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# BUSINESS

Sports 1C

## N.C. banker among the industry's top women

Durham-based Mutual Community Saving's Sylver on most powerful list

By Herbert L. White  
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One of the most powerful women in banking works for a black-owned institution in North Carolina.

Donna Sylver, chief financial officer and senior vice president at Durham-based Mutual Community Savings Bank was named one of the most powerful women in the industry by U.S. Banker magazine. The publication cites Sylver's strategies that helped Mutual achieve a 170 percent increase in net income in a year while improving efficiency.



Sylver

"Receiving this recognition, and being one of the cover girls, as we were affectionately called during the magazine's photo shoot, was without a doubt a great honor," Sylver said. "But of course, the true success comes as a result of the great leadership and an awesome team here at the bank that has had to dig in with their cleats and make things happen."

Sylver started her banking career as a budget manager at Pioneer Savings Bank, where she launched its budget department from the ground up. At Mutual, she's worked on restructuring the treasury and accounting departments as well as payroll, human resources and information technology.

"We are extremely fortunate in having a professional of Donna's caliber as a leader and an inspiration at MCSB," bank President William Smith said. "She is one of the most gifted and talented individuals anywhere."

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### HOPE FOR NEW ORLEANS' KIDS



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO/JUDI BOTTONI

Yoshio Jackson, 11 years old, carries a fried rockshrimp with creole tartar sauce dish at Cafe Reconcile restaurant in New Orleans, as Craig Cuccia, rear, watches. Cafe Reconcile, co-founded by Cuccia in 2000, works with teenagers in danger of being swallowed up by life on the streets, teaching them skills they need to work in the city's restaurant industry. At the same time, the nonprofit eatery fuels economic growth and gives local folks a place to meet.

## After Katrina, cafe searches for at risk teens that haven't returned

By Mary Foster  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS - The little restaurant in an old store serves up some of the city's finest cuisine, but it isn't listed on the many tour guides that steer gourmets to the likes of Galatoire's or Commander's Palace.

Still, in a city where food is a major interest, those in the know have discovered Cafe Reconcile and flock to it for what one

customer calls "Southern cooking with New Orleans flair."

Started as an experiment in 2000, Cafe Reconcile works with teenagers in danger of being swallowed up by life on the streets, teaching them skills they need to work in the city's thriving restaurant industry. At the same time the nonprofit eatery was also fueling economic vitality and growth in the area and giving local folks a place to meet.

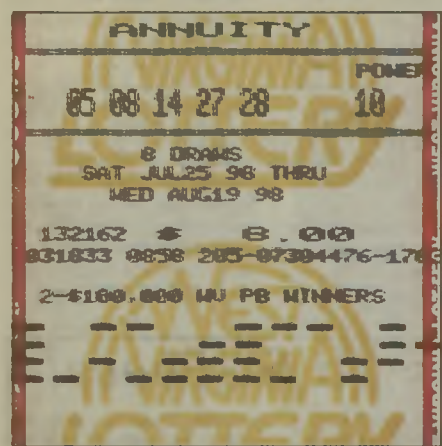
"It gives people a place they can come to

and afford a meal," said Charmane Baker-Fox.

The cafe was up and running again by Oct. 10, spared from the widespread flooding from Hurricane Katrina. However, workers still had to cope with the storm damage, coolers full of rotting food and the nearly deserted city.

Although only four of the 10 to 12 employees returned after the storm, the restaurant is serving lunch - its famed red

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## GTech, Scientific Games to bid for N.C. lottery

By Gary D. Robertson  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH - The two top rivals in the U.S. lottery business will square off for North Carolina's two lottery contracts after all.

Scientific Games Corp. and GTECH Holdings Corp. each submitted bids Friday for both the scratch-off tickets and online, or automated numbers contract with the North Carolina Education Lottery, a lottery commission spokeswoman said.

The bulky bundles of paperwork were wheeled into the Department of Administration building in downtown Raleigh before the 4 p.m. deadline.

The entry of Rhode Island-based GTECH for the instant-ticket game contract was surprising because last month it submitted a letter of intent to bid only for the online games. GTECH had said it was unable to team up with a ticket printer to meet the demands of the North Carolina Education Lottery.

But company spokeswoman Angela Wiczek said late Friday that GTECH subcontracted with Oberthur Gaming Technologies to print tickets. Oberthur, based in Canada, had said it would submit its own bid on the scratch-off tickets, but didn't do so Friday.

The separate seven-year contracts could generate tens of millions of dollars in revenue annually for the winners.

Lottery executive director Tom Shaheen has said he wants to make a recommendation on the vendors to the commissioners by early February

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## Pa. court upholds ruling against predatory loans

By Mark Scolforo  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARRISBURG, Pa. - Predatory mortgage loans that target black home buyers can amount to housing discrimination under the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, a state appeals court ruled Friday.

A three-judge Commonwealth Court panel said the state Human Relations Commission had the authority to issue \$185,000 in

embarrassment and humiliation damages but said \$700,000 in actual damages must be recalculated.

It also upheld a \$25,000 civil penalty against Elkins Park mortgage brokers McGlawn & McGlawn Inc. and company co-founder Reginald McGlawn.

The damages were awarded to 10 customers of McGlawn & McGlawn, which advertised aggressively in the

Philadelphia market, concentrating on black radio and in black newspapers.

Sixty-five of 66 mortgage applications in which the borrower's race was identified involved black customers, according to the ruling.

Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission attorney Charles L. Nier III said mortgage companies and financial institutions have previously been found in violation

of anti-discrimination laws, but the McGlawn case is an apparent first in the country involving a mortgage broker.

"This goes a long way to vindicating the commonwealth's interest in eradicating unlawful discrimination," Nier said.

Judge Robert Simpson wrote in a 38-page opinion that the brokers loaned more than applicants asked for, discouraged cancellations within

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## Development plans dropped for dairy farm near historic settlement

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PALESTINE, Ohio - A developer has dropped plans to locate a 2,000-head dairy farm near one of the first black pioneer settlements in Ohio, a site that supporters intend to restore.

The Hudson, Mich.-based Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development Corp. has decided against putting the farm next to the Longtown settlement near this tiny western Ohio village, spokeswoman Cecilia Conway said.

"We did not realize the full historic significance of Palestine as an early settle-

ment for free African-American farmers," Conway said. "As we explored the community and listened to concerns expressed by residents and historians, we came to recognize that our farm could have an unintended impact on plans to restore the Longtown settlement as a tourist destination."

Conway said the company is exploring other sites in the surrounding area.

Supporters of Longtown had feared that pollution, odor and traffic generated by the farm would drive away tourists and hinder fundraising to restore

the settlement.

Longtown was established in the early 1800s by blacks who migrated from the East. The farming community founded by James Clemens was populated by craftsmen and had schools of higher education that attracted blacks from around the nation.

In 1880, nearly 1,000 people and hundreds of buildings made up Longtown. Gradually, residents left for jobs in cities, and white farmers bought the smaller black farms. Today, only a few of the original families and buildings remain.

The heart of the settlement is

the Clemens farmstead, which consists of a red brick farmhouse and a barn. Nearby is a cemetery with about 200 graves.

The Union Literary Institute, a vocational school founded by Longtown residents and anti-slavery Quakers in 1845, bought the farmstead to prevent its demolition. It is raising money to match a federal grant that will fund restoration.

Opponents of the farm applauded Vreba-Hoff's decision.

"How sweet it is," said Jack

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