "Yes."

Jayden Kirby's mother emphasized the first part when she sent Jayden, who will be in the second grade at Cash Elementary School, to the clinic. "My mom sent me here to have a little fun," Jayden said.

Jaeden Allen's mother emphasized the making connections part. "My mom told me while playing golf you can meet a businessman, and y'all can both make money together," said Jaeden who will be a fifth-grader at Arts Based School.

This is the first year at the clinic for Noah Bowman who is heading to the sixth grade at Flat Rock Middle School. Noah has had big fun. "I get to hit the ball really far," he said.

As for what he wants to

do when he grows up, he said, "I haven't thought about that yet."

Other participants have. For many of the boys, becoming a professional football or basketball player tops the list.

Jamil Jeter, who will be a fourth-grader at Union Cross Elementary School, wants to be a point guard in the NBA (National Basketball Association).

As it happens, Derek Jeter, the now-retired famous baseball player, is a cousin of Jamil's father. Jamil would love to become so good at basketball that one day Derek Jeter will be telling people that they are related.

Carmen Fleming, who will be in the third grade at Sedge Garden Elementary, is planning to become a chef when she grows up.

She has already started acquiring the necessary skills. "I help my mom and dad cook," she said.

Imparting life lessons

Along with golf skills, the coaches work on imparting such life lessons as the importance of persistence.

Amauri Wright, who will be in the fifth grade at Moore Elementary School, said that one thing he has learned is "when you grow up, life is not going to be easy."

Something he has enjoyed about the clinic is the chance to be out and about. "I don't have to stay at home every day," Amauri said.

Kory Campbell, who will be a sixth-grader at Southeast Middle School,

has been participating in the clinic since he was 5. "I like that I get to learn more about golf every year," Kory said, "and some people I don't get to see in the summer I might get to see here."

In addition to enjoying "hitting the ball and seeing it go," Bryce Baker, who will be in the fourth grade at Caleb's Creek Elementary, likes to read.

He has read all of the books in the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series. He likes the mysteries in the stories and "how Rowley always gets annoyed."

Bryce has a 14-year-old brother so he knows what it's like to get annoyed in real life, too.

Today was the final day, so after hitting balls at the driving range for about an hour, everyone moved to a nearby shelter for a celebration and a hot dog lunch, thanks to Aramark Food Service and the Chancellor's Office at Winston-Salem State University.

Trenton Dozier, who will be a fifth-grader at Sedge Garden Elementary School, received the Samuel Puryear Sr. Award,

given to a participant who embodies such positive traits as obedience,

dependability and enthusiastic participation.

This was Trenton's fifth year participating in the clinic. "I do this for fun and I do this for practice ... It looks easy but it's kind of harder than it seems."

A sentiment with which anyone who has ever played golf would agree.

The speakers at the celebration included:

*Larry D. Little, a professor at Winston-Salem

State University

*Jim Thorpe, a retired professional golfer who went on to win more than 10 tournaments on the Senior Tour after winning three tournaments on the PGA Tour

*Tim Grant, director of the Winston-Salem Recreation & Parks Department

*Gary Lash, a district supervisor for the City of Winston-Salem

Little said that, when he was growing up, he did not have a father in his life and that Johnson served as a positive role model. "I owe so much to Victor Johnson," Little said.

Johnson told him that dressing cool was fine but "if you really want to be cool, you have to be smart."

"He taught me about reading the dictionary and studying," Little said.

In addition to focusing on your education, Little said, "you have to listen to your parents and be dependable."

Grant and Lash held up Gant as an example of what staying focused and working hard can do for you. The recreation department hired him this summer.

"I saw something positive in Malcolm," Grant said.

"We had no choice but to give Malcolm a job," Lash said.

Everyone wins

Everyone got a trophy and a T-shirt. Johnson said that Jamie Niederost was so excited about getting a T-shirt that, when he found out his family was going to be out of town today (July 9), he asked Johnson for his telephone number so he could call him up when they return and make arrangements to get his shirt.

Nobody was more excited about students receiving trophies than Shanae Reed, whose son Mitchell Torain will be in first grade at Petree Elementary.

It's his first trophy ever, Reed said, and, as soon as they got back home, it was going on the mantel above the fireplace in the living room.

Johnson's wife, Dr. Constance Johnson, who was a professor at Winston-Salem State before she retired, helps him run the clinic along with volunteers, people from Winston-Salem

Recreation & Parks Department and a dedicated group of coaches.

In addition to Gant, coaches this year included

Hawatha Bethea, Bobby Gwyn, Joel Maul, Luther Miller, Harry Transou, John Torian and Gene Williams.

"They have done so much for this community," Johnson said.

Bethua said his goal was "to make sure they have a good time and learn a few things about golf. Most of them are well-mannered, and they learn quickly."

"I enjoy working with kids," said Miller, who has known Johnson since he was a kid and who retired after 41 years as a high school math teacher.

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NCDOT TO HOLD CITIZENS PROJECT UPDATE MEETING JULY 23 FOR THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF IDOLS ROAD (S.R. 3000) FROM HAMPTON ROAD (S.R. 2999) TO U.S. 158

The N.C. Department of Transportation will hold a Citizens Project Update meeting in July regarding the proposed project to extend Idols Rd (S.R. 3000) from Hampton Road (S.R. 2999) to U.S. 158. The project proposes to extend Idols Road on new location a distance of approximately 2.0 miles. Right of way acquisition on the project began in February of 2005 and construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2016.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, July 23, 2015 at the Village of Clemmons Village Hall at 3715 Clemmons Rd, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Interested citizens may attend at any time during the meeting hours. NCDOT representatives will be available to discuss the project, answer questions and provide an updated schedule for the project. No formal presentation will be made. Citizens will also have the opportunity to submit comments and questions in writing.

The public can view maps displaying the location and design of the project online at <http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/publicmeetings>.

Anyone desiring additional information may contact Diane Hampton, Division Planning Engineer at 375 Silas Creek Parkway, Winston Salem, by phone (336)747-7800 or email dkhampton@ncdot.gov. All comments must be received no later than Thursday August 13, 2015.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in this meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Diane Wilson via e-mail at pdwilson1@ncdot.gov or by phone (919) 707-6073 as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Aquellas personas que hablan español y no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrán recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan antes de la reunión llamando al 1-800-481-6494.

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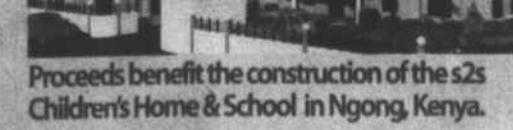
Contemporary Christian Artists

Other Artist and Performers Include:

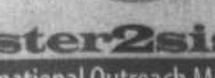
- Matelyn Alicia
- Martha Bassett and the Roots Revival Choir
- Bronal Gary
- Darryl Gordon
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- Harold Johnson and Blessed Entertainment
- Stanley Johnson
- Lawanda Lash
- New Beginner's Youth Choir
- Providence Quartet and Providence Gospel Choir
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For More Concert Information:

Contact Alfred Clemonts at 336-624-5577



Proceeds benefit the construction of the s2s Children's Home & School in Ngong, Kenya.



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