

NEWS

NEWS from the OUTSIDE WORLD

Mayoral candidates face off on local issues

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Staff Reporter

Brian Peterson and Charles Worley, the two remaining mayoral candidates for the city of Asheville, differ on issues that will have a major impact on Asheville and UNCA.

The Asheville Civic Center is one of the issues dividing both the candidates and the voters. Worley is a member of the Task Force for the Future of the Civic Center. He is pushing for multimillion-dollar renovations to be done to improve the existing arena.

Worley thinks "rebuilding in the existing (Civic Center) shell" would keep cost down compared to building a new one in a different location. Worley also pushed for a National Basketball Association Developmental League team to call Asheville home.

Peterson was the only City Council member to vote against both the renovations and the NBADL team. Peterson said that he spoke to roughly 200 people about bringing in the new team. Only two of those people were in support of the idea.

"I'm skeptical, and I think most of Asheville is skeptical," said

Peterson.

Peterson also does not see improvements on the old Civic Center as the best use of Asheville's money. He said UNCA should fit into the plans for a new arena.

Peterson is pushing for a new arena to be built near UNCA instead of improving the old one. He also questioned the architectural estimates of \$25 million for a new arena and \$27 million for a new performing arts center on the east side of the facility.

Peterson also voted against a \$1 increase in price for ticket sales at the existing center, and a 50 cent increase on trade show tickets. Those increases would bring in an estimated \$200,000 each year. Peterson wants to reduce the subsidy that the taxpayers pay for the Civic Center and reduce the number of outside consultants.

"I think improving the old Civic Center might help the downtown economy, but I am a student first," said Leigh Nichols, a UNCA graduate student. "A new arena at UNCA would bring in a lot of money for the school, as well as provide UNCA athletics with a great place to play. It would be easier for students to get tickets for events, and people would come from out of town to go to UNCA for special events."

Affordable housing is another issue that Worley and Peterson have varying ideas on, which could affect



Charles Worley wants to have the Asheville Civic Center rebuilt near the UNCA campus.

Brian Peterson advocates new apartments on Haywood Road and Charlotte Street.

UNCA students. Peterson would like to see more apartments built on both Haywood Road and Charlotte Street.

"I'd like to see us work with private developers and nonprofit developers to build some midsize apartments and condos along some of our major thoroughfares, such as Haywood Road [and] Charlotte Street," said Peterson.

"The first floor can have retail or

offices and apartments above," said Peterson. "The infrastructure is already there. The bus lines are there. Shopping centers are there, and there are jobs that are close by."

Worley wants to build more downtown, and believes that boosting the economy would help to make housing more affordable overall.

"We clearly want to attract high-paying jobs. That has an effect on affordable housing," said Worley.

"We can also encourage affordable housing downtown through incentives [such as] density bonuses in our zoning ordinances."

Although both candidates reject the titles, Worley has been labeled "pro-business" and Peterson has been labeled "pro-neighborhood."

According to Bill Sabo, a UNCA political science professor, the neighborhoods around the Haywood Road corridor are in a transient stage from residential to development. People in these neighborhoods who would like businesses elsewhere tend to support Peterson over Worley.

"They're [the Haywood Road neighbors] feeling crushed, and they feel they're fighting for their lives," said Sabo. "They support (Peterson) as a protector."

"They might find that protector in Worley although he dislikes the 'pro-business' label.

He said that Asheville needs a strong economy before they can have strong neighborhoods.

"I think the pro-business label gets on me because neighborhood activists are trying to come up with a reason why I don't support neighborhoods 100 percent of the time," Worley said.

"I have consistently said that you cannot have a strong neighborhood without a strong economy," said Worley.

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Sprint drops employees

Sprint Corp. announced on Oct. 17 it would cut 6,000 employees, or 7 percent of its work force, as it posted lower third-quarter profits amid weak calling rates.

The No. 3 U.S. long-distance telephone company also said it would scrap ION, a costly high-speed network project.

Sprint said profits in its main local and long-distance telephone and data operations, or FON Group, dropped to \$244 million, or 28 cents a share, down from \$384 million, or 43 cents a share, a year ago.

Total revenues rose 11 percent to \$6.72 billion. The company employs about 14,500 in the Kansas City area and 84,000 worldwide.

Sprint also said it will restructure elements of the company's various divisions, including Global Markets Group and the company's fixed wireless services.

Air travel numbers fall

The number of air travelers in the United States declined 34.2 percent last month and the Sept. 11 attacks are to blame, an airline industry trade group reported Oct. 15.

U.S. airlines carried 30.3 million passengers last month, compared to 46 million in September 2000, according to the Air Transport Association. The number of domestic passengers declined 34.9 percent, while international dropped 28.1 percent, the group said.

"The economic impact from the tragic events of Sept. 11 continues to be unparalleled in the history of commercial aviation," the ATA said in a prepared statement. "Make no mistake—we are grateful for the leadership of President Bush and the Congress in providing emergency economic stabilization assistance. However, this will be a slow recovery."

Politician tries to suppress evidence

U.S. Rep. James Traficant (Ohio-Democrat) asked a federal judge Oct. 15 to suppress hundreds of pages of evidence the government plans to use against him in his upcoming trial on bribery and racketeering charges.

Traficant filed a motion saying the evidence is protected under a congressional "speech and debate clause privilege" in the Constitution. He argued that it allows members of Congress to speak freely while acting in their official capacity without fear of prosecution.

The documents all "occurred in the regular and customary course of the legislative process," the motion said.

Traficant faces trial February 4 on charges he accepted cash, meals and work on his farm in exchange for political favors.

Most of the documents are letters and e-mail about his dealings with Youngstown businessman J.J. Cafaro and Cafaro's company, U.S. Aerospace Group.

Diversity

there were approximately 140 black students.

"We've seen a few more Hispanic students brought in this year and a few more Asian-Americans, and maybe a couple more Native Americans, as examples, but the African-American population is pretty much stagnant," said Mullen.

Mullen said she hoped this year that Greene will be able to work with administration to come up with more solutions.

While blacks that come to UNCA do not have trouble going to a predominately white institution, "what is going on is that they do expect there to be a larger number of black students for them to socialize with," said Mullen. "Not

that they only socialize with black students."

The critical issue, the fact that in a given class there is only one or maybe two black students, may contribute to the lack of retention of these minority students, according to Mullen.

While it is not the commissions specific job to recruit students, it does address the issue and Mullen said she helps with recruitment when she can.

"We're not recruiters, but we do address that as an issue and if there's a chance to help construct some policy, that would see to the increase in minority student populations then, yeah, the commission would certainly be concerned with doing that," said Mullen.

Going around to different high schools throughout the county is a viable option, according to Mullen.

While Mullen occasionally goes to different high schools talking to minority students about college options, it is hard to do for her and others in the commission because they are all currently faculty members.

"It's not as if, for the faculty working, all of us are teaching also and so it's highly unlikely that we can run into admissions regularly enough to see this happen," said Mullen.

If recruiting at high schools seems like a good strategy, Greene could put something together, according to Mullen.

"I'm aware of the advantages that

some of these schools (in the system) have, but we're talking about a very heavily populated black state," said Mullen.

Some students are also working on recruiting other minority students, but "they're not ultimately responsible for admitting and all that," said Mullen.

It is somewhat unclear why the numbers of black students at UNCA has gone down in the past years, said Mullen.

Sam Williams, director for multicultural student affairs said it could be that UNCA is not paying enough attention to student concerns, or not taking student needs seriously.

There may also be a lack of culture on campus and in the Asheville area,

according to Williams.

"People who define diversity in ways that say we're already diverse are just hyping the issues," said Dwight Mullen from the political science department.

"The issue is black and white in this state and it's been black and white since the 1600s."

Williams is currently talking to Hispanic students to see if they may be interested in forming a student group or organization on campus. He also said he plans on talking with the gay and lesbian students as well.

"As of right now I'm trying to figure out what it is that's not keeping them here so I'm talking to the admissions department," said Williams.

Anthrax

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were used in a limited manner, and since then multiple nations around the world have pursued further development for use as a biological weapon.

The U.S. started developing anthrax weapons in 1943, but was stopped by President Nixon in 1969.

A vaccine for anthrax was approved in 1970 by the Food and Drug Administration, and later used to vaccinate troops during the Gulf War.

In 1995, Iraq admitted producing 8,500 liters of anthrax as a part of their biological weapons development program.

The World Federation for Culture Collection knows of 472 members in 61 countries of where labs store anthrax.

In the US, over 500 labs store anthrax in varying quantity for educational and scientific research.

"It seems to me that a dedicated individual could enroll, become a student and obtain feed material or perhaps just break in and steal it," said Spertzel.

In the early 1990's, a Japanese terrorist group, tried and failed to develop a strain of anthrax capable of killing, and as such no one was injured in their attack.

The most serious cases of anthrax recently occurred in Florida at the offices of American Media Inc., a tabloid newspaper.

The Blue Banner Weather

Seven Day Forecast

	THURSDAY Sunny High: 63 Low: 31
	FRIDAY Sunny High: 67 Low: 35
	SATURDAY Sunny High: 68 Low: 41
	SUNDAY Partly Cloudy High: 67 Low: 40
	MONDAY Scattered Showers High: 69 Low: 44
	TUESDAY Scattered Showers High: 67 Low: 45
	WEDNESDAY Scattered Showers High: 68 Low: 46



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Local Almanac Last Week

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip*	Precipitation for the week
Wednesday	64	36	70/45	0.00"	0.52"
Thursday	68	55	70/45	Trace	0.79"
Friday	69	60	69/45	0.11"	-0.27"
Saturday	70	61	69/44	0.03"	
Sunday	75	53	69/44	0.38"	30.67"
Monday	68	45	69/43	0.00"	38.76"
Tuesday	64	40	68/43	0.00"	-8.09"

North Carolina Recreational Forecast

A cool end of the week is expected under the influence of a strong area of high pressure. Northerly winds will keep temperatures 5 to 15 degrees below normal today and Friday. Clouds will increase late this weekend as a southerly wind flow will draw in moisture from the Atlantic. A warm front will lift northward and be close enough to the state Monday to produce scattered showers. A cold front will move in from the west by the middle of next week, triggering mostly cloudy skies and scattered showers. High temperatures will top out in the 60s and 70s. Low temperatures at night will fall into the 30s to the 50s.

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

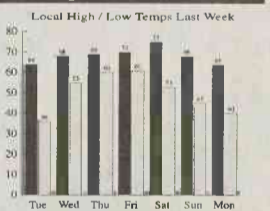
1st Qtr 10/23	Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonsset	Lst Qtr 11/8
	Thu	7:39 a.m.	6:51 p.m.	9:34 a.m.	8:25 p.m.	
	Fri	7:40 a.m.	6:50 p.m.	10:42 a.m.	9:06 p.m.	
	Sat	7:41 a.m.	6:48 p.m.	11:46 a.m.	9:51 p.m.	
	Sun	7:42 a.m.	6:47 p.m.	12:47 p.m.	10:40 p.m.	
	Mon	7:43 a.m.	6:46 p.m.	1:41 p.m.	11:32 p.m.	
	Tue	7:44 a.m.	6:45 p.m.	2:29 p.m.		
	Wed	7:45 a.m.	6:44 p.m.	3:11 p.m.	12:28 a.m.	

National Weather Summary This Week

A cold front will move through the Great Lakes states to end this week, producing mostly cloudy skies and scattered precipitation. A stubborn stationary front will undulate across the peninsula of Florida throughout this weekend, creating breezy conditions along with showers. A cold front will push into the northern tier of states to begin next week, resulting in scattered showers and unseasonably cool temperatures. An area of low pressure will develop along this front over the Central Plains. As we move into the middle of next week, this low will intensify and bring widespread precipitation and breezy conditions across the Midwest and the Ohio River Valley states.

Oct. 18, 2001

Temps Last Week



Weather Trivia

What city should be the easiest for which to forecast the weather?

To find out the answer, log onto <http://www.accessweather.com/theblue-banner.html> to find today's trivia answer and previous Weather Trivia answers.

Weather History

Oct. 20, 1987 - Cold arctic air invaded the Midwest, and squalls in the Lake Superior snowbelt produced heavy snow in parts of Wisconsin. Snowfall totals ranged up to 18 inches at Mellen, Wisc. In the western United States, a record high of 69 degrees was set at Seattle, their twenty-fifth of the year.

Oct. 21, 1957 - The second in a series of unusual October storms hit Southern California, causing widespread thunderstorms. Santa Maria, Calif. was drenched with 1.13 inches of rain in two hours. Hail drifts up to 18 inches were recorded in parts of east Los Angeles. Waterspouts were spotted off the coastline.