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Photos by Alphonso Abbott Jr.

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

Coco Gauff took on Ashleigh Barty, ranked No. 2 in the world, in an exhibition match at the Winston-Salem Open last week. Gauff defeated Barty 6-4, 2-6, (10-8) in a match that showed why both young ladies are the talk of the tennis world.

Triad Minority and Women's Business Expo continues to grow

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

In 2013 Reginald McCaskill, founder and owner of Maximum Enterprises Inc., set out to create a space where local small business owners could gain exposure and build relationships with their peers as well as consumers, thus the Triad Minority and Women's Business Expo was born. From humble beginnings with only 25 vendors, this year the annual event spanned over two days and featured more than 125 businesses and entrepreneurs.



Photos by Eycam Photography

Founders of the Triad Minority Business Expo, Reginald and Aimee McCaskill

The festivities began on Friday, Aug. 23, with the Empowerment & Wealth Building Summit. Held at the Anderson Center on the campus of Winston-

Salem State University, the summit included several workshops and seminars, a panel discussion on the economic forecast for M/WBE (Minority and

Women-owned Business Enterprise) in the current economy, and a speed networking session, all free of charge.

The fun continued

on Friday night when hundreds of people came together for the awards reception. During the sold-out event, entrepreneurs and business owners from Winston-Salem, Greensboro and High Point received awards for Business of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, the Pioneer Award, and Non-Profit Organization of the Year.

Winston-Salem award winners were:

*Dr. Vivian H. Burke
Business of the Year: Forsyth Seafood

*Newcomer of the Year: Ta'Nisha Monique Cupcakes

*Pioneer Award: S & L Painting and Decorating, Inc.

*Non-Profit of the Year: The Kyndall Project

During the awards ceremony, Mayor Allen Joines presented McCaskill with a proclamation. Joines, who served as chairman of the Expo in 2016, expressed pleasure with his continued participation and support

of the annual event. Joines said, "It's been an honor to be the chairman of this and to be able to continue to support it. I just want to congratulate Reginald and Aimee for their hard work to make this happen."

The main event, the Expo, was held at the Benton Convention Center on Saturday, Aug. 24.

Along with dozens of vendors, those who attended the Expo also had the opportunity to attend six different workshops that covered a variety of topics including business marketing strategies and the Community Reinvestment Act, a federal law designed to encourage depository institutions to help meet the credit needs of low and moderate-income neighborhoods.

While attending the workshop on marketing, local entrepreneur Maryann Epton, who was attending the Expo for the first time, said

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