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Rolling, dancing with the Stones

Super Bowl show opens up for hopefuls

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT—Older fans of the Rolling Stones will get the chance to shake it during the band's Super Bowl half-time show after all.

Planners had originally sought people aged 18 to 45 to take the field and dance at Ford Field on Feb. 5. But after hearing from some older fans of the group, whose founding members are more than a decade older than 45, the National Football League said it would accept dancers 18 and older—no age limit.

"We wanted to open it up," NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said Friday.

The NFL is offering 2,000 people a chance to watch the rock 'n' roll legends play on the field. They will be expected to dance, sing and cheer. The league is also seeking people to dance during star Stevie Wonder's pregame performance.

People are asked to apply in groups of 20 or more. Signup is under way on the Web site of Star Flow Entertainment, the company organizing the volunteers.

The league had said the reason for the age cutoff was that the job is physically challenging. The volunteers would be on their feet for long periods, and would need to enter and exit the field quickly.

On the Net:
NFL Super Bowl site:
<http://www.superbowl.com>
Detroit Super Bowl XL Host Committee:
<http://sbxl.thecollective.com>
Star Flow Entertainment:
<http://www.starflowentertainment.com>

It's showtime

'Cookin' highlights jazz legend; auditions for plays



PHOTOMINT MUSEUM

Gretha Boston plays Alberta Hunter in "Cookin' At The Cookery" at Blumenthal Performing Arts Center.

By Cheris F. Hodges
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The life of jazz and blues legend Alberta Hunter will be celebrated on stage and in song at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center.

"Cookin' At The Cookery" chronicles the intriguing and inspiring music-filled journey of Hunter's life from her early days in Memphis to Chicago and

ultimately the world's stages. After fading from the spotlight, Hunter achieved a triumphant comeback at age 82, performing 15 shows a week at the Cookery in Greenwich Village until her death. Hunter's story is told with power, passion and a simmering jazz track.

Show times are:
January 18 at 8 p.m.

January 19 at 8 p.m.
January 20 at 8 p.m.
January 21 at 4 p.m.
January 21 at 8 p.m.
January 22 at 3 p.m.
January 25 at 8 p.m.
January 26 at 8 p.m.
January 27 at 8 p.m.
January 28 at 8 p.m.
January 29 at 3 p.m.
In other theatre news:
So, you think you can act?

• If you think of a cross

between "10 Things I Hate About You" and a classic western movie set to Shakespeare's prose and you have Piedmont Players Theatre's rendition of William Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew."

Auditions are January 16 and 17 at 4 p.m.

Auditions are open for third through 12th grade

Please see AUDITIONS/2D

Whipped no more: Wife to divorce Babyface

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — The wife of Grammy-winning singer Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds has filed for divorce after 13 years of marriage, citing irreconcilable differences, court papers indicated.

Tracey Edmonds filed for divorce from her former husband Tuesday in Los Angeles County Superior Court. The couple had announced in October that they were ending their marriage with a



Edmonds

"permanent separation" and said they had been separated for some time.

"We remain best friends," their statement then said.

Her attorney declined to discuss the matter Wednesday night. Kenneth Edmonds could not be reached for comment by The Associated

Press.

The couple have produced movies and television shows together, including "Soul Food," and said in October they would continue to work together on business ventures.

Kenneth Edmonds, 47, and Tracey Edmonds, 37, married on Sept. 5, 1992. They have two sons: Brandon, 9, and Dylan, 4 1/2.

Tracey Edmonds, who as head of Edmonds Entertain-

ment Group, Inc. is considered one of the most powerful women executives in Hollywood, is seeking physical custody of the boys, with visiting rights for her husband.

Besides his career as a best-selling crooner with hits including "Whip Appeal" and "Soon As I Get Home," Edmonds has written hits for Whitney Houston, Mary J. Blige, Mariah Carey, Bobby Brown and others.

APPRECIATION: LOU RAWLS

You'll never find another baritone like this

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES—Lou Rawls, who earned fame with his glorious voice and respect through his prodigious fundraising for the United Negro College Fund, died last week of cancer.

The Chicago-born Rawls began as a gospel singer and spent nearly five decades working his soulful, velvet-voiced magic on classic tunes including "You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine" and "Lady Love."

"His voice was so unique," said legendary producer Kenny Gamble, who with Leon Huff wrote "You'll Never Find." "The other thing was that he had a sense of community. Thousands and thousands of young kids benefited from his celebrity."

With his wife, Nina, at his bedside, Rawls died at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where he was hospitalized last month for treatment of lung and brain cancer, said his publicist, Paul Shefrin.

Rawls' family and Shefrin said the singer was 72, although other records indicate he was 70.

A longtime community activist, Rawls played a major role in United Negro College Fund telethons that raised more than \$200 million. He often visited and performed at black colleges.

"He's just someone who recognized, like many African-Americans of a certain generation, that education was something that our kids didn't get access to and that it was critically important for their future, and for our communities' future and for the nation," said Dr. Michael Lomax, president and CEO of the UNCF.

In September, Rawls performed in the organization's "An Evening of Stars," which was to be televised nationwide through the weekend.

"He appeared frail, but he was in good voice, and he was in great spirit," Lomax said. "He was there with his son, newly adopted, and his wife. He was a happy and contented man."

Aretha Franklin said Rawls was a

"memorable musical stylist... who made a serious impact in the interest of historically black colleges and black folks."

Rawls' trademark was his smooth, four-octave voice, which Frank Sinatra once called the "silkiest chops in the singing game."

Starting as a church choir boy, Rawls ultimately applied those silky tones to a variety of musical genres and more, including movies, TV shows and commercials. As a pitchman for Anheuser-Busch Cos. breweries, his was the familiar voice that said, "When you've said Budweiser, you've said it all."

Rawls was raised on the South Side of Chicago by his grandmother, who shared her love of gospel with him. He also was influenced by doo-wop and harmonized with his high school classmate Sam Cooke. The two friends were part of groups such as the Teenage Kings of Harmony.

When he moved to Los Angeles in the 1950s, Rawls was recruited for the Chosen Gospel Singers, then moved on to

Please see RAWLS/2D

BET co-founder Sheila Johnson reinvents herself

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE PLAINS, Va. — When Sheila Johnson first buzzed onto the scene more than two decades ago, it was as co-founder of BET.

Now, nearly six years after the sale of the groundbreaking cable network, she's reinvented herself as a powerful developer and a political force in Virginia.

She's ruffling feathers with plans to bring an expansive new spa to the rolling hills of this rural region. Meanwhile, she's heading up the inaugu-

ral committee for Gov-elect Tim Kaine.

Johnson was the biggest individual donor to his Democratic campaign.



Johnson

"I was brought up that I could do whatever I wanted to do," she told The Associated

Press in an interview at Salamander Farm, her home in The Plains. "I never use the word 'can't.'"

She doesn't have time to.

When she's not jetting to New York where she sits on the board of the Parsons School of Design, Johnson is busy reorganizing one of her favorite acquisitions, the Washington Mystics women's basketball franchise.

In Middleburg, the recently remarried divorcee of black businessman Robert Johnson darts between town hearings, interviews and her posh corner cafe, Market Salamander, where chunky mini-crabcakes run \$12 a pop. She plans to

open an expanded version in exclusive Palm Beach, Fla., next spring.

But her biggest project has been Salamander Resort and Spa. Scheduled to open in 2008, it will feature horseback riding and spacious facilities Johnson said will lure vacationing couples and Fortune 500 companies alike to an area one hour from Washington.

"Why not here?" she asked. "There's nothing else around... it's just a great area to do this."

Green is 'off the wall' at AACC

By Sandy Seawright
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Jonathan Green
Art Exhibit - "Off the Wall & Onto the Stage - Dancing the Art of Jonathan Green"

Afro-American Cultural Center
401 North Myers St.

Jonathan Green was reared by his maternal grandmother in Gardens Corner, a Gullah hamlet near Beaufort and the South Carolina coast. The Gullah culture is linked to West Africa and it is a combination of African, European, Native American and Caribbean influences.

Until the middle 1950s Gardens Corner had no highway access and could only be reached by boat.

In this most unique art exhibit at the Afro-American Cultural Center through Feb. 19 viewers learn about the ballet that has been created by William Starrett, Artistic Director of the Columbia, S.C., City Ballet to bring Green's paintings to life on the stage and the performances of "Off the Wall & Onto the Stage - Dancing the Art of Jonathan Green" that will be performed at the Belk Theater at the North Carolina Blumenthal Performing Arts Center on Feb. 17 at 8 p.m.

Starrett and Green met at an awards ceremony given by the Governor of South Carolina and Starrett made the casual comment that he would like to bring one of Green's paintings to life. That social exchange has now become a reality.

In addition to prints by Green, the exhibit includes life-size cutouts of dancers wearing costumes directly inspired by Green's paintings and a video of interviews with Green and Starrett and images of the ballet company in rehearsal.

Green, who now lives in Naples, Fla., studied to be a fashion designer at the Art Institute of Chicago. In his video interview, Green seems to have a very quiet personality. However, his art works extremely colorful and vibrant. His love of fashion design is most evident in his paintings, which feature women in flowing dresses of almost every color adorned with sashes and bows.

Green says his art celebrates the Gullah people. His drawing of a girl in a white dress with blue polka dots and white hat tied with a white ribbon is beautiful and bright - like the light of the sun.

In his work "Sea Swing," Green depicts a woman in a yellow dress and yellow hat swinging through the air against the blue sea. Green's Gullah culture is full of abundance. In "Love of the Harvest" the fields provide plenty and in a second harvest image, the women balance wheat on top of their heads.

In addition to working hard in their fields, the Gullah people also knew how to have fun.

Green's painting of "The Silver Slipper Dance Hall" is filled with sailors and fashionable young women - one dressed in a green dress with yellow polka dots, another in a blue dress covered with what look like orange butterflies, another woman dressed in black with red polka dots and another wearing a blue dress covered down the back with white bows.

In the video, Indira Lonsdale who is in charge of costumes for the Columbia City Ballet, says it is really challenging to find clothes that have the bright colors that

Please see GREEN/2D

