

SEASON OF FIRSTS

Blumenthal Performing Arts Center 2005-06 lineup includes Cece Winans 1D



United Methodist ministers focus on history and community 8B



DEFENSI-BULL

Retoiled defense key to competitive season at Johnson C. Smith 1C

Defensive end Donald Haynesworth

Volume 30 No. 49

\$1.00

The Charlotte Post

*****5-DIGIT 28216 59 P1
 James B. Duke Library
 100 Beatties Ford Rd
 Charlotte NC 28216-5302

The Voice of the Black Community

Also serving Cabarrus, Chester, Mecklenburg, Rowan and York counties

WEEK OF AUGUST 25-31, 2005

NOI leader to rally for Millions

Farrakhan to speak at Little Rock AME Zion

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

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan will be in Charlotte next month to rally support for October's Millions More march in Washington.

Farrakhan will speak Sept. 12 at Little Rock AME Zion Church, 401 McDowell St. Doors will open at 5 p.m. Farrakhan's talk is part of the Million More Movement Mobilization, a cross-country tour of U.S. cities to push participation in the Oct. 15 rally on the National Mall.

Farrakhan, who last visited Charlotte in 1997, was invited by the Millions More Movement Local Organizing Committee.

"It's been a while since he's been to Charlotte," said Michael Muhammad, a member of the Nation of Islam. "We're billing it as the return of Farrakhan."

The Millions More rally commemorates the 10th anniversary of the Million Man March, believed to be one the largest gatherings in Washington history. Estimates of attendance at the 1995 rally - also led by Farrakhan - ranged from 700,000 to more than 1 million black men.

In visits to cities such as Indianapolis, Ind., Dallas, Texas and Atlanta, Farrakhan has encouraged Millions More participation among groups other than black men. Unlike the 1995 run-up, most black organizations and politicians have been supportive of, if not openly embracing, the rally.

On the Net
 Millions More Movement
 www.millionsmoremovement.com



FILE PHOTO

Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan will speak in Charlotte Sept.

ENSURING NO CHILD IS LEFT BEHIND



CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS

Karen Young, a fifth-grade teacher at Shamrock Gardens Elementary School, leads a class in April. To help black students catch up academically, African American educators and administrators are pushing for more funding for No Child Left Behind, a federal program that measures schools' education progress.

Closing academic gap requires dollars, sense

Black student achievement focus of conference

By David D. Dawson
 THE CHARLOTTE POST

The No Child Left Behind Act is only as good as its funding to eliminate educational gaps for African American students, the president of the National Education Association said last week.

Reginald Weaver outlined ways to close the academic gap in public education at the fifth annual National African-American School Board Members Summit in Charlotte. Weaver told school board members from across the U.S. that the keys to improving academic achievement is to improve and increase funding for No Child Left Behind.

"The goals of No Child Left Behind are good, because they are the same goals that you work to have in your curriculum," he said. "Accountability, high test (scores), closing the achievement gap. But how this law is crafted it is difficult, if not impossible to get there. There needs to be more flexibility and funding. Right now, we believe that the program is \$27 billion shy of what it needs to be."

No Child Left Behind, signed into law in 2002 by President George W. Bush, has expanded the federal role in education and set requirements in place that affect

See ACHIEVEMENT/2A

U.S. school daze

- Black fourth-graders are 28 percentage points behind whites in reading
- 50.2 percent of black ninth-graders graduate with a high school diploma, compared to 74.9 percent of whites
- Between 1990-2000, the average percentage of black students at or above basic achievement levels in math was 32 percent; for whites, it was 72 percent
- Blacks make up 17 percent of public school enrollment, and 33 percent of suspensions.

SOURCES:
 U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION;
 HARVARD UNIVERSITY, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS AND THE ADVANCEMENT PROJECT

Annan tours Niger to highlight crisis

By Dalatou Mamane
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ZINDER, Niger — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan visited skeletal babies in Niger and heard villagers' pleas for help Tuesday, seeking to put attention on 5 million north-west Africans left short of food after their crops were ravaged by drought and locusts.

The United Nations was among the first, in November, to warn of the impending hunger crisis in the desert region, but its appeals for aid were largely ignored. A French humanitarian group accused the world body on Monday of responding to Niger's plight with too little, too late.

Niger President Mamadou Tandja, who has accused U.N. officials, aid groups and opposition parties of exaggerating his country's

problems for political and economic gain, welcomed Annan at the airport in the eastern city of Zinder.

"I came to see myself, to talk to the government, to see what we can do together to improve the situation not only in the short-term, but also in the long-term," Annan told reporters as he began a two-day visit.

With an entourage of more than 100 officials and journalists, Annan toured Zinder's main hospital. He spoke to mothers about their problems, standing near dozens of emaciated children in beds, some with IV drips in their arms.

Annan saw similar scenes at an emergency feeding center run by the French aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres. On Monday, that group said that "the U.N. was slow to react to the cur-

Please see UN/3A



ASSOCIATED PRESS/SCHALK VAN ZUYDAM

Amisso Adu, age 3 and weighing 12 pounds due to malnutrition, is treated in a makeshift feeding center in Maradi, Niger in this July 24 photo.

Rental car tax faces hurdles

Funding proposal for arts plan may not get a hearing until 2007

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

Charlotte City Council's proposed rental car tax hike may face a tough time passing legislative muster when it comes up for debate.

The council voted 8-3 to override Mayor Pat McCrory's veto of a tax increase from 11 percent to 15 percent, but that just removed one hurdle to building \$147 million in new museums and theatres. The General Assembly will likely be more difficult to navigate given that the rental tax increase faces opposition on several fronts.

The earliest the hike could be considered is next summer if the entire Mecklenburg delegation gives its blessing, which is far from certain. Without unanimous approval, the proposal would likely be pushed back to spring 2007.

"The only thing I can say is it won't be taken up until next summer," state Rep. Beverly Earle said in a telephone interview from Raleigh Wednesday. "I'm not so sure we'll have unanimous support. In the long session, anyone can bring it up, but in the short session, you need

Please see RENTAL/2A

For documentary producer, there's strength in video

Voting rights clash to debut on WTVI

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

Award-winning documentary producer Steve Crump's latest endeavor puts a new face on the Alabama clashes that created a national drive for voting rights in the South.

Crump's film, "Strength From Selma," will premiere tonight at 6:30 p.m. at Levine Museum of the New South. A reception will be held, followed by a discussion led by Crump and viewing at 8 p.m. Admission is free. The documentary debuts on WTVI (channel 42) simultaneously.

Crump, a WBTV reporter who has won regional Emmy awards for his documentaries, interviewed numerous participants in the infamous 1965 "Bloody Sunday" confrontation between voting rights advocates and Alabama state police at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Among them: U.S. Rep. John Lewis and retired Sheriff Jim Clark. The protesters' beating at the bridge - and its broadcast on national television - provided momentum that ultimately produced the Voting Rights Act.



Crump

Stylist to the stars opens SouthPark salon 8C



INSIDE

Life 1B Religion 8B

Sports 1C Business 8C

A&E 1D Happenings 6C

Please Recycle



To subscribe, call (704) 376-0496 or FAX (704) 342-2160. © 2005 The Charlotte Post Publishing Co.