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Golfer has blazed trails for others

-See Page B1



Happy Hill reunion draws big crowds

-See Page A11



Young people end popular golf clinic

-See Page B14

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THURSDAY, July 20, 2006

BEAUTY & BRAINS

HBCU queens, kings meet in city for unique conference

BY SANDRA ISLEY
 THE CHRONICLE

Kings and queens from historically black colleges and university arrived in royal style last week for a four-day conference in Winston-Salem.

The fifth annual Leadership for Queens from Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Kings Konnection Conference was held at Embassy Suites. The event was designed to teach the kings and queens how to be positive representatives and to teach them that beauty is only skin-deep.

"I just think that they need to take the role more serious sometimes," said Dale Williams, director of Student Activities at Winston-Salem State University. "That's what this conference is for. This is a big deal because African American women need role models and African American males need role models, and they may be the only role model someone sees. They're not just a role model beauty; they're promoting college education, they're promoting professionalism."



The queens of several historically black schools came to town to learn and be inspired.

Williams founded the Leadership for Queens, a leadership conference for Historically Black University Queens. She is the former Miss Tennessee State University (1992-1993). Williams believes that expectations are now greater for those who wear HBCU crowns and that the kings and queens repre-

sent the schools on so many levels that they need etiquette training, self-esteem workshops, and mentoring sessions with others who have served in the roles.

The job of an HBCU king or queen comes with no handbook and often no type of formal lessons, yet they are expected to represent their schools well at

community events and social functions.

More than 40 kings and queens attended the conference, representing more than 20 HBCUs. Courtney Rutledge was among those who attended. She used the event as a prep course for the upcoming school year when she will wear the Miss

Jackson State University crown.

"I hope to find leadership training and a purpose; for truly a campus queen role does go beyond beauty," she said.

Kings were first invited to take part in the conference two years ago by Anthony Jones, director of Student Activities for

See Royalty on A12

Belles say they will miss Dr. Cole

Bennett leader will leave next year

BY SANDRA ISLEY
 THE CHRONICLE

The void that Johnnetta Cole will leave after retiring as President of Bennett College is already being felt by local alumnae. Cole has announced that she will be vacating the position at the end of the 2006-07 school year, after serving the full five years that she'd originally promised the private, historically black liberal arts college for women.



Cole

"She came to us initially telling us that she would stay with us for five years, and we knew that her five years were coming up, but we had hopeful thoughts. I guess, that she would stay, only because we loved her so much," said Gloria Wilson, president of Bennett's Winston-Salem Alumnae Chapter. "Then again, we would be selfish if we didn't want her to enjoy her retirement."

This will be Cole's second retirement. She came out of retirement in 2002 to steer Bennett. She had previously led Atlanta's renowned Spelman College. When she came to Bennett, the school was on academic probation and operating at a more than \$3 million deficit. The college was taken off of probation soon after she took the helm. Since Cole took office, the college has enjoyed financial growth and national attention.

"She came out of retirement to save our school and she has done her part. It's left up to us now to keep it going and we just want her to be happy. We're going to miss her even though we know she'll always be apart of Bennett. We just know she will," said Carolyn Black, a Winston-Salem resident who graduated from Bennett in 1963.

There is work to be done at Bennett before Cole bows out. The capital campaign that she set

See Cole on A3

Popular Body & Soul expanding to Hanes Mall

BY SANDRA ISLEY
 THE CHRONICLE

A slice of downtown's hottest retail store will soon be available to shoppers at Hanes Mall.

Every since Dana Suggs opened Body & Soul on Trade Street in 2003, the store has been a hit with customers. The Afrocentric shop offers a variety of products, from books by black authors to authentic African art. Stationary, greeting cards and even handbags are also offered at the shop. The skin care line offered at Body & Soul is perhaps the store's most popular items. It is that line of products, which includes everything from soaps, lotions and body sprays, that Suggs will offer to mall shoppers at kiosk starting in September.

The city's mall is one of the largest in the Southeast. Retailers pay a pretty penny for space in Hanes Mall, which

welcomes thousands of shoppers each day. Suggs won't pay a dime for her space. She recently won a prize package

totaling more than \$49,000 in the first-ever Piedmont Retail Business Challenge, a retail competition designed to find Triad entrepreneurs with the most imaginative and creative retail business. The contest was developed by CBL & Associates Properties - owners of Hanes Mall in Winston-Salem, Randolph Mall in Asheboro and Oak Hollow Mall in High Point.

A winner was selected for each CBL & Associates site.

Suggs, a New York native who worked for powerhouse Madison Avenue advertising firms before relo-

ating down South, put together a business plan for Butter Up, a kiosk that will offer hard to find shea butter products to

mall shoppers. Shea butter is extracted from the African shea tree. Shea butter is known for its ability to moisturize and nourish the skin. Suggs' plan beat out several other finalists. She is taking the win with modesty.

"There's nothing special about me," she said of the win. "It's just hard work and determination."

In her case, she also had years of overachieving on her side. During her 16 years in advertising, Suggs helped design a label brand for basketball legend Michael Jordan, the Michael Jordan Collection.

See Body & Soul on A12



Suggs

New center opens downtown for those with hearing problems

BY TODD LUCK
 THE CHRONICLE

Last Friday a symbolic ribbon cutting with Mayor Allen Joines sent the message that the North Carolina for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) is open and ready to help clients.

The office, located at 301 North Main Street inside Winston Tower, officially opened on June 15 to provide services to the deaf and hard of hearing in the area. The office has had over 40 clients in its first month according to NCDHH President Lauren Azevedo.

Azevedo was a volunteer who designed the web site for the Forsyth Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (FCDHH), which provided services for the deaf and hard of hearing in the area for over 30 years before closing on June 30. The FCDHH closed

because the regional office of the state-run Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DSDHH) in Greensboro, which offers some of the same services as FCDHH, is expanding its staff to be more active in areas like Forsyth County. Azevedo started up NCDHH because she believes that there are still services and resources the state office is lacking. She said she plans to offer all the old services that FCDHH did, with hopefully more to come.

"I want to help the deaf and hard of hearing be a force in this community," said Azevedo.

So far the range of help offered is impressive. NCDHH supplies listening devices and visual fire alarms for those who need them. NCDHH also provides interpreting services, sign language classes, an interpreter lending library of books and videos,

See Center on A3



Moore



Photos by Todd Luck

Mayor Allen Joines and Lauren Azevedo cut the ribbon last week to open the center.

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