

Perceptions of the poor are often rooted in stereotypes

Continued from page 1A

think that it's the responsibility of the federal, state and county government to help people in need."

Currently, it is. Federal, state and county government bear

most of the expense for assistance programs such as Medicaid, Work First, and food stamps. Mecklenburg is expected to spend \$56.6 million for fiscal year 2005-2006.

But, the federal government will be spending a lot more. During fiscal year 2004-2005, only 10 percent of total fiduciary funds to the county Department of Social Services came from Mecklenburg taxpayers, 25 percent is supplied by the state, 64.5 percent by the federal government, and 0.5 percent from other sources.

Margaret Simms PhD, vice president of governance and economic analysis at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, the nation's largest black think tank, says federal involvement is needed.

"If the private sector takes the lead or faith based institutions, then government should find a way to provide incentives because society as a whole would benefit," she said.

Representatives from non-profit organizations like the Urban League of Central Carolinas say federal assistance is a necessity, especially after the 9/11 attacks left America in a recession in 2001. "This is no time for the government's programs to be entrenched. We all have a stake in making sure people have opportunities for upward mobility," said Madine Fails, the Urban League's president and CEO.

"I think the government should truly be a leader in assisting in breaking the cycle of poverty. It should be top priority in list of to-do's," said Sheila Funderburke, the Urban League's vice

president of workforce development.

Zeigler argues that the government's welfare system creates a cycle of poverty. "When civil society is providing assistance, it's short term tailored assistance until people get back on their feet and into the job market," she said, adding that people feel more accountability to community organizations.

"With the government people begin to feel entitled, some people also don't feel bad milking the system because it's a faceless entity and they don't see it as this is their neighbor or their community," she said. "When you provide the option of long-term assistance, then you've created a problem because you might have someone who will choose that option and you create dependency, not only for them but for their families. You begin to see people who are trapped in a cycle of dependency because the assistance is faceless."

Public opinion and political pressure for welfare reform

occurred in 1996 under former president Bill Clinton's administration. Aid to Families with Dependent Children was replaced by Temporary Aid to Needy Families.

"There were fights about it and when it passed, it decreased benefits for low income people and increased responsibility for women who had to decide if they're receiving TANF benefits," said Marcia Shobe PhD, professor for the department of social work at UNC Charlotte. "It set five-year time limits for welfare in a lifetime, so if you hit that clock, you would never get public assistance again."

A Children's Defense Fund report says that change produced devastating consequences for women and children. "The number of jobless women with children not receiving welfare rose by 188,000 in one year, leaving a record three quarters of all single mothers without public assistance and causing a sudden surge in extreme child poverty," the report states.

Today, the politics remain divided, but what remains clear is in the war on poverty women and children are the main victims and every taxpayer is paying the price. The bottom line, as Republican Mecklenburg commissioner Bill James said:

"Poverty is a societal problem, so we all have to share the pain."

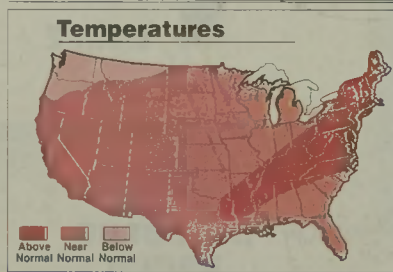
Forecast for Charlotte, NC

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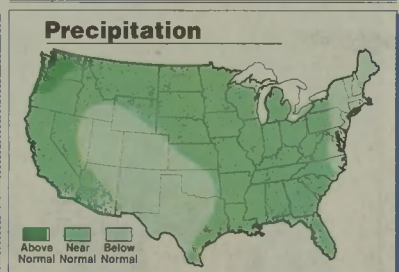
LOCAL 7-DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
A stray thunderstorm	Partly cloudy	An afternoon thunderstorm	Partly sunny	Chance for a thunderstorm	A p.m. storm possible	Cloudy with rain possible	Mainly cloudy
88	70	92/70	90/68	88/68	88/68	83/65	85/64

THE WEEK AHEAD



THE WEEK AHEAD



U.S. TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Today			Friday			Saturday			Sunday			Monday		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	88	72	t	92	72	t	90	70	t	88	68	t	85	65	t
Boston	85	67	t	88	65	t	80	59	pc	78	62	s	82	64	t
Chicago	86	62	t	80	60	pc	80	62	s	84	64	s	86	64	t
Cleveland	88	68	t	80	60	sh	78	60	s	81	62	s	81	62	pc
Denver	82	54	pc	86	58	s	88	56	s	90	58	s	87	57	c
Des Moines	82	60	t	81	61	s	85	66	t	83	67	pc	85	66	sh
Detroit	88	64	t	82	58	pc	80	60	s	81	63	s	82	64	t
Houston	96	76	pc	96	76	pc	95	76	pc	94	75	pc	94	72	t
Indianapolis	91	64	t	81	61	pc	80	62	s	88	67	pc	84	66	t
Kansas City	90	66	t	84	64	pc	86	70	t	89	70	c	89	68	t
Los Angeles	82	62	pc	82	62	s	82	62	pc	80	62	pc	80	62	pc
Miami	89	79	t	90	79	t	90	79	t	90	79	t	90	77	t
Minn.-St. Paul	75	58	pc	79	60	s	82	62	t	81	63	t	82	64	c
New Orleans	96	78	t	94	78	t	92	76	t	93	77	t	92	75	t
New York City	82	72	t	88	67	t	82	64	pc	81	66	s	81	67	s
Omaha	82	62	t	86	62	s	88	66	t	85	67	pc	84	66	pc
Phoenix	112	84	s	110	84	s	110	86	s	108	86	s	107	82	s
San Francisco	74	56	pc	72	56	pc	73	56	pc	75	55	s	75	55	s
Seattle	72	54	pc	68	52	pc	68	52	sh	68	54	pc	70	49	r
Washington, DC	88	72	t	92	70	t	83	64	pc	83	66	s	83	66	s

THE NATIONAL SUMMARY

Temperatures across much of the nation will be near normal as a relatively east-to-west jet stream dominates through the forecast period. However, a slight bulge in the jet stream in the East along with drier, more sunny conditions than normal will lead to rather warm temperatures from East Texas up through New England. Wet, unsettled weather will persist in the northern Plains and Great Lakes.

Weather (W) = sunny pc=partly cloudy
c=cloudy sh=showers t=thunderstorms
r=rain s=snow flurries sn=snow flake

WORLD TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Today			Friday			Saturday			Sunday			Monday		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Amsterdam	70	55	sh	70	54	t	71	60	pc	68	51	sh	66	54	pc
Berlin	72	52	sh	79	54	t	68	54	sh	81	61	pc	77	57	pc
Buenos Aires	61	57	pc	69	56	pc	67	45	sh	59	46	pc	53	49	s
Cairo	96	72	s	96	72	s	98	73	s	99	75	s	101	75	s
Jerusalem	82	60	s	81	60	s	82	61	s	84	63	s	88	63	s
Johannesburg	63	44	s	59	42	pc	58	40	s	60	41	pc	60	42	pc
London	75	57	pc	75	55	sh	73	59	pc	68	50	sh	70	52	sh
Madrid	90	63	s	91	63	pc	93	60	pc	95	58	pc	89	55	pc
Mexico City	74	53	r	73	53	sh	74	56	sh	72	55	sh	70	53	r
Moscow	68	48	c	66	50	t	72	55	t	74	63	pc	75	63	pc
Paris	72	52	sh	68	52	t	80	61	pc	76	55	c	73	53	pc
Rio de Janeiro	82	70	pc	83	71	pc	84	71	pc	83	70	s	79	66	s
Rome	90	70	s	88	68	pc	80	61	pc	86	65	s	84	63	s
San Juan	90	78	t	90	78	sh	89	78	pc	88	77	s	90	77	t
Seoul	86	74	r	88	74	pc	83	76	t	83	77	t	85	71	pc
Sydney	63	54	r	65	47	sh	67	49	pc	64	53	s	63	53	pc
Tokyo	80	66	r	73	60	t	78	71	c	81	72	sh	83	73	t
Toronto	88	66	t	80	56	t	74	52	s	81	62	s	81	63	pc
Winnipeg	64	52	t	68	56	pc	72	58	t	74	58	t	74	56	pc
Zurich	75	56	pc	61	58	t	69	55	sh	75	57	sh	68	57	sh

SUN & MOON

Date	Sunrise		Sunset	
	Time	Time	Time	Time
Thu., June 30	6:12 a.m.	8:42 p.m.	6:12 a.m.	8:42 p.m.
Fri., July 1	6:12 a.m.	8:42 p.m.	6:13 a.m.	8:42 p.m.
Sat., July 2	6:13 a.m.	8:42 p.m.	6:13 a.m.	8:42 p.m.
Sun., July 3	6:13 a.m.	8:42 p.m.	6:14 a.m.	8:42 p.m.
Mon., July 4	6:14 a.m.	8:42 p.m.	6:14 a.m.	8:41 p.m.
Tue., July 5	6:14 a.m.	8:41 p.m.	6:15 a.m.	8:41 p.m.
Wed., July 6	6:15 a.m.	8:41 p.m.		

Date	Moonrise		Moonset	
	Time	Time	Time	Time
Thu., June 30	1:58 a.m.	3:34 p.m.	1:58 a.m.	3:34 p.m.
Fri., July 1	2:26 a.m.	4:38 p.m.	2:26 a.m.	4:38 p.m.
Sat., July 2	2:58 a.m.	5:41 p.m.	2:58 a.m.	5:41 p.m.

Date	Moon Phase			
	Laet	New	First	Full
June 28				
July 6				
July 14				
July 21				

NEW BIRTH CHARLOTTE
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Bishop Eddie L. Long
Presiding Bishop

Terrell L. Murphy
Senior Pastor

Thank You City of Charlotte

Thank You City of Charlotte for your continued support of New Birth-Charlotte. Twenty seven months ago, we entered this community to partner with churches that were already planted in this city. Our desire has been to unite with them for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God. The overwhelming response of the people in this community (3,000 members in 27 months) has provided a foundation by which this purpose can be fulfilled. For the past twenty seven months, we held worship services at North Mecklenburg High School in Huntersville. Due to the rapid growth, we have temporarily moved to a new location until the completion of our new facility in 2006 (to be located off Highway 73 in Huntersville). As a result of this transition, we can better accommodate current and future growth, be more effective in ministry, and better serve the Metropolitan Charlotte area.

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