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Mfume vows to continue battle against rebel flag

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

FORT MILL, S.C.— Contrary to their names, not everyone is welcome at welcome centers in South Carolina.

The centers, also called rest stops, are along major highways in the state, places where travelers can stop to grab a sandwich, use the restrooms or pick up informative booklets about the Palmetto State.

Since last month centers located near South Carolina's borders also have served another purpose. They have been the latest battleground for the NAACP in its ongoing effort to have the Confederate flag removed

from the grounds of the Statehouse in Columbia. Members of the civil rights group have used the welcome centers to urge drivers traveling on interstates to honor the NAACP's two-year-old boycott of the state.

But Charlie Condon, South Carolina's attorney general, is hoping that a court will pull the welcome mat from under the feet of NAACP protesters. In a suit filed last month, Condon asks a state judge to make the NAACP pay for the extra state police placed at centers while the group holds its "border patrols."

The president of the national NAACP set foot in the state Friday for the first time since a massive protest

two years ago in front of the Statehouse. As more than 150 NAACP members from several Southern states lined up along a hill at a welcome center in York County, S.C., Kweisi Mfume encouraged the protesters and people of goodwill everywhere to keep up the fight, and he vowed that the organization would strongly answer any challenge launched by Condon.

"He is simply without authority, and he knows that," he said of the attorney general as Mfume announced that the NAACP had filed a response to Condon's suit.

In the response, the NAACP says



Ross Davis, left, and Joe Mosley, both from Jacksonville, Fla., joined hundreds of others at a rest stop on I-77 in Fort Mill, S.C., last week.

The H.A.R.L.E.Y. Principles

Psychologist uses unconventional way to inspire kids

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Children can learn a lot from a Harley Davidson motorcycle. For those of you who don't consider yourselves to be Harley enthusiasts, a motorcycle can motivate children in six magnificent ways. At least that is what Dr. Chad Costantino told the students Friday at Easton Elementary School.

Using the letters that spell out the word "Harley," Costantino shared a motivational message to help build the character of the Easton students and make a difference in their lives. Costantino was certain to first say that a motorcycle is an "adult toy" and can be very dangerous for children.

The students were participating from the get-go, chanting in unison, "I am good! I am smart! I am strong! I'm going to make a difference in this world!" after Costantino instructed them to give themselves a round of applause for being wonderful children.

Using his very own personal Harley Davidson motorcycle as a prop, Costantino explained to the students that the letter H stands for "Help others and Honor your parents," A stands for "Always play and Always pray," R stands for "Read a lot and Remember where you came from," L stands for "Love others and Listen," E stands for "Everybody has a purpose in life and Exercise," and Y



Students at Easton cheer Dr. Chad Costantino as he makes his entrance on his Harley.

stands for "You are in control of Your destiny, and You are special."

Including a moral with each letter through a story or personal life experience, Costantino spread a positive and educational message to the Easton students.

"Teachers, counselors, love these kids; love these kids," Costantino said.

Costantino is a child and fam-

ily therapist in Kernersville and holds a master's degree in marriage counseling as well as a doctorate in psychology. He shared with the students that he helps children whose parents may be divorced, or children who may have anger problems or suffer from depression or are battling addictions to drugs and alcohol.

Costantino incorporated various activities and songs into his

speech. Three students were brought out front to pamper an Easton teacher by administering a short massage as she sat in a chair. Another group was brought on stage to partake in a short round of Simon Says, and one lucky girl even got the chance to suit up in Costantino's motorcycle gear and hop onto the driver's seat as he

See Harley on A4

Blue hopes to be people's senator

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Dan Blue says he doesn't have to talk the talk, a point he believes clearly sets him apart from many of the others running for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Jesse Helms.

In a race dominated by political beginners with deep pockets, Democrat Blue brings more experience as an elected official than any of the others.

Blue said his 22 years in the N.C. House of Representatives— he served as speaker of the House for four of those years — produced a record of serving the everyday, working

folks in North Carolina.

So while others say what they will, Blue is asking voters to look at what he has already done.

"I have a record showing the kinds of things that I have championed," Blue said. "I say what I am going to do, and I do what I say."

Blue was in Winston-Salem Tuesday, keeping up a hectic campaign schedule that has taken him across the state and back again. Here, he met with Forsyth Technical Community College President Gary Green and toured the campus. Blue also spoke at Union Baptist Church on Tuesday evening.

One of nine Democrats running, Blue says he has spent his career in Raleigh fighting for real North Carolinians, those who go to work every day to try to do right for their families.

"I want to represent all people, but I particularly want to represent the working families of this state," he said. "I

See Blue on A11

Local Catholic clerics: Scandal not hurting attendance

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

Three local clerics said attendance at their churches has not declined amid the national priest sexual abuse scandal plaguing the Catholic Church.

Father Larry Hunt, priest of St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church, which serves about 150 families (predominantly African American), said, "It's very painful for everybody concerned." He said church leaders and parishioners are praying for the victims, the accused and for healing. "We all have a lot of work to do, and, God willing, things will be better."

He said parishioners "realize how much we have to pray."

"It's a wake-up call for all of us to be better Christians," he said. Hunt said the sexual abuse scandal is making it more difficult for the Catholic Church to attract priests. "We need ... (priests) to spread the Gospel... It used to be a position of great honor. Now it's an embarrassment. People need a greater commitment to answer the call."

Hunt said he thinks the public-

ity about the sexual abuse scandal has been beneficial in the sense that "let's get it out, deal with it, and we'll be better." He said he



A statue of Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, in front of St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church.

thinks the church needs to place more emphasis on the selection and training of candidates for

See Catholics on A9

Friends till the End

Local women have been at each other's sides through thick and thin

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Clara Douglas and Fannie Ellis have a friendship that has lasted through two world wars, 16 American presidents and an endless slate of personal tragedies and losses.

The two women can't exactly remember how they met. After all, it was more than 85 years ago.

They know it happened one day at church in Advance, the small Davie County town where they were both born and raised. Since meeting all those years ago, the women have been inseparable.

"We played together. We

went to church together, and we went to school together," said Douglas as Ellis nodded in agreement.

Their rare and enduring friendship was the talk of a birthday celebration held for the two women Saturday. Douglas turned 95 back in March; Ellis turned 92 last week.

"I don't think friendships like that exist anymore," said Eula Mae Goodman, one of Ellis' four surviving children. "There is a different type of morality today. Friendship is not valued as much as it used to be."

Douglas and Ellis were always as close as sisters, so

See Friends on A10



Clara Douglas, left, and Fannie Ellis have been the best of friends for almost a century.