

MAKEOVER SQUAD

From new coaches to transfers like RB Marco Kriven, J.C. Smith looks to rebound/Page 1C



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Open house at Friendship Missionary Baptist
Religion 5B



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One month in, Gorman makes his mark

CMS superintendent: Change necessary to build trust in school district

By Herbert L. White
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Pete Gorman's first month as Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools superintendent has been marked by changes. And he's not finished. On Tuesday, the Board of

Education confirmed Ruth Perez for the newly-created position of chief academic officer. Perez, an area superintendent in Orange County, Fla., joins Chief Operating Officer Maurice Green as top-level executives in the

state's largest school district. Perez signed a four-year contract that will pay her \$158,490 annually.

"I think it's very important" to put school administration and education services under one department, Gorman

said. "We have two separate divisions right now. We have curriculum instruction ...and school operations, and they don't come together."

Gorman's first month has been a whirlwind of meet-
Please see **GORMAN'S/3A**



Gorman

Activists lobby for black vendors

Change in N.C. law could leave contractors out of state programs

By Cash Michaels
THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

WILMINGTON — Black leaders across North Carolina are lobbying Gov. Mike Easley to veto a bill the General Assembly ratified last week that they say could eliminate the prospect of minority-owned businesses contracting with state and local government.

"The North Carolina Black Leadership Caucus hereby appeals to you asking that you veto HB 1827 [the General Contractor license Exceptions/DOT bill]," wrote NCBLCA Chairman N. Carnell Robinson in a July 28 letter.

The bill, one of the last pieces of legislation passed by the Legislature before it adjourned for the summer two weeks ago, removes any mention of specific numerical minority business contracting goals that N.C. Dept. of Transportation, and in effect, any other state or local government agency, would employ in a "good faith effort" to reach.

"The Department shall review its budget its budget and establish annual aspirational goals, not mandatory goals, in percentages for the overall participation in contracts by disadvantaged minority-owned and women-owned businesses," HB 1827 states. To critics, allowing DOT or other public agencies to decide what their own aspirational goals will be on an annual basis is a loophole that allows them to escape any goals at all.

In previous language, a 10 percent goal was set for minority businesses, and 5 percent for women-owned businesses, thus making DOT somewhat accountable for at least trying to reach it.

"The legislation fails to provide DOT with
Please see **CRITICS/2A**

CIAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



PHOTOWADE NASH

CIAA Commissioner Leon Kerry unveiled the 2007 tournament's logo and sponsorships Wednesday in Charlotte

League, city focused on growth

Organizers look to top records set by 2006 event

By Cheris F. Hodges
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Charlotte and the CIAA are gearing up to make "Uptown Live" for the 2007 basketball tournament.

The tournament's first visit to Charlotte in February brought in \$15 million in revenue and delivered an average of \$151,000 in

scholarship money to its 12 member schools, a record for the league.

"I thought we had a great first run in Charlotte," said Tim Newman, president of Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority. "We're hard at work on some of the issues we need to work on in terms of parking. We've had a

parking consortium meeting in the last week and we're trying to develop a weekly parking pass option."

Bill McMillan, director of marketing for the Charlotte Sports Commission, said there's been a meeting with the major uptown parking companies — Secured,
Please see **CIAA./6A**

Liberia native's goal: Give children in war-ravaged nation a chance to play



By Erica Singleton
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Liberia's civil unrest left emotional scars on Gohnsahn Mattaldi.

A civil war that lasted from 1989-1996 killed more than 150,000 of the nation's 3 million citizens. An estimated 50,000 children died in the conflict, including Mattaldi's younger brother.

Mattaldi, who now lives in Charlotte, said 21 percent of the combatants disarmed at the end of the war in 1996 were under the age of 17.

Eight months ago Mattaldi started efforts to build a recreation center for young boys affected by the extended conflict in Liberia.

"I look around at the YMCAs, parks, and gyms here [in Charlotte] and I think maybe [Liberia's] kids need these facilities," explained Mattaldi. "Years of conflict and war have robbed the kids of their innocence. I want to teach [Liberia's] kids to just be kids, instead of having them come along with guns."

Liberia has a long history connected with the U.S.

Established in 1822 as a colony for freed American slaves, Liberia declared its independence in 1847 as Africa's first Republic. Also that year, Former Virginia slave Joseph Jenkins Roberts was elect-

ed Liberia's first president.

The republic lasted until 1980, between which time Liberia demonstrated its commitment to the United States despite historical benign neglect.

Mattaldi's 14-year-old brother was killed during the war by other young boys looking to recruit him. Even today, after being in Liberia from March to May, Mattaldi doesn't know the exact area where his brother was killed, or where he is buried. Despite the dark history, Mattaldi believes Liberia will move, "from a state of desperation to a place of inspiration."

"After years of conflict, war is over, but if you do not rebuild the minds of the people, the work is not done," said Mattaldi.

As executive director of Hope for Liberia, an incorporated charity foundation, Mattaldi hopes to raise the funds to build the recreation center. Through the organization they've already took over
Please see **HOPE/6A**

IN BUSINESS



Pitchman for progress
Ronnie Bryant leads regional recruiting efforts/Page 6C

the box

NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS
Bush rhetoric doesn't match political reality

By Hazel Trice Edney
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON — When talking about the pain of slavery before black audiences, surprisingly George W. Bush is excellent at conveying deep understanding and sensitivity. But according to his critics, the problem is that compassionate speeches, such as the one he gave before the NAACP last month,



Bush

Please see **BUSH'S/8A**



Charlotte Sting rookies look back on first pro season, and ahead to the next/1C

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