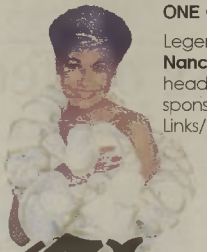


SACKING 'GRIDIRON GANG'
The Rock stars in a football flick that's too sugary A&E/1D



The Rock is no 'Gridiron' hero

ONE OF A KIND
Legendary vocalist Nancy Wilson headlines concert sponsored by The Links/1B



Boxer Calvin Brock one step from realizing goal of world title.

IN SPORTS/1C



Points more plentiful for J.C. Smith offense/1C
Golden Bulls running back Yannick Murray

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Paying debt to families, society

Charlotte ministry supports ex-offenders as they transition to life after prison

By Erica Singleton
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

John Jennings understands how hard life is for inmates. A chaplain and founder and CEO of FAVAR Ministries, Jennings spends his days with prisoners, but that's not why he understands them. A decade ago, Jennings' mistakes left him facing

165 years behind bars. "In South Carolina, the judge gave me 15 years, and I was only required to do a third of that time, so I spent five years in jail in South Carolina," he said. "But when I got out, I was still facing federal charges...and still had years to do in North Carolina." Jennings spent another five

years in a state facility and five years in a federal lockup. Jennings said he sat in his cell knowing that he wanted to make a difference when he got out of jail. "God gave me a vision," said Jennings. "I started the idea for FAVAR 15 to 20 years ago, but it was not incorporated until last

June. When I first got out, I returned to prisons to minister with Rev. Tyrone Scott. We were just going into jails, preaching to men and women; telling them how good God is, but the day comes when they get out and they no longer need spiritual ministries, they need physical min-

Please see **MINISTRY/6A**

Whites understand advantages of race

Survey: Color does have its privileges

By Lorinda M. Bullock
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON — While many white Americans recognize that they enjoy certain privileges over other races, nearly half of them believe governmental institutions are color-blind and don't contribute to those privileges, according to a new "whiteness" survey released by researchers at the University of Minnesota.

"The assumption has been that whites didn't see or understand the privileges they might have that go along with race," said Doug Hartmann, an associate professor of sociology at the university and the study's co-author.

"And there we have pretty high numbers. Sixty percent or upwards of Whites see the way that prejudice and discrimination and family upbringing and access to schools creates advantages for them. That's surprising to a lot of left-leaning type scholars who assume that whites didn't get that," he said. Although more whites are starting to understand the advantages of being white in America as a group, they are less aware of it than other racial groups, the study said. The study reported that 46 percent of whites "agreed that laws and institutions play an important role in

Please see **WHITES/3A**

United Way President Gloria Pace King (center) joined senior vice president of resource development Diane Wright, and regional campaign chair Michael Baker at the kickoff of The Day of Caring 2006. They refurbished the playground at the Simmons YMCA on Albemarle Road. The United Way campaign aims to raise \$44.075 million for its 75th anniversary.



PHOTO PAUL WILLIAMS 31

A PLACE IN HISTORY FOR PLATO PRICE HIGH



Plato Price High School alumni Norman Mitchell, Sarah Davis, Clayton Reid, Vera Torrence Gladden and Oscar Biggood helped unveil a historic marker denoting the former Plato Price High School. The school, built in 1915 during the height of segregation in the South, educated African American students before closing in 1966. Plato Price produced well-known alumni like Philip O. Berry, the first black member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school board, and U.S. Rep. Mel Watt.

Extolling the virtues of marriage

Conference dispels myth that blacks not interested in matrimony

By Sommer Brokaw
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

CHAPEL HILL — A panel discussion at the African American Healthy Marriage Initiatives conference dispelled some myths.

The No. 1 myth rebutted was that black marriages don't matter. Dr. Linda Malone-Colon, PhD, executive director of the Healthy Marriage Resource Center in Washington, D.C., and one of the authors of the study, said that some studies have suggested that mar-

riage — as it relates to families — doesn't matter for blacks because they have other family and community support.

But she said the study, titled "The Consequences of Marriage for African Americans," was the first to show substantial evidence that black marriage does matter.

The study found that black marriages provide benefits to men and women economically, socially and psychologically. Married couples are less likely to suffer from eco-

nomnic hardship, have higher levels of occupational prestige and are more likely to own their own home. They report more happiness, life satisfaction and are less likely to commit suicide. Socially, they participate more in civic duties and are less likely to be involved in crime.

The same benefits apply to children. Having a father in the home appears to benefit black boys with self-esteem and self-control. Black girls who grow up in two-parent

Please see **MARRIAGE/6A**

S.C. governor's black radio ads spark questions

By Katrina Goggins
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, S.C. — It's not everyday that a Republican governor from the South runs campaign ads talking about his civil rights record on television and radio stations that cater to black audiences, political analysts say. But Gov. Mark Sanford's campaign manager says ads the gov-

ernor ran on Black Entertainment Television and urban and gospel music radio stations in South Carolina are a continuation of the governor's civil rights record.



Sanford

Please see **SANFORD/2A**

Churches pass on U.S. faith grants

Study: Concerns about federal interference dampens interest

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

Black churches in the Northwest are more likely to benefit from the Bush administration's faith-based initiative than those in the South, a study found.

The survey released Tuesday by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies found that African American churches from the Northeast have benefited more from the federally funded Faith-Based and Community Initiative than more conservative black churches in the South.

Data from the national survey of 750 black churches found that only 2.4 percent were recipients of FBCCI grants, of which 47 percent were from the Northeast, and only 26 percent were from southern states. The findings offered no support for concerns that the Bush administration used the FBCCI to gain political favor with black churches.

"Our survey found that a majority of the churches responding favored the FBCCI, with churches in the Northeast more likely to be FBCCI grant recipients than those in other areas of the U.S.," said David Bositis, a Joint Center senior research associate, who conducted the study.

"The surprising finding was that churches in the blue states where Al Gore and John Kerry won in 2000 and 2004, respectively, were more likely to have received FBCCI grants than those in red states that George W. Bush won in 2000 and 2004, with New

Please see **STUDY/2A**

theBOX

NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS

Legal minds to be honored at Oct. gala

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

Three N.C. legal and community leaders will be honored for their achievements next month.

The Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund will honor Dovey Roundtree, Johnny Taylor and Cressie Thigpen at the third Awards of Excellence dinner Oct. 5 at the Westin Hotel. Proceeds from the dinner will provide scholarships for students at North Carolina's public historically black colleges: Elizabeth City State, Fayetteville State, N.C. A&T State, N.C. Central and Winston-Salem State universities.

"Our past two Charlotte events have been quite successful," said Mary

Please see **LEGAL/2A**



Poll: Some women would give up creature comforts to buy great pair of shoes/1B

INSIDE

Life 1B
Religion 4B

Sports 1C
Business 6C

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