

LIFESTYLES

Around Charlotte

•Dr. Gyasi Fuloke will hold a book signing at The Heritage House, 901 South Kings Dr. Oct. 24 at 5 p.m.

Fuloke, author of *The Real Holocaust: A Wholistic Analysis of the African American Experience*, will discuss his work and Cosmic



Fuloke

Christianity. Fuloke will also be available on Saturday for autographs at 2 p.m.

•The Carolinas Southern Piedmont Chapter of the National Forum for the Black Public Administrators is sponsoring Toys for Tots. To make donations, call Carmelita Coleman at 336-2643.

•The deadline for entering United Family Services' Family of the Year Contest is Nov. 1. Families selected will receive a \$450 prize package. Applications may be picked up at United Way of the Carolinas, 301 South Brevard St., and selected locations throughout the city. For more information, call 332-9034.

•The Arts and Science Council is looking for volunteers for First Night Charlotte, the annual uptown New Year's Eve party sponsored by Kaiser Permanente and Presbyterian Hospital. For more information, call 372-9667.

•Charlotte poet Doinha E. Morandi has been published in "Forever and a Day," a treasury of poetry compiled by the National Library of Poetry. The piece, titled



Morandi

"Deliverance," explores women's liberation and oppression.

Friday

•The Charlotte Charity League will kick off its 49th annual charity bazaar with a preview party at which its new cookbook, "Carolina Sunshine, Then and Now" will be unveiled. The party will be held at Sardis Presbyterian Church, 6100 Sardis Road at 7 p.m.

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Debate over black Jeffersons resurfaces

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Archaeologists at Monticello are excavating the site of a log cabin that was inhabited by Elizabeth Hemings, a slave whose daughter was reputed to be Thomas Jefferson's mistress.

Monticello is holding a free open house from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. daily through Friday to share its archaeological

research.

"I think it's important that Monticello paint a fuller and more accurate portrait of what life was really like here in the 18th century," said Fraser Neiman, Monticello's director of archaeology. "We currently have an edited version."

Elizabeth "Betty" Hemings died at Monticello in 1807 at the age of 72. Most historians believe she bore several children to John Wayles, the

father of Jefferson's wife, Martha.

But historians disagree on whether Sally Hemings became Thomas Jefferson's mistress after his wife died. The Hemings family claims Jefferson fathered four children by Sally. Jefferson apparently left no record of such a liaison.

Archaeologists have roped off a 300-by-200-foot area where the remains of a brick

fireplace were discovered at the site of what is believed to have been the cabin where Betty Hemings lived the last 10 years of her life.

They have recovered artifacts such as pieces of ceramics and bottles, porcelain dinnerware and a slate pencil that suggests Elizabeth Hemings may have known how to write.

"Clearly (some Monticello slaves) were able to learn to

read and write, and this may be ... evidence of that," Neiman said.

Although the acidic soil left relatively few artifacts or structural remains of the house, Neiman said sophisticated soil testing could reveal the boundaries of the home, where a garden once stood and what kinds of trash were dumped on the property.

Such findings could help historians paint a better picture.

Halloween not just child's play

By Jeri Young
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Halloween is not child's play anymore.

A pumpkin snatching by a group calling themselves the Pumpkin Liberation Organization garnered national headlines when they pilfered the vegetables from Fort Worth, Texas businesswoman Mary Lowe.

Halloween has gone from an evening of apple dunking and trick or treating to one of America's favorite holidays, second only to Christmas in retail sales.

"In the past couple of years people started to notice that Halloween has gotten really, really big," said Pam Rucker, spokesperson for the National Retail Federation in Washington. "No one even used to chart it. It's a phenomenon that kind of snuck up on us, really."

Americans will spend in excess of \$2.5 billion on Halloween goods this season; and believe it or not, candy sales account for only a third.

Retail experts believe that adults have adopted Halloween because it's a stress reliever and a good way to mark the transition between summer and autumn.

"It's not so much the gore," said Chicago promoter Mark Passos. "There are harvest motifs throughout it, and fall is a time when people want a holiday."

Passos, who promotes one of the nation's largest Halloween trade shows, says his largest customer will probably sell \$50 million worth of merchandise at the show, which attracted 1,200 exhibitors and 10,000 buyers.

Mainstream retailers are also taking advantage of the sales boost.

"Halloween is second in terms of sales volume to Christmas," said Kmart spokesperson Laura Mahle. "Things that resemble Christmas — such as lights and wreaths — have taken off for Halloween. And our costume assortment is becoming more upscale."



PHOTOS/SUE ANN JOHNSON



More upscale indeed.

Gone are the old standard witch costumes with the cardboard hats and cat ears.

A trip through the costume department of the Target store on Eastway Drive reveals a dazzling assortment of costumes and giz-

mos — from screaming witches that stir smoking brews to touch-sensitive door knockers that wail and bang.

And costumes. Lots and lots of costumes.

"I like that one," Dirk, 18, said, pointing to a cow costume complete with udders. "It's chill."

"That's wack," his friend

Keith, 19, said. "Check out the Dracula one. That's the bomb."

Both were looking for Halloween costumes and they decided to be Frankenstein and his bride.

"Halloween's cool, man," Dirk said. "It's the bomb."

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

Halloween mysteries come to light

Halloween has always been shrouded in mystery. Through the years, it has become associated with many superstitions. Here's look at just a few:

•All-Saints or All-Hallow's Day is Nov. 1. A festival of the dead, it was made into a celebration of all the known and unknown saints by Pope Boniface IV in the seventh century. It was originally celebrated on May 13, but was shifted to its present day by Pope Gregory III in the 8th century.

•All Saints Day is followed by All-Souls Day. Originally a pagan holiday, it was adapted by the Catholic Church as a day to pray for souls in purgatory.

•Trick or treating is an American phenomenon. It perhaps comes from the custom of giving cakes to the poor. The cakes came to be called "soul cakes," and in return, the recipients were required to pray for a good harvest.

•English Plough Day, is perhaps the closest holiday to Halloween. Ploughmen went around town begging for gifts. If they did not receive anything, they would threaten to damage their property with their ploughs.

Odd Halloween traditions and beliefs

•If you are born on Halloween, you may have the gift being able to interpret dreams.

•On Halloween night if you melt iron and pour it in cold water, the form that it assumes will be your career.

•If you run around town with your mouth full of pins, and look into a glass, you will see your future husband. If you are not to be married, you will see a coffin.

•If you drop two needles in a

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After nine years Hall earns general diploma

By Jeri Young
THE CHARLOTTE POST

In the corner of Yolanda Hall's Hidden Valley home is a glass bookshelf filled with photos of her three children.

There are her children in caps and gowns as they graduate from preschool. A picture of Hall, 26, and her mother.

The centerpiece is Hall's GED encased in a black leather cover. Hall worked almost nine years to get it.

"I didn't think I would ever get it," she says with a laugh. "It was so hard."

Hall, a single mother of three, dropped out of junior high in ninth grade.

"I was a teenager," she says.

"I fell in love. I guess I was just hard-headed."

Hall tried to go back, but was told she couldn't return.

"That really hurt," she says. "I was always good

behavior-wise. I just had a hard time in class. I get so nervous when I have to take a test."

After being turned away, she



Maxie

went to Central Piedmont Community College.

"They told me I was too young to go into their program," she said. "They recommended Job Corps."

Hall spent a year in Job Corps, then returned to CPCC, where she continued her quest.

"I never felt comfortable in school," she said. "But I knew that one day I would get it."

Six years ago, Hall entered the Bridge Program, which helps high school dropouts.

She and three other Bridge graduates will be honored Tuesday at Ericsson Stadium. Strong safety Brett Maxie will speak at the ceremony.

Hall's fortune's changed

when Counselor Lynda Gross took an active interest in her and stayed with her during the tough times.

"Lynda was great," she said. "Just great. She was really there when I needed her. Sometimes I would just get depressed. Lynda always knew I would get it."

In May, Hall earned her high school equivalency diploma. She says she will never forget receiving her diploma in the mail.

"I started screaming and crying," Hall said. "My kids were looking at me like I was crazy. They started jumping too. But they really couldn't understand."

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PHOTO/SUE ANN JOHNSON

Yolanda Hall relaxes in her Hidden Valley home with her three children (From left to right) Yolanda Emaresah, 8, Emaralde Marie, 7, and Lamar Lamont, 5. Hall will be honored Oct. 29 at Ericsson Stadium luncheon by Bridge Program.