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WEEK OF JANUARY 22-28, 2004

Opportunity knocks for Edwards in S.C. primary

N.C. senator looks to attract voters who supported Gephardt

By Jennifer Holland
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, S.C. — John Edwards' campaign to help the middle class may put him in position to pick up many of Dick Gephardt's supporters in South Carolina, including labor groups and black voters.



Edwards

With many residents angry about the loss of thousands of manufacturing jobs, "Edwards becomes the person now who is in a position to speak to those," said Scott Huffman, a Winthrop University political science professor.

Rep. Gephardt, who withdrew from the Democratic presidential race Tuesday, had highlighted his promise of more new jobs and fairer trade during his many campaign trips to the state.



Clyburn

Rep. Jim Clyburn, who had endorsed his longtime House colleague, predicted that Edwards would get a boost from the Missouri congressman's departure. "They both have the same kind of resume," Clyburn said.

But while Clyburn said he didn't know whether he would make another endorsement before the state's Feb. 3 Democratic primary, on which

Please see EDWARDS/2A

Support groups help prospective adoption families

By Marshall Reiffsteck
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Adopting a child can be a complicated, difficult process, and it helps to know that others can relate to your experiences.

Mecklenburg County offers a wide array of support groups for adoptive families in every stage of the process, from those just beginning to consider adoption, all the way to parents helping their adopted teenagers struggle with their identity.

OPEN HEARTS, Some focus on navigating the legal and financial issues associated with adoptions, both domestic and international.

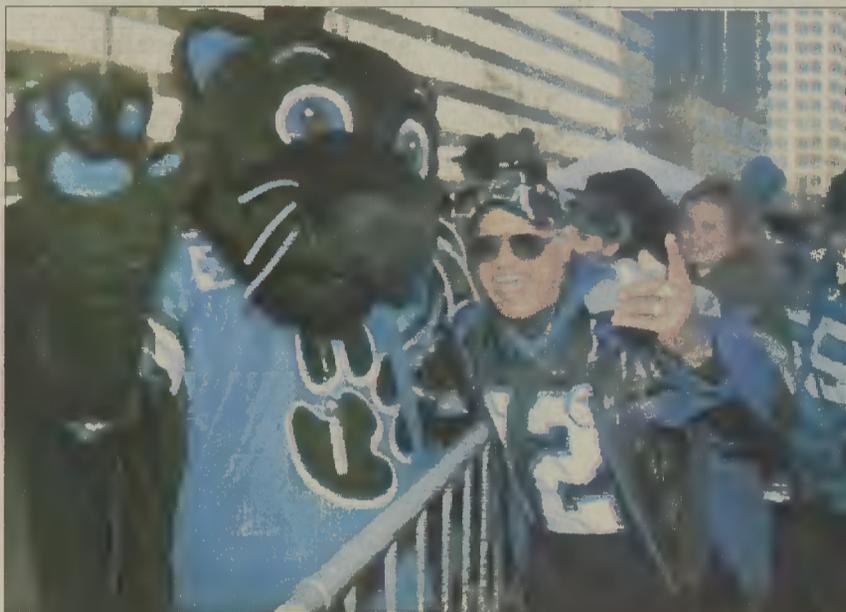
OPEN HOMES Others emphasize parenting issues unique to adoptive families.

Sandra Gittleman of Huntersville has been involved with Grafted Families, a Christian adoption support group based at Grace Covenant Church in Cornelius since its inception about four years ago.

"It's been such a great support group for me and our family," Gittleman said. "You get to listen to other parents who have gone through challenges with their teens. You benefit from hearing about other people's experiences, from learning about the ages and the stages of challenges that adopted children go through."

Adoption has had its share of joys and tribulations for the Gittlemans, whose sons, ages 8 and

Please see HELP/3A



PHOTOS/WADE NASH

Sir Purr, the Carolina Panthers mascot, hams it up with fan John Jackson, aka "Redd Foxx," at a pep rally uptown before the NFC championship game. This week, the Panthers made the cover of Sports Illustrated for the second time ever.

You better recognize: We've gone cat-crazy

By Cheri Hodges
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Mass mayhem, loud euphoria.

The Carolina Panthers are Super Bowl bound and fans of the big cats rocked Uptown Charlotte Sunday to greet the NFC champions. Car horns blared, people danced in the street, hoping up on the hoods of cars. For two weeks, Charlotte has only one thing on its collective mind.

Strangers are bonded by their love of the Panthers and their excitement about the

team that no one figured would accomplish much. But after a 14-3 win over Philadelphia Eagles Sunday, the Panthers, who were 1-15 two years ago, are Houston-bound to face the New England Patriots. This is Carolina's first trip to the Super Bowl in the franchise's nine-year history. But for some fans, this isn't a surprise.

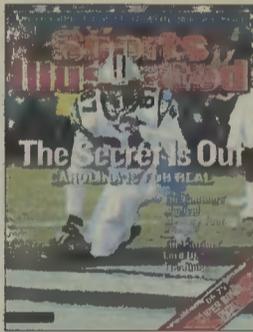
"I predicted this in August," former city council member Ella Scarborough said as she waited at newly-named Bank Of America Stadium for the Panthers to return from Philadelphia after defeating the Eagles. "I love it. This is an affirmation."

Scarborough says she has been a fan from the beginning and why not? She was part of the city council that brought the Panthers to Charlotte nine years ago.

No one but the die-hard Panther faithful gave the Cats a chance at the Super Bowl. Fans like Beverly McDuffie, braved the cold uptown wind to scream for her favorite football team. "The Panthers are a good team and they are often overlooked," she said.

It was hard to overlook what the team did this season. Winning seven games by three points or less and going to overtime five times this year, the Panthers earned the nickname "Cardiac Cats."

See FACE IT/2A



Who you representin'?

Panthers like Greg Favors (left) and Ricky Manning may be unknown nationally, but team-first attitude has them in Super Bowl. Page 1C.



WINSTON-SALEM COUNCILMAN INSTALLED MARKER ON MLK HOLIDAY

Commandments monument removed

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINSTON-SALEM — A one-ton granite monument to the Ten Commandments placed in front of Winston-Salem's City Hall by a lone council member was swiftly removed Tuesday.

The monument violated a policy that councilman Vernon Robinson — who installed the monument Monday — had voted for in September, said city spokeswoman Carrie Collins. The policy bans public displays or plaques on city-owned facilities without permission of the

city council or manager.

"It had nothing to do with what was on the plaque," Collins said. "It was just that it was in violation of city policy."

Collins also cited safety concerns. "The plaque is in two pieces ...and we didn't want somebody to push it over and hurt somebody."



Robinson

No protesters were present when the monument was lifted with a backhoe and taken to a Department of Transportation warehouse, Collins said.

The monument was returned to Robinson later in the day, and it turned up Tuesday evening near City Hall, where about 25 people held a candlelight prayer vigil.

The group, including Robinson, marched to a nearby street where the monument sat on a flatbed truck. Participants

See 10 COMMANDMENTS/7A

50TH ANNIVERSARY



LEVINE MUSEUM OF THE NEW SOUTH

African American parents in Clarendon County, S.C., sued the state to improve education opportunities for black students. That suit led to what became Brown v. Board of Education.

Exhibit highlights Brown decision

By Herbert L. White
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Fifty years ago, legally-segregated schools was a fact of life in the U.S.

Next week, the Carolinians who started its transformation will be remembered in a Charlotte exhibit.

From Jan. 31 through Aug. 15, Levine Museum of the New South will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the decision with the exhibit, "Courage: The Carolina Story That Changed America."

The celebration starts with National Public Radio correspondent Juan Williams at a Jan. 30 forum. On Jan. 31, a symposium on Brown will be held with historian John Hope Franklin. Tickets for the Williams forum are \$20.

More than half a century ago, families in Clarendon County, S.C., launched the first of five national lawsuits challenging the legality of racially segregated public schools. The lawsuits were combined into what became known as Brown v. Topeka, Kansas Board of Education and in 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court declared segregated schools unconstitutional.

Although Brown is remembered as a Kansas case, the original lawsuit was filed in South Carolina by a country preacher named Rev. J.A. De Laine and his neighbors in Clarendon County. "Courage" tells their story as poor people outside the political mainstream and lit-

See EXHIBIT/2A

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