

# The Charlotte Post

The Voice of the Black Community

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WEEK OF JANUARY 18-24, 2007

Money and politics: A perfect mix for Fly/8A



**'RENT' PARTY**  
Tony-winning musical rolls into Ovens Auditorium riding wave of momentum/1D



**HOME IS SO SWEET**  
Jeff McInnis dives right in with the Bobcats/1C



PHOTO: CALVIN FERGUSON

CIAA Commissioner Leon Kerry said the league's basketball tournament's success is based on its ability to lure corporate support.

## Fueling CIAA's hype machine

Basketball tournament already near sellout with aggressive marketing

By Cheris F. Hodges

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The CIAA basketball tournament is one of the most highly recognized college basketball tournaments and in six weeks, it returns to Charlotte.

Though the tournament sells itself, with alumni clamoring to buy tickets as early as December, the league and its corporate sponsors still put on a marketing blitz.

Last Thursday at the Charlotte Convention Center, the hype got underway as CIAA Commissioner Leon Kerry and city officials talked about plans for the 2007 tournament, which tips off on Feb. 26 at Charlotte Bobcats Arena.

Kerry said there are about 1,000 upper level seats available. The tickets were sold without a lot of advertising and Kerry admits that it would be easy for the league to just let the legacy of the CIAA carry the tournament. But, that's not how they do things.

"Fans talked about the CIAA in Charlotte all year," he said. "This is an important community event. We try to embrace the community with everything that we do."

Kerry said the key to the tournament's success is to embrace the community. Please see CIAA/3A

## Justice 'grateful' for opportunity to serve on court

By Sommer Brokaw

THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

**RALEIGH** — Patricia Timmons-Goodson, the first black woman elected to the N.C. Supreme Court, began her eight-year term on the state's highest court last Monday.

Now that it's official, Timmons-Goodson is ready to get down to business.

"I am extremely excited," she said. "I'm very grateful for the opportunity the citizens of North Carolina have given me to serve them on the Supreme Court and to render justice."

Please see JUSTICE/2A



PHOTO: PAUL WILLIAMS III

**JAMES B. MITCHELL**  
Charlotte City Council member James Mitchell unveils Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard during a dedication ceremony.

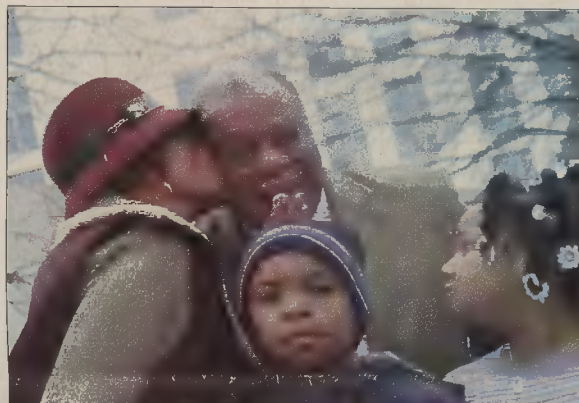


PHOTO: CALVIN FERGUSON

Sam Belnavis is consoled by wife Christine during a wreath-laying ceremony at the MLK statue at Marshall Park.

## Keeping dream, legacy alive

Across the Carolinas Monday, thousands paid their respects to the memory and ideals of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

In Charlotte, MLK Day took on added significance with a parade along the newly-named Martin Luther King Boulevard in Center City among numerous events held across the city. A memorial service at the foot of King's statue in Marshall Park brought some to tears, while Americans of all ethnic groups got together for prayer and praise.

Herbert L. White



PHOTO: PAUL WILLIAMS III

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department honor guard participated in the Pilgrim March.



**Leap of Faith Dance Company** performed at a community worship service at Hickory Grove Baptist Church.

PHOTO: CALVIN FERGUSON

## N.C. tax credit for poor on agenda

State likely to debate matching federal funds

By Herbert L. White

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When N.C. lawmakers meet next week, an earned income tax credit for the working poor will be a top of their agenda.

After several failed attempts in previous years, key legislators say a state tax credit has enough momentum to get a vote. Gov. Mike Easley included it in his first budget in 2001, but yanked it when the state ran afoul of a fiscal crisis.



Adams

Among the lawmakers leading the charge for the credit are Reps. Alma Adams of Greensboro, and William Wainwright of Havelock and Sen. William Hoyle of Gastonia. The General Assembly convenes Jan. 25 in Raleigh.

"I would think there's a 50-50 chance of it passing," said Rep. Pete Cunningham of Charlotte, who like Wainwright and Adams, is a member of the Legislative Black Caucus. "From a practical standpoint, I think it would appeal to most people. You can put me down as a very strong maybe."



Cunningham

Please see TAX/6A

### the box

NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS

## Chambers honored by hometown

By Herbert L. White

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Julius Chambers' spectacular legal career has earned him a place of honor in his hometown.

The town of Mount Gilead in Montgomery County dedicated Julius Chambers Avenue on Monday to honor Chambers, who founded the state's first multiracial law firm in Charlotte in 1964. He is best known as the winning attorney in Swann v. Board of Education, which upheld busing as a means to school desegregation.



Chambers

He also won a pair of major Title VII discrimination cases — Griggs v. Duke Power Co. and Albemarle Paper Co. v. Moody.

In 1984, he became the NAACP Legal Defense Fund's director-counsel, a position once held by Supreme Court justice Thurgood Marshall. He later became chancellor at N.C. Central University in Durham.



Designer faucets have a sense of flair as well as function/6D

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