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WEEK OF APRIL 29-MAY 5, 2004

Caucus future is strictly political

N.C. sanctions limits future fund raising

By Herbert L. White
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For two years, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Black Political Caucus will have to be all politics all the time.



Davis

But that's not necessarily a bad thing.

With its community funding cut off by the N.C. Board of Elections, the BPC will have to survive as a political action committee. Contributions must be documented and limits are imposed, the result of last week's finding by the State Board of Elections of repeated improprieties by the caucus.

The caucus broke state law in 2002 by accepting more than \$20,000 loaned by N.C. Rep. Pete Cunningham, exceeding the \$4,000 limit per election cycle. It repaid Cunningham \$6,074 from its general fund, another violation, in addition to accepting \$3,000 in excess contributions from another political action committee.

"The State Board of Elections felt we violated the law in a profuse way because we'd done it before," said Bob Davis, chairman of the N.C. Human Relations Committee and a former caucus chair. "We violated it twice and we should've known better."

The elections board determined the BPC took money from its general fund and used it for political purposes, an allegation initially made four years ago by Mecklenburg County Commissioner

Please see CAUCUS/7A

Roseland sweeter community after year of change

By Herbert L. White
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Roseland Apartments isn't the same, and its residents are proud of it.

The complex, which has undergone demographic and structural changes under new management, will host the New Roseland Unity Festival at 1220 Pressley Road Saturday at 1 p.m. The festival is a multicultural gathering with food, music and snacks. Admission is free and open to the public.

Roseland, located in southwest Charlotte near Interstate 77, has changed dramatically with Interstate Realty Management taking over day to day operations. Crime has gone down in the Pressley Road area, with 89 incidents reported from April 1, 2003 to April 1, 2004, according to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police. From April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003, 121 reports were filed. The increased presence of law enforcement and kicking troublesome tenants out of the affordable housing complex helped.

"We have successfully evicted over 150 undesirable residents, and we could not have achieved this without the outstanding support of the CPMD and Metro (Special Police), as well as the courts," site manager Nathalie Werst said.

Please see ROSELAND/2A

CELEBRATING APARTHEID'S FALL



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO/LORI WASELCHUK

Young and old gathered to celebrate "Ten Years of Democracy" in Pretoria, South Africa Tuesday where President Thabo Mbeki was sworn in for a second terms.

South Africa cheers decade of democracy

By Terry Leonard
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PRETORIA, South Africa - South Africa inaugurated a president Tuesday and celebrated 10 years as a multiracial democracy with cheers and songs of tribute to Nelson Mandela, the

patriarch who peacefully led the nation out of apartheid.

Thabo Mbeki, Mandela's successor as president, began his second term with a pledge never to betray those who suffered and died to end white minority rule.

"Despite the fact that we

are a mere 10 years removed from the period of racist dictatorship, it is today impossible to imagine a South Africa that is not a democratic South Africa," Mbeki said in his inaugural address.

"We are proud that every day now, black and white

Please see SOUTH/2A

Key dates for South Africa since end of apartheid:



Mandela

- April 27-29, 1994 - First all-race democratic elections won by African National Congress.
- May 10, 1994 - ANC leader Nelson Mandela inaugurated first black president.
- Dec. 5, 1995 - Truth and Reconciliation Commission formed to investigate crimes committed under apartheid.
- May 8, 1996 - New constitution ratified guaranteeing equal rights and

- majority rule.
- Dec. 20, 1997 - Thabo Mbeki succeeds Mandela as ANC leader.
- June 2, 1999 - ANC wins sweeping majority in national and provincial elections.
- June 14, 1999 - Mbeki inaugurated president.
- March 21, 2003 - Truth Commission recommends government pay \$348 million to victims of apartheid-era abuses.
- Nov. 19, 2003 - Cabinet approves comprehensive AIDS strategy, including free medicine for all who need it within five years.
- April 14, 2004 - Third democratic national and provincial elections.

Eastland hotline response strong

Input taken into account by mall management

By Cheri F. Hodges
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Eastland Mall management wants public input to keep the mall safe and friendly for shoppers.

Last week, the mall set up a web site and hotline for shoppers and people in the community to respond to incidents involving teens who hang out in the mall.

Since the hotline and web site were launched last Thursday, mall officials said they have received about 100 calls and e-mails.

People who call the hotline hear a recorded greeting asking them to leave their comments.

"We've continued to work with the city of Charlotte to identify solutions," said mall manager Kevin McCluskey.

McCluskey said a number of the suggestions the mall have received were both constructive and emotional. "We had people asking for better stores, more national stores. We have people that were for the parental escort policy and some that were against it," McCluskey said.

Before final decisions are made about changes at the mall to curb future violent incidents, McCluskey

Please see EASTLAND/3A

Foster kids get boost in parenting with program

By Cheri F. Hodges
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The Mecklenburg County Youth and Family Services Department is joining foster parents and biological parents to benefit

OPEN HEARTS, foster kids.
OPEN HOMES Social worker Dianne Horton

said foster parents and natural parents are sharing the duties of raising children. She said foster parents are encouraged to allow natural parents to take a key part in the foster child's life - not just do fun things with the child while they are in foster care.

Horton likened it to a child of divorce. "If the only thing a child does with their father is go to the movies and eat out, but the mother has to be the disciplinarian, then that is not realistic," she said.

Shared parenting also helps the department with its main objective.

"Our goal is always to be able to place the child back with their family as quickly as possible," Horton said.

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