



SCHOOL DAZE
Black Entertainment Television reality program looks in on Grambling State University football and band/1D

BATTLING CATS
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Jumaine Jones was a key reserve after injuries hit hard.



The Charlotte Post

The Voice of the Black Community

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A fix for low-wealth teacher shortage?



Haitcock

CMS bonuses for academically-challenging campuses

By Herbert L. White
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Is a \$10,000 bonus enough to attract top-flight teachers to Charlotte-Mecklenburg's academically-challenged high schools?

A program launched by the district earlier this month would pay top teachers up to \$10,000 in one-time bonuses for a three-year commitment to Garinger, West Charlotte and West Mecklenburg starting

with the 2006-07 academic year. Candidates must meet criteria for licensing and meet high student achievement levels on state End of Course exams in 2004-05. "If we're going to start get-

ting the best and brightest teachers in front of the students who need them most, we have to provide better incentives," said interim superintendent Frances Haitcock in a statement. "Behind every achievement-

Please see CMS/6A

Farmers: Blacks not treated fairly by USDA Rally to demand government live up to settlement

By David Phelps
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NATCHEZ, Miss. -- Seven years ago, black farmers won a historic settlement from the USDA for discriminatory practices.

Ever since, they've been saying they're still not getting treated fairly.

In what has become a yearly occurrence, the disgruntled farmers, following the lead of the National Black Farmers Association, will make their way to Washington, D.C., April 26 to voice their displeasure with the Pigford v. Johannis settlement. The plaintiff, Tim Pigford, lives in Riegelwood, N.C., about 20 miles east of Wilmington.

"In 1999, black farmers were awarded a settlement from the USDA for discrimination," Mississippi Chapter President Leroy Smith said. "USDA agreed to pay the settlement, but a lot of farmers haven't received it."

Smith was one of those farmers aggrieved by the USDA. He said late approval of crop loans and racism at local Farm Service Agency offices effectively ran him, and thousands of other blacks, out of farming.

In 1997, the class action Pigford lawsuit was filed against the USDA. The settlement, reached in 1999 and entered to the court of U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman, called for each farmer who qualified to enter an arbitration process.

Friedman appointed Randi Roth to oversee the process as the

See FARMERS/3A

CHARLOTTE YMCA



PHOTO: CALVIN FERGUSON

Stan Law, community vice president at Dowd and Stratford-Richardson YMCAs, is among a growing number of African Americans in leadership positions in the Charlotte region.

Building upon legacy of service

African Americans taking on greater leadership roles

By Aisha Lide
THE CHARLOTTE POST

African Americans play a vital role in YMCA leadership.

Stan Law, community vice president of Dowd and Stratford-Richardson YMCAs, has been with the Y 16 years. He began as a part time after school counselor in 1986, and left because he needed a full time job.

"I had just moved out of my parents' house, and I did not want to move back in," said Law.

After spending three years in retail Law knew that he should have been at the YMCA.

"I believed I was missing what was literally my calling," he said.

The Y has made progress in the last decade in boosting African American lead-

ership. Of the 14 YMCAs in Mecklenburg County, six are led by blacks, and Mike Deval as senior vice president for organizational advancement. As one of the fastest-growing cities in the South in terms of black population, Charlotte's YMCA reflects that trend.

"It's only natural that we would obtain African Americans" as leaders, Please see EXPANDING/2A

"I actually grew up at the Y."

YMCA executive Stan Law, who hung out at the Dowd YMCA as a kid.

Earle gains in House clout

Mecklenburg lawmaker one of N.C.'s most effective in review

By Herbert L. White
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N.C. Rep. Beverly Earle is getting better at her job.

The Charlotte Democrat is ranked 12th among 120 members of the state House of Representatives for effectiveness, according to a survey by the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research. The study, conducted every other year, are based on surveys completed by legislators, registered lobbyists based in North Carolina and media covering the General Assembly.

"I'm delighted, but not surprised," Earle said. "I guess I enjoy the fact that every time it comes out, I move up it says to me that my colleagues pay attention to what I'm trying to do."



N.C. Rep Beverly Earle No. 12 in House effectiveness.

Please see EARLE/3A

the box

NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS

Forum on political leadership

By Cynthia Dean
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

RALEIGH -- About 500 elected African-American officials across the state have been invited to participate in the first Black Summit organized by the Alliance of North Carolina Black Officials. The summit is set for April 21-22 at the North Raleigh Hilton.

Brad Thompson, one of the coordinators of the event, as well as co-chair of the Southeast Raleigh Assembly, said the officials represent all levels of government, including mayors, sheriffs, state legislators, city council members and school board members.

"It's our intention to initiate an ongoing dialogue among North Carolina black elected officials and public policy makers that will create a cooperation among those who represent us," Thompson said. "Maybe with this effort, we

Please see LATE /8A



Watt

Kings of the ball: Students earn free formal wear for prom



PHOTO: ELLISON CLARY

West Charlotte High School senior Mordecai Scott (second from left) and Berry Academy senior Lewis Young (second from right) earned free tuxedos from and DW Designs co-owners David Washington (left) and LaShanda Millner-Murphy.

By Ellison Clary
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Mordecai Scott of West Charlotte High School and Lewis Young of Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology earned the right to be especially sharp on prom night.

The seniors will wearing stylish tuxedos they picked out -- for free -- as a reward for their academic achievements. Scott and Young were selected by DW Designs Custom Clothiers co-owners LaShanda Millner-Murphy and David Washington.

"At DW Designs, we like to give back to the Charlotte-

Mecklenburg Schools because we do a lot of business with students during prom season," said Washington. "Making a tux available to a deserving young man is the best way we know to say thank you."

Scott and Young were suggested by teachers and counselors, said Millner-Murphy.

"Mordecai and Lewis are exemplary students with high academic averages, extensive civic involvement and impressive plans," she said.

DW Designs provides custom clothing and accessories for men and women.

See SCHOLARS/7A

For good or bad, prom night brings back all kinds of memories/1B



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