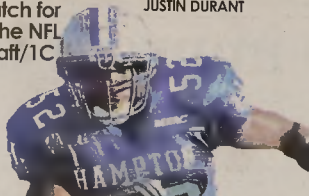




DARRYL HUNT'S ROAD TO JUSTICE 1D

What to watch for in the NFL draft/1C

Hampton LB JUSTIN DURANT



Black Enterprise publisher on being EARL GRAVES, Business Hall of Fame inductee.

# The Charlotte Post

The Voice of the Black Community

JAMES B. DUKE Also serving Cabarrus  
JOHNSON C. SMITH MEMORIAL  
COMMUNITY BUILDING INITIATIVES

\*\*\*\*\*5-DIGIT 28216 512 P1  
James B. Duke Library  
100 Beatties Ford Rd  
Charlotte NC 28216-5302

## Dropout answers delayed to May

Some Myers Park High families are seeking legal help

By Erica Singleton  
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools won't report its investigation into allegations of student misconduct and dropout coercion at Myers Park until May.

Meanwhile, parents of students allegedly forced out at Myers Park are looking into hiring attorneys, said Richard Hanners, a retired CMS counselor who is working with the parents.

Asked if that means a lawsuit could result, Hanners said "There's a good likelihood."

Helms, Mulliss & Wicker attorney Landis Wade, a Myers Park graduate and parent leading the investigation, presented his findings Tuesday in a closed-door meeting with the school board. The panel will finish reading the report and perhaps make those findings public next month.

CMS Superintendent Peter Gorman admitted in a March press conference that a possible strategy to force at-risk students out at one school may have spread to other campuses. Following the press conference, CMS established a telephone hotline on March 30 for parents with concerns their children were coerced to drop out. The confidential line closed April 13. CMS's communications office explained in a statement: "Since the hotline just closed ... we are extending the investigation to give the attorneys time to review any new information and contact additional families, if needed."

While the hotline addressed possible coercion, little has been said about alleged miscodings. CMS officials have been asked about the district's coding procedure, who is responsible for determining students' status and who has to approve, or sign them before they are official.

The official response is: "The registrar is responsible for entering the code in the computer for a student withdrawal. The coding is based on information that typically comes from the family of the student, which is often passed along to the registrar from a school administrator or counselor. Dee Gibson, supervisor of student attendance, uses the information from the school to prepare all school reports to submit as a district report on a monthly basis. Ann Clark, regional superintendent for high schools, verifies that a student is 16 years old and eligible to be dropped."

Please see MAY/3A

With trust between ethnic groups lagging, Charlotte leaders launch long-term initiatives for change

## Community at crossroads



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Johnson C. Smith University officials Karen Lawler, Calvin Banks, Angela Jeter and Kenneth Westary listen to speakers at Tuesday's Crossroads Charlotte press conference. JCSU launched initiatives to tutor at-risk public school students and expand its Saturday Academy.

Organizations are doing work important to their organizations, but they are doing it in collaboration with other organizations, which brings a sort of mutual accountability. Community Building Initiatives director Dianne English

By Erica Singleton  
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Organizations representing business, education, and communities announced Tuesday initiatives geared to build access, inclusion and equity across Charlotte.

The programs are part of a community initiative named Crossroads Charlotte which called on groups to respond to four possible stories about the year 2015 and the kind of community that might take shape.

"Years ago we developed a

representative listing of major for profit, not for profit, educational, governmental, faith based, and media organizations, to come together," said Dianne English, executive director of Community Building Initiative, which manages Crossroads Charlotte. "The companies had to decide whether to continue or opt out; 35-plus opted to stay in."

Announcements were made by team leaders and representatives of 15 organization, including Bank of America, Charlotte-

Please see INITIATIVES/2A

### POLL POSITION IN PALMETTO STATE



Clinton Former first lady leads among S.C. Democrats  
Obama Freshman U.S. senator in second place.  
Edwards Native son has some catching up to do.

33% 26% 21%

SOURCE: BARRINGTON BROADCASTING-ZOGBY POLL

## Stakes high in Democrat debate

In S.C., focus is on large African American base

By Herbert L. White  
herb.white@thecharlottepost.com

Cardero Gilliam is leaning toward supporting U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton for president, but the former first lady can't count on his vote just yet. He wants to hear Clinton - and anyone running against her - talk about issues important to African Americans.

"It's not in stone by any means," said Gilliam, a Rock Hill Democrat. "Anybody could come out of the woodwork if they're talking about what's important to us."

Tonight's Democratic debate at South Carolina State University in Orangeburg is the latest round in a campaign dominated by

Please see S.C. CAMPAIGN/8A

## U.S. businesses keep food from Africa's hungry

By Grace Akinrinade

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

U.S. aid programs that feed the hungry in Africa have been hamstrung by rules created for American agribusiness, which put Africa in the paradoxical situation of waiting up to six months for food from America because they are not allowed to eat of their own stockpiled food.

Under American law, virtually all food given as aid must be grown in the United States, which means it has to be shipped out.

Thomas Melito, director for international affairs and trade of the Government Accountability Office, said in an interview:

See U.S. BUSINESS/2A

## Huntersville mothers of invention in national spotlight for product

By Herbert L. White  
herb.white@thecharlottepost.com

George Washington Carver invented new uses for the peanut. Garrett Morgan created the traffic signal. Deborah Mance helped design the ultimate scrapbook aid.

Mance and co-inventors Mary LaValley and Pam Hester are the brains behind

a magnetic scrapbooking system in "Everyday Edisons," a reality show that debuts nationally at 7:30 p.m. Sunday on PBS. It can be seen in Charlotte on WTVI (channel 42).

Like most inventions, the Arccivo system was an idea born out of necessity. Returning from a 2003 scrapbooking show in Myrtle Beach, Mance,

LaValley and Hester pondered how they could hold materials in place until they could be mounted permanently.

"We'd talked about scrapbooking and we said we'd love to bring something to the market," said Mance, a Huntersville resident and reimbursement manager and Medicare educator at Please see MOTHERS/3A



BOUNCING BRAIN PRODUCTIONS

Mary LaValley, Pam Hester and Deborah Mance (from left) are inventors of a magnetic scrapbooking system highlighted on "Everyday Edisons" on PBS.



Wake Forest professor talks about religion's divisive power/5B

### INSIDE

Life 1B Religion 5B

Sports 1C Business 6C

A&E 1D Classified 3D

Please Recycle

