



MADEA'S MANIACS
Tyler Perry's sassy alter ego morphs into a cottage industry/1D



JUST THE FORMALITIES
Old-school tuxes are in for prom wear/1B



NO APRIL FOOLS
New-look Charlotte Knights on an April tear/1C

Jerry Owens helps Charlotte to best record in International League.

The Charlotte Post

The Voice of the Black Community

Also serving Cabarrus

WEEK OF APRIL 27-MAY 3, 2006



Allen

Barber

Clinton

Glover

Lockman-Brooks

Bryant

Honoring women's corporate success

Post sponsors May 4 People of Prominence

By Angela Lindsay
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST
A finance expert. A community relations professional. A senior vice president. A marketing guru. A major business executive.

These titles represent just some of the accomplishments achieved by recipients of the 2006 Charlotte Post Foundation's People of Prominence Award. The foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Charlotte Post Publishing Company, hosts the networking celebration May 4 to honor African Americans for their professional accomplishments and community involvement.

While each of this year's honorees has a different story of success, they all share something specific—they are women.

"With each celebration we attempt to develop a theme," said Gerald Johnson, publisher of The Charlotte Post. See PROMINENT/3A

MIXED-INCOME COMMUNITIES



James Steele and Blandina M. Gray talk on the patio of the Anita Stroud Seniors apartment last week. Construction was a joint venture between public, non-profit and corporate partners.

Goal: home-grown housing solutions

Public, private agencies partnering to serve residential needs

By Herbert L. White
herbawhite@thecharlottepost.com
The old-school public housing project is but a memory in Charlotte.

The latest steps away from barracks-style, publicly-financed communities took place last week when Charlotte City Council approved the rezoning of Live Oak public housing for conversion into mixed-income apartments.

Then there was the completion of The Park at Oaklawn and the Anita Stroud Seniors apartments. The neighborhood, formerly known as Fairview Homes, includes 178 apartments, 71 single-family homes and 83 apartments for the elderly. "Revitalization and supply are totally different, and they run together," said David Howard, vice president of community affairs at

The Housing Partnership, a nonprofit developing agency that collaborated with CHA on The Park. "We're doing things to keep homes affordable, but there's a big push to revitalize."

With fewer federal dollars going to housing for low-income Americans, Charlotte is looking at new ways of raising money. Non-profit agencies like CHA

"HOPE VI isn't dead, but it's on its last legs."

Charlotte Housing Authority director **Charles Woodyard**, on the public housing revitalization program. Please see HOME/2A

Voting an honor, passion for precinct judge

By Gregory Phillips
THE (DURHAM) HERALD-SUN

DURHAM — When Kelly Bryant tells you to vote, you ought to listen. At 88 years old, Bryant has been working the polls in Durham for 53 years and knows what he's talking about.

"Voting is a privilege as well as a right," he said. "You can't complain about what happens to you politically if you don't vote."

Bryant took that privilege a significant step farther when he became one of the first two black precinct judges in Durham County,

along with Bernice Ingram, in 1963. Before then, he said, blacks only worked as ballot-counters in some precincts and still felt largely excluded from the electoral process.

"Blacks didn't feel they were received as voters at that time," Bryant remem-

bered. A groundswell of support among the black community led to Bryant's appointment. He first worked the polls at Brady's Store on the corner of Ramseur and Grant streets, when most black voters cast ballots at the

Please see FOR/7A

Poverty fake, but impact is real at United Way simulation



Ronnie Devine takes part in a poverty simulation Wednesday at Dowd YMCA. The exercise, sponsored by United Way of Central Carolinas, was designed to expose corporate leaders to the stresses of poverty.

By Eric Bozeman
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Charlotte's corporate leaders got a taste of poverty Wednesday.

United Way of Central Carolinas held a poverty simulation to show its Young Leaders group what coping with poverty is like.

The simulation was held at the Dowd YMCA, and about 40 members of corporate and non-profit communities participated in role playing as families who had to deal with the stresses of four 15 minutes per week exercises.

Natalie Burnham, senior

relationship manager with United Way of Central Carolinas, said the simulation is geared to raise awareness about those who struggle with poverty.

"We are hoping to raise awareness about what it might be like to live in poverty. We are very quick to judge and you hear people say, 'Well if they'd just get a job,' and it's not that simple," Burnham said. "We are hoping to raise their awareness about how exhausting it is to try to survive month to month."

Sitting in groups of three to

See POVERTY/7A

Durham takes defense posture

Officials try to protect city's image during Duke lacrosse case

By Tim Whitmire
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DURHAM — Wherever reporters gather to cover the Duke lacrosse case, it's a good bet Rosemarie Kitchin is nearby.

In the past two weeks, the director of media relations and outreach for the Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau showed up at a prayer service in front of Duke Chapel; on the Durham County courthouse steps as defense lawyers criticized District Attorney Mike Nifong; and inside the courtroom where an indicted player made his first appearance before a judge.

Celebrated two decades ago for its run-down Southern charm in the baseball movie "Bull Durham," Durham has become something of a chew toy since allegations surfaced last month that members of Duke University's lacrosse team raped a stripper at a team party.

Race relations, income levels, economic development, the interaction between Duke and the city - all have been thrown into the mix in a search for an explanation for the scandal. It's Kitchin's job to stick up for the Bull City in that debate.

And so, outgoing and persistent, Kitchin follows the reporters, armed

Please see DURHAM/3A

the box

NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS

Conference on vendor procurement

By Cynthia Dean
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

Looking to do business with government agencies?

Access 2006: Gateway to Government Procurement Opportunities will be held Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at E.E. Waddell High School, 7030 Nations Ford Road.

Local and state government representatives will be on hand and sessions will be held on developing business, financing and bonding. Among the agencies represented are Charlotte Area Transit System, city of Charlotte, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Mecklenburg County and Carolina Association of General Contractors.

A federal tax identification number is required. To register, call (980) 343-0677 or e-mail gov-access@cms.k12.nc.us.

"Akeelah and the Bee" spells winning combination/1D



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