

PEOPLE OF NOTE

Post editor earns national romance author recognition

Cheris Hodges has been named best Genesis Press romance author for 2005 by Shades of Romance magazine.

Hodges, features editor at The Post, was one of Shades of Romance's award winners from romance, fiction and self-publishing houses, short story authors and poets. She

is a Johnson C. Smith University graduate and Bennettville, S.C., native.

Walton is vice president of workforce development at Goodwill Industries, where he oversees key services in the operation of career training centers in the southeastern Piedmont.

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Walton has been named senior vice president of strategic partnerships by the Charlotte Chamber. He will help cultivate and sustain strategic relationships in Charlotte and the region.

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Darius, who attends Spangh Middle School, was nominated by Justin Liberatore for excelling in academic disciplines and earning a minimum 3.3 grade point average.

Darius will appear in the All-American Scholar yearbook, which is published

nationally. Justin Duren has successfully completed requirements to attain the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank of Boy Scouts. Justin is the son of Pamela Duren and grandson of Theritha Duren.

Swann candidacy creates friction for Pa. GOP

By Peter Jackson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The last few weeks have been rough for Lynn Swann.

The GOP gubernatorial candidate, whose fame as a former Pittsburgh Steeler and longtime sideline

reporter on national TV draws crowds of autograph-seekers when he appears in public, has not been receiving a lot of respect-

money-from his Republican Party.

There was U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter dispensing unsolicited advice, suggesting that Swann, who is black, cultivate black voters' support by becoming "conversant" on job training and other issues important to African-Americans and talking about them in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

"His race could be a very strong factor, but not in a shirt and tie," Pennsylvania's senior senator told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. "Have him go into the community and get his hands dirty."

Football great runs for governor

Then Sam Smith, the GOP majority leader in the state House of Representatives, told a Harrisburg audience Swann should abandon his attacks on Democratic Gov. Ed Rendell's failure to deliver property-tax cuts because the GOP hopes to sign off on a compromise package very soon.

"The worst thing that could happen to Lynn Swann would be to beat the governor because he didn't achieve property-tax reform, and then he (Swann) has to come in and come up with a magic solution," Smith, R-Jefferson, told a Pennsylvania Press Club luncheon. "Believe me, there is nobody out there that has a perfect magic solution or it would have been done by now."

Aides said Swann was hunkered down for a long week-end of last-minute appeals for cash before Monday's deadline for contributions that will be listed in campaign-finance reports due Friday. His fundraising total through March was an anemic \$2 million - one-eighth of Rendell's war chest.

Swann's people appeared

unfazed by the intraparty friction.

Mark Holman, who serves as a political adviser to Swann, characterized both Specter and Smith as "friends" of the campaign.

"No offense taken," said Holman, a Washington lobbyist who served as Gov. Tom Ridge's chief of staff. "We are in this to listen, learn and ultimately win."

Campaign spokesman Leonardo Alcivar pointed to Swann's recent appearances in black neighborhoods in Philadelphia, Johnstown and Pittsburgh on three successive days as evidence of his commitment to reaching out to black voters.

Smith's warning notwithstanding, Swann has not indicated he is willing to back away from his mostly secret plan to rein in local property taxes. In fact, he criticizes the proposal now taking shape in the Legislature - more than \$1 billion a year in property-tax reductions, which would be one of the biggest tax cuts in state history - as a piecemeal, inadequate approach.

Legislators and the Rendell administration are "talking

about patches, and they're talking about tax-shifting," Holman said. "Our effort is bigger and broader."

Swann's campaign says his proposal will become clear when he unveils it in May, but one key element that he has already made public could take years to implement.

Tax experts outside the political arena said Swann's plan to cap homeowners' tax rates for as long as they own the property would violate the state constitution. Amending the constitution requires votes by two successive legislatures and voter ratification in a statewide referendum.

How it all plays out remains to be seen. But at least one local Republican leader - Pike County GOP Chairwoman Kathleen E. Hummel, who backed former Lt. Gov. Bill Scranton for the gubernatorial nod before he abandoned his campaign in February - is keeping an open mind.

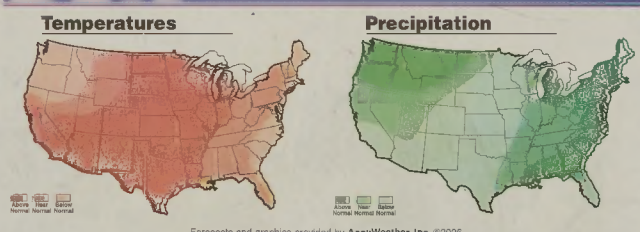
Swann "is a newcomer to the political scene," she said. "He probably has a lot to learn, but he probably also has a lot to offer."

AccuWeather.com 7-DAY FORECAST FOR CHARLOTTE, NC

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Partly sunny and warm	Considerable cloudiness	A p.m. 1-storm possible	A thundershow possible	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny, a storm	Partly sunny, a storm
64°/45°	60°/40°	80°/60°	76°/56°	72°/48°	74°/54°	79°/58°	81°/58°
RealFeel	RealFeel	RealFeel	RealFeel	RealFeel	RealFeel	RealFeel	RealFeel

The patented RealFeel Temperature™ is AccuWeather's exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

WEATHER TERMS THIS WEEK



IN THE SKY

Sun	Rise	Set	Moon	Rise	Set	Moon Phases
Thursday	6:30 a.m.	8:12 p.m.	Thursday	12:15 p.m.	2:15 a.m.	First
Friday	6:29 a.m.	8:13 p.m.	Friday	1:15 p.m.	2:47 a.m.	Full
Saturday	6:28 a.m.	8:13 p.m.	Saturday	2:13 p.m.	3:15 a.m.	Last
Sunday	6:27 a.m.	8:14 p.m.	Sunday	3:10 p.m.	3:40 a.m.	New
Monday	6:26 a.m.	8:15 p.m.	Monday	4:06 p.m.	4:03 a.m.	
Tuesday	6:25 a.m.	8:16 p.m.	Tuesday	5:03 p.m.	4:25 a.m.	
Wednesday	6:24 a.m.	8:17 p.m.	Wednesday	6:01 p.m.	4:48 a.m.	

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Atlanta, GA	88/60	86/60	82/56	78/50	Memphis, TN	82/58	70/54	69/50	72/57
Charlotte, SC	86/65	86/64	82/58	77/57	Myrtle Beach, SC	80/65	80/65	78/64	71/57
Durham, NC	84/61	80/59	76/55	70/48	Raleigh, NC	84/60	80/58	78/52	72/48
Greensboro, NC	80/60	81/55	75/54	69/49	Richmond, VA	80/58	77/56	74/54	71/47
Roanoke, VA	80/60	81/55	75/54	69/49	Savannah, GA	88/61	88/62	83/59	78/54
Winston-Salem, NC	82/61	82/59	78/54	72/48	Wilmington, NC	83/64	82/65	79/63	74/55

U.S. CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Atlanta	82/61	82/60	78/54	72/48	Miami	86/73	89/72	87/72	87/71
Boston	64/52	68/50	68/48	67/47	Minneapolis	58/42	52/36	62/46	65/47
Chicago	66/43	62/40	59/39	62/45	New Orleans	86/70	84/88	83/61	79/62
Cleveland	71/48	63/44	63/40	56/42	New York City	75/58	70/52	68/50	62/48
Dallas	84/61	75/54	76/57	82/61	Orlando	82/64	84/66	80/66	88/64
Denver	56/38	58/38	65/42	70/44	Pittsburgh	74/52	70/46	60/42	58/42
Detroit	70/46	64/41	59/40	60/43	Phoenix	92/67	91/89	93/67	94/89
Houston	80/68	80/58	80/58	84/60	San Francisco	66/59	69/52	68/51	66/51
Kansas City	87/46	82/44	86/47	72/54	Seattle	66/46	63/45	66/45	69/45
Los Angeles	69/56	72/56	72/56	72/56	Washington, DC	80/59	75/55	72/52	66/51

WORLD CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Amsterdam	65/54	66/54	69/52	61/50	Paris	75/54	75/54	68/52	63/48
Berlin	72/52	70/48	65/45	66/45	Rio de Janeiro	74/65	76/66	75/68	72/66
Buenos Aires	64/54	64/49	59/48	59/54	Rome	74/56	72/51	69/52	71/55
Cairo	85/68	87/64	83/74	91/72	San Juan	86/74	86/74	88/76	87/76
Jerusalem	69/50	73/58	80/58	76/59	Phoenix	61/49	70/52	74/60	70/49
Johannesburg	65/46	61/49	64/44	63/39	Sydney	68/54	70/55	68/59	70/54
London	66/54	64/54	61/50	69/48	Tokyo	68/55	70/60	72/57	72/56
Mexico City	75/51	79/51	78/52	75/54	Toronto	68/44	66/44	66/40	50/32
Moscow	62/41	55/32	55/34	59/42	Zurich	75/48	69/48	68/48	63/48

Weather (W) = mainly; (P) = partly cloudy; (C) = cloudy; (S) = showers; (T) = thunderstorms; (R) = rain; (SN) = snow; (NS) = no snow; (I) = ice.

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