

BOXING IN PRIME TIME

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NO MAN'S LAND

Why there's a disconnect with the black church/6B



Bobcats owner on partnership with Michael Jordan

BUSINESS/6C



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IN A&E



What do women really want?

Charlotte author Omar Tyree has an idea in his latest novel. **Page 2D**

N.C. pork workers slam plant treatment

By Lorinda M. Bullock
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON — Trying to keep up the momentum from a recent Washington, D.C. Court of Appeals ruling, angry pork plant workers from Smithfield Foods in Tar Heel, N.C., are leaving the tobacco roads and crisscrossing the country this week to gain national support of a boycott of Smithfield's pork products.

"We're getting the message out about the conditions of the workers at Smithfield, the changes that should be made and how having a contract for the workers could change a lot of things at that plant," said Edward Morrison, a former worker at the plant, who is scheduled to speak at the events in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and in North Carolina.

"Find an alternative product if you can besides Smithfield products. If they don't want to listen, then start hitting them in the pocket."

The workers, who have teamed up with the United Food and Commercial Workers Union and other labor and civil rights groups, have launched their "A Change to Win Week" to bring more attention to what they call sub-par working conditions in the plant and the company's illegal practices to curb the formation of a union.

Court documents said the company had instigated practices ranging from threats of termination and wage freezes, to order-

See **WORKERS/8A**

Sowing seeds of hope

Volunteers spend week boosting Reid Park neighborhood

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

Change is sprouting all around Reid Park.

At Hattie Mae Potts house, volunteers from Wachovia Corp. and Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse are remaking the front yard. Tia Capers, an assistant loan analyst at Wachovia, is

pulling weeds from a flower bed. It's sweltering hot, but Capers doesn't mind.

"It's for the community," she said. "Basically, it's to give back."

"We put our backs into it," says Brian Lambert, head of business development for Wachovia's treasury services division. Potts' granddaughter, LaGina

White, who grew up in the neighborhood, is impressed by the helping hand offered by total strangers.

"It's deeper than I can express in words," she said. "It's a wonderful thing. God is good."

During the week, nearly 300 volunteers — including 140 teens Please see **VOLUNTEERS/6A**



Lowe's garden specialists Cedric Wherry and Lucretia Worley plant flowers in front of Hattie Mae Potts home in the Reid Park community Tuesday.



PHOTOS: CURTIS WILSON

Vernon Herron Ph.D. makes a point at the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum. The weekly gatherings are a source of information and debate on issues important to black Charlotteans.

Food for thought

Breakfast forum addresses issues one bite at a time

By Erica Singleton
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

At the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum, Charlotteans have debated busing over bagels and job creation with java.

"If you want to know what is going on in Charlotte, this is the place to find out," said Andrea Huff, president of the Black Women's Caucus.

Since 1980, the forum has brought political leaders together with neighborhood activists to give and take sessions on issues ranging from affirmative action to taxes. It's open to everyone regardless of ethnicity or political leaning.

This week's forum — as usual — is at the West Charlotte Recreation Center, and if the people in attendance were any indication at 8 a.m., Huff isn't the only one who thinks it's the place to be. The room is almost full, as a panel from the School Building Solutions Committee presented this week's subject matter.

Each event is as much information session as open forum.

"The forum is here to inform the community," said moderator Sarah Stevenson, a former Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board member. "It gives representatives a chance to explain what their com-

Please see **HAVE SOME/2A**

"This is why people want to come here ... because they can come here and learn."



Former Charlotte City Council member and forum regular Malachi Greene.

A boost for N.C. voting access

Registration bill would make balloting easier

By Cynthia Dean
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

RALEIGH — State lawmakers are reviewing a bill that poses to increase voter turnout across North Carolina if adopted into law.

Same Day Registration at One Stop Voting Sites (House Bill 851) is now under consideration in the General Assembly. The bill would allow citizens to register and vote at the same time during the early voting period only. It would help those who recently arrived or moved in a new county, or who lack transportation or who missed the 25-day registration deadline. Research has shown that states using same-day registration have a higher voter turnout.

Earline Parmon, D-Forsyth County, is one of the sponsors of the bill. She said the measure is particularly beneficial for people who

Please see **N.C. BILL/3A**



Parmon

the box

NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS

Last known U.S. lynching victim dies at age 92

MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Funeral services for James Cameron, author, historian and founder of America's Black Holocaust Museum — who was America's only living survivor of a lynching — were held Monday. He died after a long illness at age 92.

In August of 1930 at the age of 16, Cameron was falsely accused of participating in the murder of a young white man in Marion, Indiana. Ironically, no one

Please see **LAST/3A**



Cameron

Jefferson's removal threatens House Democrats' unity



Jefferson

By Hazel Trice Edey
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON — U.S. House Democrats who voted last week to remove Rep. Bill Jefferson (D-La.) from his seat on the Ways and Means Committee because of an

unrelated FBI investigation, have once again exhibited political self-interest over allegiance to faithful African-American constituents, political activists say.

"It is yet another example of what I talk about all that time, that in this country,

whether it's politics or anywhere else, we are always shortchanged and overcharged," says veteran civil rights lawyer Thomas N. Todd, former president of the Chicago chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and

Operation PUSH. "Here he comes from the segment of the Congress that represents the Blacks in the Democratic Party So, as a result of that, you would think that they would respect their constituency and one of their Please see **JEFFERSONS/2A**

Gospel music arranger Dennis Reed of Charlotte earns national award/3D



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