

2005: What was, what's in store next year

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Americans and Latinos. Official findings – and ideas to deal with the violence – have been slow to appear outside increased patrols in the center city after a series of well-publicized incidents.

Because so much happened in Charlotte in the last 12 months, it's impossible to get them all in. So here are the high and low points and what they could portend in 2006.

What happened: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, once the shining example of academic achievement and racial tolerance, continued to unravel under the twin forces of management issues and public unrest over CMS leadership.

Politically, no story was larger than the ugly public infighting on the school board. While the board ripped itself, usually along ideology and race, confidence in CMS dropped. The lowest point was the defeat of a \$427 million bond referendum that would've addressed overcrowding in the suburbs and refurbish inner-city campuses.

What to watch for: In 2006, the school board has its hands full. The panel has to interview and select a new superintendent, wrestle with assembling another bond referendum and deal with overcrowding and maintenance of buildings. There's also the issue of academic achievement, which was all but drowned out in the fight over referendums and board members' behavior. And don't forget the still-pending Leandro case that has focused attention on the education of poor students in CMS, which Judge Howard Manning called "academic genocide."

What happened: After a decade of failure, Charlotte

finally landed what many consider the crown jewel of college basketball tournaments.

The CIAA, a league of 12 historically black colleges, decided to play the 2006-08 tournaments in Charlotte Bobcats Arena, giving Charlotte a major tourism boost in the process. Last year, more than 110,000 fans visited Raleigh, which had hosted the CIAA for six years. Charlotte officials expect a minimum of \$12 million to flow into the city coffers, but whose pockets would get lined was the source of dispute.

Black business owners, concerned that uptown leaders and city officials would steer fans exclusively to the center city, demanded greater access to opportunities at the tournament. CIAA Commissioner Leon Kerry pledged to work with local businesses to secure opportunities.

What to watch for: If Raleigh's experience is an example, it'll take Charlotte a year to get accustomed to the CIAA, which is as much homecoming and family reunion as it is basketball tournament. Tourism and steering committee leaders promise the city will roll out the red carpet. Uptown clubs, which have been knocked for being less than hospitable to blacks, have already drawn the attention of center city boosters. A good uptown experience will go a long way to the tournament's run.

What happened: Patrick Cannon was all set to give incumbent Mayor Pat McCrory a run for his seat. Cannon, then mayor pro tem, was the big-name Democrat party bosses had longed for. But before the primary, Cannon cut his campaign and City Council career short, citing family

commitments. Without Cannon, the Democrats settled for two-time candidate Craig Madans, who was swept away in the November election.

What to watch for: Cannon's absence opened an opportunity for Anthony Foxx, a Charlotte native who finished third in November's at-large race. Democratic backers are already betting Foxx, grandson of the late political activist James Foxx, can develop into a top-notch bridge-builder. And, some hope, mayoral material.

What happened: Afro-American Cultural Center fires executive director Beverly Cureton.

Cureton, who led the center for two years, was voted out by the AACC board in July after an impasse over the center's direction. A search was launched for her successor, whom Chairman David Taylor said should be an adept fund raiser. In recent years, the Afro Center has struggled with finding money to expand programming.

What to look for: Even without a director, the Afro Center remains an important cog of Charlotte's arts and cultural future. The center is part of Wachovia's long term plan to place facilities uptown, which includes some public-private funding. And the AACC has launched a community fund raising campaign to raise awareness of the institution's mission.

What happened: Wachovia Corp. admits past profits tied to slavery.



OUT: Concord's Barber-Scotia College was shuttered in September under snow-balling expenses and no federal funds for students.

FILE PHOTO/DAVE NASH

The Charlotte-based banking giant came clean after a study showed links between today's Wachovia and predecessor companies that derived profits from the slave trade. Wachovia CEO Ken Thompson immediately offers an apology on the company's web site and \$10 million to fund programs that focus on history and education.

What to look for: Not much, unless confession is good for the corporate bottom line. More U.S. corporations are admitting to their slave-profit past due to pressure from municipalities, but one that hasn't is Charlotte-based Bank of America, which is linked to slavery with its purchase of Fleet Corp, which provided loans for slave traders.

What happened: Mel Watt became a national figure as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The Charlotte Democrat became the point man on issues ranging from the government's response to natural disasters to Supreme Court nominations. In January, Watt invited President Bush to meet with the caucus' 40 members to discuss issues of importance to African Americans, with limited results.

What to look for: Since the caucus is all Democratic, don't expect Republicans – especially in the White House – to get cozy. But Watt has already proven

adept at articulating caucus concerns, which has earned him praise on both sides of the ideological aisle.

What happened: Hurricane Katrina all but wiped out major portions of the Gulf Coast in the worst natural disaster in U.S. history. Thousands of residents from Alabama and Louisiana were evacuated, and several hundred wound up in Charlotte and the Carolinas.

What to look for: Federal funding for evacuees' housing won't last much longer, but for many who've relocated to Charlotte, this is now home. Their adjustment will continue.

When it's news to you, it's in
The Charlotte Post

AccuWeather.com 7-DAY FORECAST FOR CHARLOTTE, NC

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
56°	52°	62°	62°	58°	58°	56°	55°
RealFeel 60°	RealFeel 54°	RealFeel 64°	RealFeel 64°	RealFeel 58°	RealFeel 58°	RealFeel 56°	RealFeel 55°

The patented RealFeel Temperature is AccuWeather's exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, and elevation on the human body.

WEATHER TRENDS THIS WEEK

Temperatures

Precipitation

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2005

IN THE SKY									
Sun					Moon				
	Rise	Set				Rise	Set		
Thursday	7:32 a.m.	5:20 p.m.	Thursday	6:12 a.m.	3:41 p.m.				
Friday	7:32 a.m.	5:21 p.m.	Friday	7:20 a.m.	4:44 p.m.				
Saturday	7:32 a.m.	5:22 p.m.	Saturday	8:21 a.m.	5:56 p.m.				
Sunday	7:32 a.m.	5:22 p.m.	Sunday	9:13 a.m.	7:13 p.m.				
Monday	7:33 a.m.	5:23 p.m.	Monday	9:56 a.m.	8:29 p.m.				
Tuesday	7:33 a.m.	5:24 p.m.	Tuesday	10:31 a.m.	9:42 p.m.				
Wednesday	7:33 a.m.	5:25 p.m.	Wednesday	11:01 a.m.	10:53 p.m.				

MOON PHASES									
New	First	Full	Last						
				12/30	1/6	1/14	1/22		

REGIONAL CITIES									
City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Albany, SC	56 36 r	64 39 s	66 42 sh	66 39 pc	Memphis, TN	52 42 pc	59 46 sh	52 40 pc	55 43 s
Augusta, GA	59 36 r	66 37 s	68 41 sh	64 36 pc	Myrtle Beach, SC	61 43 r	63 46 s	68 50 s	63 44 sh
Charleston, SC	63 43 r	66 46 s	70 50 s	67 46 pc	Norfolk, VA	57 44 r	61 43 s	63 45 r	56 40 pc
Columbia, SC	56 41 r	64 41 s	68 44 sh	65 42 pc	Raleigh, NC	56 36 r	62 38 s	64 39 sh	59 36 pc
Durham, NC	55 39 r	62 41 s	65 41 sh	61 38 pc	Richmond, VA	50 39 r	57 38 pc	60 40 sh	56 34 pc
Greensboro, NC	52 38 r	61 40 s	62 41 sh	58 37 pc	Roanoke, VA	53 40 r	57 37 pc	62 39 sh	54 35 pc
Greenville, SC	56 39 r	62 41 s	63 42 r	61 39 pc	Savannah, GA	60 38 sh	66 45 s	70 51 pc	65 47 pc
Knoxville, TN	48 37 sh	54 41 pc	52 36 r	56 38 pc	Wilmington, NC	59 41 r	64 45 s	72 49 s	65 44 sh
Lynchburg, VA	51 35 r	56 34 pc	57 33 sh	52 33 pc	Winston-Salem, NC	55 41 r	60 40 s	60 41 r	56 38 pc

U.S. CITIES									
City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Atlanta	53 42 pc	62 48 s	61 43 r	63 44 pc	Miami	80 64 sh	80 69 s	81 69 s	82 68 sh
Boston	46 36 r	48 34 sh	46 36 sh	46 31 pc	Minneapolis	34 24 c	31 25 sn	31 23 sf	30 23 c
Chicago	38 30 sn	40 32 r	36 28 sf	40 30 pc	New Orleans	67 46 s	74 57 s	69 52 r	69 55 sh
Cleveland	40 30 sh	42 34 pc	42 30 sn	44 28 pc	New York City	48 43 r	46 41 pc	49 39 r	44 35 pc
Dallas	73 48 s	65 42 pc	67 43 s	65 44 s	Orlando	74 50 sh	74 50 s	77 54 s	77 54 sh
Denver	54 22 pc	44 19 pc	43 26 pc	47 22 r	Pittsburgh	44 34 sh	40 30 pc	43 32 sh	45 32 pc
Detroit	38 32 r	40 34 sh	38 30 sn	38 28 pc	Phoenix	74 48 s	71 43 s	71 46 s	70 45 sh
Houston	75 54 s	78 50 sh	68 48 s	72 53 sh	San Francisco	56 51 pc	57 51 r	56 47 sh	56 48 r
Kansas City	50 34 pc	46 28 sh	46 26 pc	45 27 pc	Seattle	47 40 sh	49 42 r	49 40 sh	46 36 r
Los Angeles	66 50 pc	66 52 pc	64 50 r	66 50 pc	Washington, DC	52 42 r	54 40 pc	52 38 sh	52 36 pc

WORLD CITIES									
City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Amsterdam	39 32 sf	41 34 pc	43 36 sh	44 35 c	Paris	37 27 pc	39 37 pc	45 37 pc	43 38 sh
Berlin	30 23 sn	28 21 pc	30 27 pc	36 30 sf	Rio de Janeiro	79 72 pc	83 74 pc	84 72 c	80 71 t
Buenos Aires	66 54 pc	85 74 pc	85 73 pc	84 69 pc	Rome	50 39 c	50 37 r	52 41 pc	53 48 sh
Caro	68 74 pc	74 57 pc	66 46 sh	61 49 s	San Juan	84 72 s	83 71 s	84 71 pc	84 71 pc
Jerusalem	61 45 pc	66 51 pc	64 48 pc	52 45 pc	Seoul	33 23 pc	31 15 s	36 17 pc	33 20 pc
Johannesburg	73 55 sh	71 54 sh	73 55 c	77 57 sh	Sydney	82 72 s	87 73 s	92 78 pc	97 76 c
London	38 34 pc	41 39 r	43 37 sh	43 36 c	Tokyo	40 28 s	46 32 pc	41 27 s	43 35 pc
Mexico City	75 35 s	74 36 s	74 36 s	76 36 s	Toronto	39 32 sn	37 30 pc	37 28 sn	35 21 sf
Moscow	25 25 sn	31 20 sn	25 16 pc	25 10 pc	Zurich	25 14 sn	31 30 pc	42 35 pc	38 30 sn

Weather (W) s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, n-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, t-tornado

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