

10A

LIFESTYLES

Around
Charlotte

•Former Charlotte mayor Harvey Gantt has been tapped to receive one of two Humanitarian Awards from the National Conference.



Gantt

Gantt, who has a long history of service to the community, was recognized for his innovative ideas on education, the environment, health care and housing. Gantt and fellow recipient Douglas Wade Booth, a member of Johnson C. Smith University's Board of Visitors, will be honored in a ceremony May 6. For ticket information, call 332-4420.

•Portraits of Color, a nonprofit art education organization, is accepting applications for its cultural arts and development programs for children through age 18. Classes begin Feb. 3 and end May 22. Classes will be held at the Hawthorne Recreation & Community Center. Cost is \$125 per discipline. For more information, call 535-3633.

•Crisis Assistance Ministry is in need of volunteers. For more information, call Anne Davant at 371-3001, extension 114.

•Homes are needed for at-risk children. For more information, call Lutheran Family Services at 342-9785.

•The Charlotte Writer's Club is sponsoring its annual Children's Story Contest. Entry fee is \$5 for non-members. For more information and contest rules, call 541-8454.

•The West Charlotte High School National Alumni Association will meet Sunday at 4 p.m.

•The Charlotte Mecklenburg Republican Women's Club will meet Tuesday at the YWCA, 3420 Park Road.

•The Charlotte Repertory Orchestra at Biddle Auditorium, Johnson C. Smith at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. Admission \$3.

Piercing
not just for
hippies

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HANCOCK, Mich. — Remember when pierced earlobes could only be seen on "fast girls" or free-spirited hippies?

Today, pierced ears are so much the norm it's almost impossible to find clip-on earrings for those who don't have holes in their ears. It is becoming more common to see people in all walks of life, of either sex, sporting one or even multiple piercings on their ears.

But the piercing of other body parts is still regarded by the majority of the population as weird and outlandish.

It wasn't always so. The origin of piercing reaches far back into mankind's history.

Enduring artwork as well as archaeological records show us how ancient people altered their bodies through tattooing, piercing, scarification and stretching the skin of the ears, nose and lips. But it tells us nothing about what significance those societies attached

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Charlottean
plans hot
'Super
Sunday'By Jeri Young
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Super Bowl Sunday just isn't Super Bowl Sunday without a party.

For the last eight years, Brenda Bell-Boone, 34, and about 40 of her closest friends can be found around a wide screen TV, feasting on chili with all the trimmings and some of her famous wings.

"The wings are four-alarm," she says with a laugh.

A lifetime Pittsburgh Steelers fan, Bell-Boone began having her annual fete to bring friends closer together.

"As we get older in order to keep relationships alive we have to have events together," she says. "It gives us an opportunity for friends to gather. Everyone knows that they will gather each year. It's a way of seeing friends that you might not see during the rest of the year."

Bell-Boone decides on a theme and lets her imagination take over from there.

"In order to keep it alive, you have to try to make things different and new. You know the location (of the game) at the beginning of the season," Bell-Boone says. "You know the approximate date. That makes it easier to plan your party."

This year's theme: Mardi Gras.

Bell-Boone, who loves to cook, is serving up jambalaya, dirty rice and of course, chili.

The chili has become sort of a tradition.

"Red hot chili was my theme about four or five years ago," she says. "I got lights, the kind that you put on a tree, shaped like chili. I strung them up on the poles outside and in the kitchen, around the cabinets. That is the first time I did chili. People liked it so much, we decided that chili would always be a part of the party."

Bell-Boone buys things year round, stockpiling plates, cups balloons and banners. She has everything from football bowls for chili to collectors items, like limited edition coins and clothing.

She also makes sure people who won't get into the game have options as well.

"Not everyone is a fan or wants to watch the game," Bell-Boone says. "Some people just want to gather together. We have games set up. This year we have Bingo, Outburst, checkers, card games and hockey. It's family style for people who have children. There will be a separate room for children with games and videos."

Bell-Boone's best Super Bowl? Last year, of course. The Steelers were in it.

This year's game is a little harder to call.

"I really don't have a team in it," she says. "I'm just pulling for a good game."

Super Bowl XXXI kicks off Sunday at 6 p.m. on WCCB-TV. The station begins its coverage at 11:30 a.m.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ESCANABA, Mich. — When Dick Hanson dies, his family won't have to select his coffin; he's already built it. But they will have to remove the books, magazines and shoes to make room for the corpse.

Hanson, a retired building contractor with a decidedly lighthearted outlook on dying, started work on his coffin five



PHOTOS/USA RICE COUNCIL

New Orleans lends itself to great parties and foods, like the easy Jambalaya pictured above. Recipe on page 14A.

No Panthers,
no problem (really)By Jeri Young
THE CHARLOTTE POST

We know.

The Panthers did not make the "Big Dance."

That doesn't mean that your Super Bowl party has to be canceled. Weather permitting, throw open the doors leading onto your patio or deck and kick off your own Super Bowl pre-game party with a menu that will warm the hearts and whet the appetites of football-loving guests.

Fire up the grill for spicy sausages, beef teriyaki and seafood kebabs, pots of hearty soup, chili and chowder, or imaginative grilled pizzas topped with anything from pepperoni to squid.

Fill coolers or galvanized tubs with ice or fresh snow (hey, any-

thing is possible), beer, wine and nonalcoholic beverages. Bring out blankets and beach chairs to make the get-together as comfortable as possible. (Or, if the weather is especially frosty, grill outside — never inside — and bring the cooked foods quickly inside.)

For snacking, serve your favorite dip — in the shape of a football, of course — with an assortment of chips and dips, sandwiches and salads.

You can also jazz up your pre-party by latching onto the New Orleans theme. Lots of hot and spicy creole foods can warm up even the coldest party.

Or, just drag out your washpot and hard-fry some croaker and hush puppies.

And don't forget about the barbecue. Chicken, beef and, of

course, pork make perfect canvases for special sauces.

We've picked out a few of our favorite recipes, dips and salads to make your tailgate/pre-party

party a Super Bowl success.

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

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PHOTO/SUE ANN JOHNSON

The Omegas of Charlotte tailgate during a Panther game.

When needed, man's coffin stands ready

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ESCANABA, Mich. — When Dick Hanson dies, his family won't have to select his coffin; he's already built it. But they will have to remove the books, magazines and shoes to make room for the corpse.

Hanson, a retired building contractor with a decidedly lighthearted outlook on dying, started work on his coffin five

or six years ago. He got the idea from a book that said frontiersman Daniel Boone had built his own coffin and kept it under his bed.

"I thought, ... 'That's a neat idea,'" said Hanson, 66, of Escanaba.

He's heard of coffin builders using their creations as coffee tables. But he decided to stand his on its side, build shelves and use it as a book-

case until needed for its weightier task.

The coffin-to-be now contains a few antique books, magazines and a "happy birthday" computer printout from his granddaughter. On the bottom shelf, Hanson stores his painting shoes — the ones he wears when helping construct theater sets at the William Bonifas Fine Arts Center.

Hanson takes a straightforward approach to death.

"I'm not frightened," he told the Daily Press of Escanaba for a story Monday. "You die when you are ready or when the time comes. ... I tell my wife that when I die I've saved her two grand (by building the coffin)."

He gets some surprised reactions from people who hear about his coffin, but insists his

project is not morbid.

"To me, being morbid is pretending you're never going to die."

Before starting work, Hanson asked a lawyer if there were any laws in Michigan governing coffins. He said there weren't.

He consulted an undertaker to make sure his coffin would fit in the concrete vault that encases caskets in the ground.