

BUSINESS FOCUS

Briefs

Leak delays planned opening of Greensboro civil-rights museum

GREENSBORO (AP) — A water leak will probably delay the opening of a planned civil-rights museum by at least three or four months and add up to \$200,000 to the cost, organizers say.

The \$10 million International Civil Rights Center and Museum in downtown Greensboro had been on schedule before workers found the leak in the building that housed the former Woolworth's Department store. Four freshmen at North Carolina A&T State University staged a lunch-counter sit-in at the store in 1960 in what is considered a pivotal point in the civil-rights struggle.

"As the construction piece moved ahead we started uncovering a range of water challenges, not unlike other buildings downtown ... but we have a unique responsibility," said Amelia Parker, the museum's executive director. "We cannot put priceless artifacts in an environment where we can't control the humidity and aeration."

The news came as Parker and her staff worked to secure such artifacts as part of a stained glass window from the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., where four children were killed in a racially motivated bombing in 1963; the wooden chair the Rev. Martin Luther King sat on in a courtroom as he was being arraigned in Birmingham; and a letter written by Booker T. Washington.

The money to finish construction has been pledged, although \$2 million needs to be raised for exhibits and operating expenses.

The money to repair the leakage and its damage also must be raised.

Seeping water left damaged slabs of concrete in a corner of the planned museum, which was to open Feb. 1, 2005, exactly 45 years after the sit-in started. The new target date for opening the museum is about July 25, the date when the lunch counter began serving black people.

Ray named director at Forsyth Tech's Stokes County Center

Forsyth Technical Community College is pleased to announce the appointment of Deana Ray as interim director of the Stokes County Center as of Oct. 1.

Ray replaced Anne Hennis, who has taken a new position with Surry County Community College. Ray is currently a member of the administrative team at the Swisher Center in Kernersville.

Ray has an associate's degree in mid-management from Amarillo College in Amarillo, Texas; a bachelor's degree in management and master's degree in international management from High Point University.

"We are most fortunate to have Deana share her expertise and leadership in moving forward and growing the educational opportunities to the citizens of Stokes County," said Dr. Cynthia Bioteau, vice president of instructional services at Forsyth Tech.

Twanda McCollum attends national sales conference

Twanda McCollum, local authorized dealer for Kaeser and Blair, attended Kaeser and Blair's annual national sales conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Sept. 9, 10 and 11. Kaeser and Blair is a member of the PPAI and ASI and is the 18th largest distributor or promotional products in the United States.

One day was devoted to "A College of Promotional Products," where the application of promotional products to specific business needs was explained. Also, dealers were brought up to date on the latest technological advances in the company.

Another day featured a trade show made up of 155 leading industry product lines exhibiting product ideas and applications of these products to the promotional needs of businesses.

This is an annual event for Kaeser and Blair dealers designed to update them on the most recent developments in technology and products for the promotional products industry.

Moore gets honor

State Treasurer Richard Moore was to receive the Circle of Influence Diversity Award during a breakfast ceremony in Durham yesterday.

The Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce's Multi-Cultural Business/Professional Network sponsors the Circle of Influence award. Each year, the Network selects an individual and two businesses that have demonstrated their commitment to diversity in the workplace, commerce and the community.

Moore, the 2004 Circle of Influence individual honoree, spearheaded extensive community outreach programs during his four years as state treasurer. One of Moore's primary goals is to create a foundation of general economic principles for students so that they can handle complex financial situations when they grow up. His essay contest, "Money Smart...From the Start," and his BizWorld Contest, a business development challenge, engage K-12 students in projects that help them to learn fiscal responsibility at an early age. The treasurer designed these two programs to include the knowledge necessary to create a household budget, manage personal debt and start a small business.

Governing magazine, a monthly publication based in Washington, D.C., recently named Moore as one of its 10 Public Officials of the Year. The annual award is given in recognition of outstanding achievement at the state and local levels. Governing cited the Treasurer's active role in improving his state's financial picture through innovative programs and policies.

NAACP urges wider S.C. boycott

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

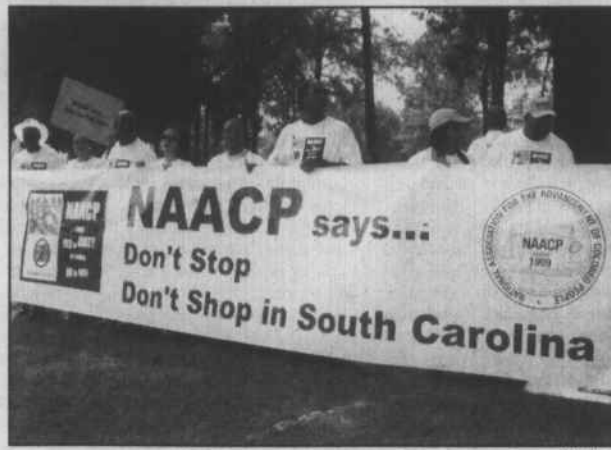
COLUMBIA, S.C. — The state NAACP said it is renewing talks with the NCAA and black religious organizations to strengthen economic sanctions against South Carolina.

NAACP state President Lonnie Randolph wouldn't elaborate on what additional actions the NCAA might be asked to take in support of its boycott but said an announcement could be made within a month.

Randolph spoke at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's annual convention being held through Sunday in Augusta, Ga.

The state NAACP has held its convention in states bordering South Carolina for the past three years as part of its boycott against South Carolina for continuing to fly the Confederate flag on the Statehouse grounds in Columbia.

The boycott was declared in 2000, after the state pulled the Confederate flag from atop the State-



Protesters demonstrate on the S.C. state line in 2002.

house and moved it to a monument on the grounds.

The NAACP garnered support for its boycott from the Black Coaches Association and got the NCAA to

issue a two-year moratorium on championship events in the state in 2001.

Randolph said the NAACP is talking with the associations to

extend the sanctions.

Support for the boycott has been mixed, even within the state NAACP, but Randolph said that wouldn't change the organization's commitment.

"The sanctions are fine, if they are working," said NAACP convention delegate Leroy Brown of James Island. "But we have got to get the churches more involved."

Brown said the NAACP should push black pastors harder to participate fully in the boycott.

"I feel we are doing what's right with the sanctions," said 18-year-old Lamont Roberts, president of the Youth and College Division of the state NAACP.

Across the street from the convention site, a small number of protesters waved Confederate flags in opposition to the NAACP's meeting in Augusta.

City leaders recently removed a Confederate flag from a public display near the convention hotel after the NAACP requested it.

Few minorities won contracts for convention

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — Only about \$1.6 million of the \$49.6 million spent to organize the Democratic National Convention in Boston this summer went to minority- and women-owned companies, according to an analysis of convention records.



Menino

data published Tuesday.

Mayor Thomas M. Menino and convention backers had made the inclusion of minority- and women-owned businesses a central part of their pitch to Democrats in efforts to get the party to host the convention in Boston.

To determine how much business went to minority- and women-owned businesses, the Globe cross-referenced the list of companies Boston 2004 did business with, with a list of companies certified as minority- or women-owned by state and federal agencies.

The Globe's analysis was not accurate because it did not include minority- or women-owned businesses used as subcontractors, said Boston 2004 chairman David A. Passafiumo.

The committee is not required to disclose subcontractor information, and would not release it, saying it had not completed its own analysis.

Boston 2004 said 79 minority- and women-owned companies got business as either primary contractors or as subcontractors. Nineteen of those worked on construction at the FleetCenter, while the other 60 got work related to the convention's delegate parties, according to the committee.

Of the 368 companies that won contracts directly from the Boston 2004 host committee, 45, or about 12 percent, are owned by women or minorities, according to a Boston Globe analysis of Federal Election Commission



Photo courtesy of Chamber of Commerce.

Award winners and chamber officials pose for a picture after Wednesday's breakfast ceremony.

Businesses get chamber awards

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce and the city of Winston-Salem co-hosted the 2004 Small Business Awards Wednesday morning at the LJV Coliseum. Chosen among nominees by a panel of judges the following companies were honored by the chamber:

- Entrepreneurial Success of the Year: Golding Farms.
- Minority Business of the Year: Temporary Resources.
- Small Business Person(s) of the Year: Piedmont Club.
- Technology Business of the Year: Eastridge Technology.

The city of Winston-Salem awarded the Minority Women Business Enterprise Program of the Year to

Clement Construction Services.

The event was designed to recognize the important role small businesses and entrepreneurs have in our community.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and it's important to recognize how much they contribute to our community," said Jill Atherton, executive director of economic development for the chamber. "We're fortunate to have many exemplary companies in our area, and today we had the chance to honor some of the very best."

Golding Farms manufactures and packs chowchow and other relishes, honey, barbecue sauces and steak sauces.

Temporary Resources began in 1979 as an execu-

tive placement firm that became a full-service staffing agency. The business employs 38 staff members and averages 850 temporary employees working weekly.

The Piedmont Club was founded in 1987 by local business and political leaders who felt there was a need for the private club experience to be extended to persons of every race, gender, creed and religious affiliation.

Eastridge Technology is an information technology services company. A Microsoft Gold Certified Partner, Eastridge helps enterprises increase profits and reduce costs with custom software development, integration and construction of mobile sales force applications, Web application construction and integration, and senior level IT staffing.

Proposed black business district prompts bitter debate in Detroit

BY SARAH KARUSH
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — Detroit has a Greektown section that tempts visitors with moussaka and baklava, and a Mexicantown neighborhood with Latin American groceries and restaurants. Now, politicians are pushing for a business district identified with the city's biggest racial group — blacks.

The plan, dubbed "African Town" by some proponents, has stirred fervent opposition, in part because the new district would be established using taxpayer money that would be available only to black business owners.

Detroit, with a population of just under 1 million, is more than 80 percent black after a decades-long white exodus that was driven in part by racial tensions, including the 1967 riots.

A majority on the City Council has endorsed the basic tenets of "African Town." But the plan is unlikely to become a reality. The mayor is against it, and many community leaders say the very notion undermines the city's efforts to promote economic revitalization through regional cooperation.

The plan was drafted by Claud Anderson, author of a popular book on black economic empowerment. The former Detroit resident was paid \$112,000 for the City Council-commissioned report and says he could be involved as a developer in the projects he proposes.

Anderson's 2001 book "PowerNomics: The National Plan to Empower Black America" spent

more than two years on the best-seller list of Essence magazine, which tracks sales at black-owned bookstores.

Under his proposal, the city would dispense grants and low-interest loans to blacks only, using a \$30 million minority business-development fund that Detroit's casinos agreed to pay into long before the African Town idea ever surfaced.

Anderson says the new district would include such things as a fish processing plant, a black beauty-supply store, and soul food and Caribbean restaurants.

He does not use the term "African Town." He says he is concerned only with the plight of "native black Americans," or descendants of slaves. In fact, he says immigrants have taken resources away from black Detroit residents and contributed to black poverty.

Late last month, a few dozen people led by Hispanic and Asian community groups protested in front of City Hall, demanding an apology from the council.

A spokesman for Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, Howard Hughey, said the mayor, who is black, supports the concept of an "African Town" but believes it would be wrong to use public money in a way that would benefit only blacks.

The City Council, on the other hand, already has passed two related resolutions that are part of Anderson's plan, with seven out of nine council members voting in favor.



Kilpatrick



Claud Anderson is the author of several books, including "PowerNomics."