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WEEK OF AUGUST 18-24, 2005

Shift in health care for children

N.C. budget would move youngest to Medicaid

By Sommer Brokaw
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

RALEIGH — Senate Bill 622 proposes to move kids 5 and under from NC Health Choice to Medicaid. Supporters of the bill say it will allow the state to keep serving more kids because the federal government is running out of money to fund Health Choice. But opponents say that if it causes reimbursement levels for doctors to get cut and providers to be scaled back, Medicaid will be headed towards destruction.

The proposal is a strong victory for the North Carolina Justice Center which has advocated for the Senate to make this change for years.

"The provision in the budget bill to switch children 5 and under to Medicaid, actually, it's a very good thing for a number of reasons," said Sorien Schmidt, legislative director for the Justice Center. "The kids will continue to get care even if the federal government doesn't provide enough money to health choice. By making these changes, there should be enough money left for NC Health Choice to cover children ages 6 to 18."

Sen. Walter H. Dalton, who represents Cleveland and Rutherford counties, admits that the change has to be made.

"More states are going to health choice, and the federal money is less than what it used to be. Based on those projections we'd run out of money fairly quickly and

See BUDGET/7A



PHOTO/NEWS & OBSERVER
N.C. Sen. Robert Holloman, D-Ahoskie, pauses during the Senate session last week. The chamber passed scores of bills, but couldn't close its session.

THIRD-PARTY INTERVENTION OVER HOLIDAY BASH



FILE PHOTO/WADE NASH

Treatment of African Americans at Atlantic Beach Bikefest, held during Memorial Day weekend, has been a point of contention between the NAACP and Myrtle Beach officials. Mediation sessions have been set for this week in a lawsuit challenging the way Myrtle Beach handles traffic.

Mediation ordered in S.C. Bikefest lawsuit

Dispute centers on how blacks treated

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — Mediation sessions are set this week in a lawsuit challenging the way Myrtle Beach handles traffic during a black biker rally each spring.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People sued more than two years ago because of what it says is a discriminatory policy.

The suit alleges black bikers

at the Atlantic Beach Bikefest on Memorial Day weekend are treated differently from those at the Carolina Harley-Davidson Dealers Association Myrtle Beach Rally, a predominantly white rally the previous week.

During the black biker rally, traffic is limited to one way along busy Ocean Boulevard. It is allowed to flow both directions during the Harley-

Davidson rally.

The lawsuit is scheduled for trial next April and an out-of-court resolution before then could save the city legal fees and resolve the case.

Both sides agreed to mediation sessions beginning Tuesday, city manager Tom Leath said. Another session was expected on Wednesday.

The NAACP sought an
See MEDIATION/2A

Unspecified illness hospitalizes C. King

By Erin Haines
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA - Coretta Scott King was admitted to a hospital for an unspecified condition Tuesday and was in fair condition, a hospital spokeswoman said.

King, 78, the widow of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., went to an emergency room

Tuesday morning, Piedmont Hospital spokeswoman Diana Lewis would not elaborate on the reason for the hospitalization, but said King will spend the night at the hospital for observation.

Media outlets reported Wednesday that King suffered a stroke.

Lewis said the King family is expected to release a statement Wednesday. Attempts

to reach relatives by phone Tuesday weren't successful.

King has canceled recent public appearances, raising concerns about the health of the civil rights matriarch.

At a ceremony paying tribute to the King family at the Georgia State Capitol on June 30, her son Martin Luther King III said his mother was "doing well" and
Please see CORETTA/2A



King

Rains, flooding staggers north Darfur

By Mohamed Osman
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Heavy rains have damaged a dam and caused flooding that has left thousands of people without shelter in the capital of North Darfur state and a nearby camp for displaced people, government officials said Monday.

The rainfall from Friday morning to Saturday collapsed part of the Haloof Dam, some 13 kilometers (eight miles) northeast of El-Fasher, and sent meter-high waters sweeping through the area.

An official at the Ministry of

Humanitarian Affairs said some 2,284 families lost their makeshift shelters in Abu Shouk camp, according to a preliminary report. In El-Fasher, seven neighborhoods were leveled and some 547 families left homeless, 12 schools were destroyed and the central market was heavily damaged, the official said.

He spoke on condition of anonymity because the report has yet to be released.

No casualties were reported. "The situation has now been brought under control and the government has exercised tremendous efforts, distributing

canvas and blankets and sorghum to the affected families," Gov. Osman Mohamed Yusuf Kibir said. He said over 2,200 sacks of sorghum had been handed out.

The Humanitarian Affairs report said the main concern now is to contain any sanitary or health problems, fearing a possible outbreak of disease because of pools of standing water and sewage mixing with rainwater.

The ministry official said international organizations met Sunday in El-Fasher and will assess how best to assist the situation.

How high a price for slave profits?

Wachovia's \$10 million to black causes draws praise and criticism

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

Is \$10 million enough to apologize for slavery? Wachovia Corp.'s partnerships with African-American organizations has drawn criticism from reparations activists who say it's not enough to compensate for the company's profits from slavery. Last month, the bank announced programs with the Association for the Study of African Life and History, National Humanities Center, United Negro College Fund, Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund, NAACP and National Urban League.



Thompson

The programs will concentrate on preserving and promoting African-American history and culture; and enhance educational and economic opportunities.

This new community initiative follows Wachovia's June 1 announcement of historical ties to slavery through two predecessor companies.

"Our partnerships reflect feedback and ideas that we received from employees, customers and community organizations, including many

Please see HOW MUCH/2A

Caucus honors leaders from all walks of life

Nine to be recognized for community work

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

The Black Political Caucus is honoring nine of the county's best-known and brightest.

They will be honored Friday at 6:30 p.m. at the Marriott Charlotte Executive Park Hotel, 5700 West Park Drive, Charlotte, NC 28217. The reception begins at 6:30 p.m. with the program following at 7:15 p.m.

The honorees are:

- Judge Clifton Johnson, Cannon (Pinnacle Award);
- The Rev. Claude Alexander of University Park Baptist Church (religion);
- Mayor Pro-Tem Patrick Cannon, (politics);
- Kristina Cunningham, (youth);
- Thereasa Clark Elder (community service);
- Jermaine and Damien Johnson of No Grease Barber & Salon, (business);
- Retired Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools superintendent James Pughsley (service) and
- CMS Chairman Joe White (education).

Tickets for the banquet are \$50. For information call Anna Hood, Chairperson at (704) 333-4685.

David Jones takes his ribs from NFL training tables to Southern kitchens 8C



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