

TRIAL BY FIRE

Bobcats guard Raymond Felton hopes to build on rookie season success. iSports/1C



Cheatch Girls rock to clean vibe/2D



Davidson College hosts 'Force of Nature' artists/1D Yui Shibata turns dust into vivid prints.

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WEEK OF OCTOBER 12-13, 2006

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Welcome addition to emerging neighborhood



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Social, political and community leaders release balloons Tuesday at the groundbreaking of the Stratford Richardson YMCA on West Boulevard. More than \$8 million was raised for the facility, a record for Charlotte.

Groundbreaking of West Boulevard YMCA a catalyst for development, programs

By Herbert L. White
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Stratford

Dorothy Waddy is counting the days when she can use her YMCA membership closer to home. Waddy, a member of the West Boulevard Neighborhood Coalition, is monitor-

ing the pace of construction at the Stratford Richardson branch on West Boulevard. Political, community and social leaders were at the construction site Tuesday to celebrate the official groundbreaking of the facility named in memory of long-time west Charlotte political and social titans. "God is good all the time,

and all the time God is good," Waddy said. "He does make a way, and we've waited a long time, but it's a reality. In a few more months it'll be here." "This is the only part of Charlotte that doesn't have a YMCA," said Stan Law, community vice president of the Stratford Richardson and Dowd YMCA branches.

"It's been a lot of community support of this specific neighborhood, wide ranging community support in terms of fund raising. It's a long time coming but when you work and struggle, dreams do come true, and this is what this facility is all about."



Richardson

Please see NEWEST/6A

Stratford Richardson by the numbers:

\$8.3 million Cost of construction
\$1.2 million Toward \$2 M endowment goal
23.5 Acres
37,500 Square feet
2007 Opening

Study: Young blacks are most politically engaged

By Iorinda M. Bullock
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

Think America's youth is nothing more than a bunch of lazy and ungrateful text-messaging, mall-dwelling, iPod-blasting

brats? If so, think again. A recent survey released last week from the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement says to think again, especially when it comes to America's black

youth. According to the study, African American young people are "most likely to vote regularly; belong to groups involved with politics, donate money to candidates or parties, display buttons or signs,

canvass and contact the broadcast media or print media." The study also said Black people between the ages of 15-25 were most likely to raise money for a charity, tying with Asian

Please see SURVEY/3A



PHOTO/KEN KOONTZ

Charlotte insurance agent Bob White, Nichelle Harris and Bi-Lo executive Helen Ellis helped celebrate entrepreneur Rudean Harris' 52 years as a restaurant owner.

Friends of restaurateur say thank you with big bash

By Ken Koontz
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

More than 100 friends, community and business representatives, family and patrons turned out last Sunday to express their love and appreciation for Charlotte's legendary restaurateur and lounge owner Rudean Harris and her 52 years in business. "In Honor of Rudean" was held at

the Rameses Temple on Beatties Ford Road.

Harris was driven to the event in a stretch limousine and walked in on a cane to help steady her gait after having major surgery just two weeks prior to the event.

Expressions of personal relationships with "Miss Rudean" ranged from a tearful recollection by Beverly

Please see HEARTY/6A

Women are more willing to go it alone

With fewer black men available for marriage, women follow ambitions

By Erica Singleton
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Part of a series on African American women, their lives and concerns.

Jennifer Nelson just turned 30. The Clover Junior High School language arts teacher bought her first home in February. When she is not serving her weekends in the Army reserves, Nelson likes to unwind at the Jazz Cafe in Charlotte.

Ascend of a Woman

Like approximately 90 million other Americans, Nelson is single, and though not opposed to a relationship, she is making the most of her life without one.

"I don't really need anyone for completion as a person," explained Nelson, "but I would love someone to compliment me. That would be lovely, but I don't need it."

In a census report released in August 2005, "We the People: Blacks in the United States" found that 4 in 10 African Americans have never been married. While 27 percent of the entire U.S. population 15 or older had never been married, 41 percent in the black community have avoided the altar. At the time of the 2000 census, 42 percent of black men were married, compared to 31 percent of black women.

The report found that overall black women have higher education attainment levels than black men - 15 percent of black women have earned at least a bachelor's degree compared to 13 percent of black men.

A higher proportion of black women tend to

Please see WOMEN/2A

the box

NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS

Stroud papers shed light on city's history

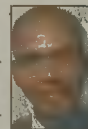
By Herbert L. White
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Much of Gerson Stroud's life story can be found at UNC Charlotte's Atkins Library.

There, in the special collections section are papers, awards and newspaper articles of a life that starts in segregated Charlotte, winds to a period of social and educational upheaval and winds down as a stalwart of history and community activism.

Mr. Stroud died Oct. 4 at the N.C. State Veterans Nursing Home in Salisbury at age 87. A celebration of his life will be held Saturday at Jane M. Smith Memorial Chapel at

Please see PAPERS/7A



Mr. Stroud



Dave Hollister makes switch to gospel music /5B

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