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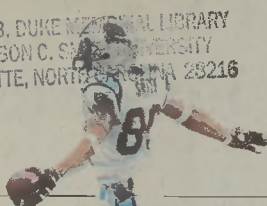


AUG - 1 2006

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**Comedian keeps southern roots close to heart**

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**IN RELIGION**



**Church response to 'down low'**  
Charlotte minister authors book on what people of faith should do. Page 4B

## Tenants looking for city answers

*Mecklenburg Mills residents say official response to needs too slow*

By Cheris F. Hodges  
cheris.hodges@thecharlottepost.com

Nearly three months have passed since Mecklenburg Mills apartment complex was evacuated.

In those three months, some residents are still living in hotels and say the city isn't assisting them as promised.

Wolly Vinyl, a local artist and former resident of the complex said that he can't even get city officials to return his phone calls much less offer the help that was promised to him and other residents.

"It's hard to get anyone from the city on the phone," he said.

In May, residents were told that termites were the reason that they'd been evicted from the building. They were also told by housing officials that there would be help in finding permanent housing and they would be refunded their rent and security deposits. Vinyl See MECKLENBURG/3A

## Green light for change

*CMS's No. 2 lacks daily experience, adds fresh perspective*

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

It didn't take long for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Superintendent Peter Gorman to make a creative hire.

Maurice Green, the district's legal counsel and a neophyte at school administration, was offered a new job: chief operating officer.

Green was stunned. "It is in some ways a surprising hire," he said. "It was a surprising request of me. When we had our first one on one conversation, I thought I was meeting with him as the lawyer for the board of education. When he made the request of me, I was astonished."

Gorman said promoting Green isn't a stretch considering his knowledge of CMS policies, politics and personalities. As much as Gorman admired Green for what he is, he also liked him for what he isn't: an education lifer.

"I think it's inaccurate to characterize Mo's hire as out on a limb," Gorman said in an e-mailed response. "Mo is well positioned to learn quickly. He already knows all of the key staff members in charge of the departments he supervises. Perhaps just as important is the fact that they know

Please see GREEN/3A



PHOTO: CALVIN FERGUSON

## Results show progress, problems

*Less than half of CMS schools meet AYP standard, but numbers improved*

By Erica Singleton  
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

How is your child doing in school and will schools be ready on the first day? These were some of the questions answered on Wednesday during a press conference at the Education Center, to release preliminary data on Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools Adequate Yearly Progress Report.

A summary of the data released shows of 142 CMS schools, 63 met goals, while 79 did not. Of the 79 schools that did not meet AYP Target goals, 26 missed by one target goal. Of the schools that did meet requirements 54 were elementary schools, five middle schools, three high schools, and Metro, was the only special school to meet AYP goals.

Despite fewer than half the schools meeting requirements, this year's numbers are an improvement on last year, from 58 to 63 schools, however as the bar is raised each year on target goals, said Superintendent Peter Gorman, so should performance.

"This kind of performance by our schools doesn't meet the standard we expect and the public demands," said Gorman. "Urgent improvement is necessary, expected, and required."

As a tool to keep large numbers of high-performing students from masking the poor performance of others, AYP was designed to represent an absolute standard. Each school is divided into subgroups to make individual performance more evident. The more diverse a school is, the more subgroups it has, and each subgroup has to meet specific growth targets in order for a school to make it's AYP goals. This year's results show that

Please see SCHOOL/3A



Gorman

### the box

NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS

## Campaign to bring men into kids' education

Charlotte is joining an effort to get a million fathers involved with the education of their children.

The Charlotte Organizing Committee of the Million Father March launched a campaign Tuesday to encourage men to take their students to school on opening day. You don't have to be a father to participate - baby daddies, foster fathers and male relatives can join.

For information, call Blanche Penn at (704) 890-4101, Dwayne Collins at (704) 777-4313 or Harold Dixon, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools family involvement coordinator at (980) 343-7499.

Herbert L. White

## New coffeehouse gives revitalization a touch of Magic



PHOTO: CALVIN FERGUSON

Magic Johnson signs a photo for Angie Smith at the Starbucks Coffee shop on Wilkinson Boulevard as sons Stephon, 9, and Devante, 14 wait in line.

By Cheris F. Hodges  
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Starbucks Coffee House on Wilkinson Boulevard is unremarkable compared to some of the other coffee shops in Charlotte, but for an area that was once known as a prostitution zone and a crime magnet, this is a welcomed change.

Basketball legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson and city leaders celebrated the opening of the first Magic Johnson-owned Starbucks

in North Carolina. Officially the store is called an Urban Coffee Opportunity. It's the 99th UCO store in the U.S. and represents a 10-year campaign to get Johnson to invest in Charlotte.

Mecklenburg County Commissioner Norman Mitchell said opening a Starbucks on Wilkinson Boulevard shows Johnson's commitment to Charlotte and will bring other people to the neighborhood.

"This is not only for the neighborhood. It's for people

that shop in this area and travel back and forth. Some people are really into Starbucks and they type it into their GPS system and now the closest one will be on Wilkinson Boulevard," Mitchell said at the grand opening ceremony.

Johnson, who had a ceremonial coffee toast with Mayor Pat McCrory and other city and county officials, said that with the \$800 billion of spending power, African Americans

Please see MAGIC/6A



Dermatologist Dr. Peggy Freeman prefers one-to-one relationships/6C

**INSIDE**

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