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WEEK OF JULY 20-25, 2006

IN A&E

Governor true to old school R&B

Singer isn't afraid to put his dreams into music. "I'm trying to put the blues back in R&B," he says.

Voting rights fight shifts to Senate

Civil rights activists taking no chances in applying pressure

By Hazel Trice Edney
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON - Civil rights leaders are pleased that the Voting Rights Act renewal bill has finally passed the House, but have vowed to place pressure on the Senate just in case unexpected opposition mounts.

"We're going to celebrate the House, but we're going to pressure the Senate. There's no question about that," NAACP President and Chief Executive Officer Bruce Gordon, told reporters at the organization's annual conference in Washington before leading a delegation to the Hill on Wednesday to lobby senators "We have not crossed the finish line. The Senate has work to do. We're not going to just sit in the rooms, but we're going to be in the streets. We're going to be on the Hill."

It is probably wise that the NAACP doesn't rest on its victory
See PUSH/2A

Agency for change



Gwenarda Isley, executive director of the Northwest Corridor Community Development Corporation, said 15 years of revitalization projects like University Park Shopping Center have turned neighborhoods along Beatties Ford Road into a vibrant and economically viable communities. The non-profit agency has led efforts to boost the area's housing and businesses.

West End nonprofit marks 15 years as corridor's most aggressive booster

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

Albright's Project Catalyst to boost communities along Beatties Ford. The corporation, which represents 12 inner city neighborhoods, including Biddleville/Five Points, Dalebrook, Seversville and Washington Heights, has a string of accomplishments, but there's work to be done.

"There are businesses we don't have, like coffee shops or video rental places," said executive director Gwenarda Isley. "We don't have a FedEx/Kinko's kind of location. That's the kind of market we're thinking."



The Charlotte Water Works plant (above) and the Grand Theater are two of the best-known landmarks along Beatties Ford Road, which the Northwest Corridor CDC refers to as Historic West End.

Once faded, the economic and cultural jewel of black Charlotte is regaining its luster.

Northwest Charlotte, anchored by communities along Beatties Ford Road, is booming with new housing and middle-class families. New businesses, ranging from health care centers to supermarkets, have moved in. And the Northwest Corridor Community Development Corporation, a leading agency in revitalizing the area, turns 15 this year.

The NWCCDC counts a long list of achievements: 21 new homes built; 20 others refurbished and sold; construction of University Village Shopping Center; The LaSalle at Lincoln Heights, a senior housing community and Biddle Point Primary Care Center, operated by Carolinas Medical Center.

"They've done a lot of great things," said Darrel Williams, Please see AGENCY/2A

The organization was launched in 1991 as part of former Johnson C. Smith University president Robert

CMS back to drawing board

County commissioners vote forces alternate plans for school construction plans

By Erica Singleton
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

A surprise defeat for school construction funding is forcing Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools into scramble mode.

"I'm still processing what happened last night," Superintendent Peter Gorman said Wednesday at his weekly media briefing on Wednesday following Mecklenburg county commissioners' 5-3 vote against the School Building Solutions plan.



Gorman

On July 11, the school board voted to approve the plan, which called for \$172 million in certificates of participation to address the district's most critical needs as well as, up to \$400 million in general obligation bonds to be submitted in public referendum in 2007. The plan was recommended by a panel chaired by former N.C. Gov Jim Martin.

"We got voted down," said Gorman. "That's the only way to look at it. Last evening they reached a solution that did not put kids first."

Gorman said the situation Charlotte-Mecklenburg faces calls for calculation.

"Don't lash out," he said. "We have to step back, be thoughtful...think of what to do next. We must figure out how to move forward."

Gorman discussed meeting with the school board, analyzing the situation to figure out if there is a proposal that the commission could

Please see SCHOOL/3A

What's in a slur? Activist want to know at conference



Charlotte social activist Ahmad Daniels will lead a workshop on use of the word "nigger" at the Global Pan African Reparations and Repatriation Conference in Ghana and Benin.

By Erica Bryant
WSOC-TV

Ahmad Daniels calls Malcolm X his mentor and motivator. Those who meet him clearly see glimpses of news Malcolm in his work.

This week, the local Charlotte educator/activist continues the calling with a trip to the Global Pan-African Reparations and

Repatriation Conference in Ghana and Benin, West Africa.

"The goal is to educate people about the movement, and to gain support for Afro-descendants throughout the Diaspora seeking reparations and/or repatriation," says Daniels.

Daniels is the only representative from Charlotte, and one of only 45 participants from the U.S. Guest speakers include President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Minister

Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam. In his workshop, Daniels plans to have a frank discussion about the use of the word "Nigger" from Brooklyn to Soweto.

"What was the social context that gave birth to the word nigger? What was the context that gave birth to the word Kaffir in South Africa which is also a denigrating term?" asks Daniels. Daniels believes raising consciousness can help reclaim

Please see ACTIVIST/6A

the box

NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS

Welfare overhaul shortchanges America's poor

By Allison Stevens
WOMEN'S E-NEWS

WASHINGTON - Ten years after the federal government overhauled the nation's welfare system, key state officials say Congress has short-changed child care programs as low-income parents, many of whom are single mothers, have moved into the work force.

"We're being increasingly challenged to have enough money for child care," Illinois Department of Human Services Secretary Carol Adams said at a July 11 news briefing on Capitol

Please see WELFARE/6A



Preventing burglary as simple as trying basic methods/6D

INSIDE

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