

## A SUNSHINE STATE OF MIND

Charlotte native **Sunshine Anderson** keeps her music and message real/1D



South Meck LB **Colby Hardin** among 12 J.C. Smith football signees/1C



**CHIC, NOT CHEAP** Uptown retailer's accessories are actually accessible to most budgets/6C  
Trenna Cannon, owner of Bijoux 12



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# The Charlotte Post

The Voice of the Black Community

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WEEK OF FEBRUARY 8-14, 2007

## Fewer bullets, more butter

Lawmakers urge slashing of U.S. defense budget

By Hazel Trice Edney  
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.), the only member of Congress who voted against a bill that gave President Bush unfettered authority to wage war after Sept. 11, now says black people must demand an end to what appears to be unfettered spending on war while domestic needs go unmet.



"The black community has got to start organizing around this defense budget because we have huge tax cuts for the wealthy and huge economic, social, educational, health care and housing disparities in our country," says Lee. "We need resources and these are our tax dollars. African-Americans have got to demand our fair share and demand that we begin to have a rational defense budget... And our community needs to recognize the fact that it's taking away \$2 billion a month now that we could use here at home."

The Bush administration has already spent \$500 billion - \$100 billion a year - on wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001 and is expected to spend at least \$100 billion more this year. But a "Common Sense Budget" bill that Lee co-sponsored and pushed unsuccessfully under Republican control in the 109th Congress shows what could be done by making modest cuts in defense spending. She plans to reintroduce the bill in this session of Congress.

The original version states "The Department of Defense's increasingly large budget provides for total

Please see DEFENSE/3A



Curtis Carroll, district superintendent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' achievement zone, talks to students at Billingsville Elementary School Tuesday.

## Up to challenge of struggling schools

Millions would benefit from federal minimum wage boost

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

Curtis Carroll is a proponent of relationships and opportunity. Charlotte-Mecklenburg's struggling public schools, he insists, need plenty of both in order to improve academic achievement.

As area superintendent for 10 high-poverty campuses, Carroll believes the key to success is interaction between communities, par-

ents, students and teachers. His job is pull those groups together.

"Before we can talk about testing, we have to have a serious talk about relationships," he said. "If a student or parent has had a negative experience at one of our schools, we can't even begin to talk about academic achievement. We have to talk about relationships how adults relate to each other in the building, how central

office relates to the schools, how parents and students relate to the school."

Carroll, who started in January, built a reputation as a relationship builder as principal at Harding University High School from 1999-2006. After a five-month stint in Jacksonville, Fla., he's tackling one of the most difficult - and watched - jobs in the district.

"Leadership is the key in See RELATIONSHIPS/2A

“Before we can talk about testing, we have to have a serious talk about relationships.”

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Area Superintendent Curtis Carroll

## Research reveals ancestors' struggles

By Robert L. Smith  
(CLEVELAND) PLAIN DEALER

OLON, Ohio — As he drove across the Virginia countryside on a scorching August day, Marcus Butler turned off his car's air conditioning and then clicked off the radio. Comforts felt wrong on this drive, this mission of discovery.

Among the papers piled on the seat beside him lay a copy of the newspaper classified ad that pulled him here. Occasionally, he picked it up and reread words he knew by heart.

Slaves took risks in order to secure their freedom

"RUN away from the plantations of Mr. Brett Randolph," began the reward notice in the Virginia Gazette of April 11, 1771.

The words that followed knocked Butler breathless when he first scrolled across them on a library's microfilm reader.

Two slaves had escaped and one of them described as about

18, well made, very black, from Africa was named Claiborne. That was Butler's great-great-great-grandfather.

Butler let himself sweat as he drove Claiborne's approximate path of flight across the Virginia piedmont. He imagined him walking at night through the forests, drinking from streams, evading slave catchers, somehow surviving to allow Marcus Butler and his wife and three children to know a full life six and seven generations later.

Please see SLAVES/6A

## Hospital stay over, Farrakhan recovering at home

By Nisa Islam Muhammad  
THE FINAL CALL

CHICAGO — On Jan. 28, the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan was released from a five-week hospital stay following a major surgical procedure.

As the news was delivered via a national webcast from Nation of Islam Headquarters in Chicago, Nation of Islam believers and well-wishers for Farrakhan's speedy recovery responded with shouts of "Allahu Akbar" (God is the

Greatest) and other expressions of joy.

"He was in the hospital for five weeks," explained Minister Ishmael, national assistant to Farrakhan, who moderated the webcast. "I'm happy to announce to the Nation of Islam and all of the wonderful people who prayed for him that he was released and is out of the hospital, and at home."

In addition to the care from his doctors, Farrakhan was under the constant and continued care

from his daughter and nurse, Fatima Farrakhan Muhammad, who had been by her father's side the entire time.

"The Minister wants to thank all those who prayed for his recovery and healing. Let us continue to keep the Minister in our prayers for his complete recovery," Fatima told The Final Call.

"His focus is Saviours' Day. With the help of Allah, he hopes to see all of those whom Allah has blessed him to touch through his ministry in Detroit

at Saviours' Day 2007," she said.

"That's a man of his word," Ishmael said. "When he says he's not going to be able to be with you, that means he's not going to be able to be with you; but when he says he'll see you, he'll be there, Allah (God) willing, then his mind has been set on Detroit."



Farrakhan



Charlotte-Mecklenburg NAACP President Kenneth White announced plans Tuesday for Saturday's Historic K On Jones Street rally in Raleigh.

## Agenda for other North Carolina

Rally voices progressive message to lawmakers

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

North Carolina's progressive movement is hitting the road to influence public policy.

Saturday's Historic K On Jones Street rally will include civil rights, labor and community organizations. NAACP organizers hope to bring 100 people from all 100 counties, or 10,000 participants to the state capitol in Raleigh. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg NAACP is chartering buses for the trip.

"Our goal is a progressive agenda that represents all people across North Carolina," said Kenneth White, president of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg chapter. "We want to put that agenda before the state assembly and keep it there. As someone said, it's not a moment, it's a movement."

At a Tuesday press conference at Charlotte's Government Center, local organizers described the rally's goal as a grassroots effort to change government. The poor and disenfranchised are often left to fend for themselves when lawmakers decide public policy.

"We feel it is not inclusive enough and the

Please see HISTORIC/3A

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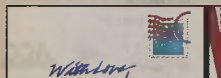
## Reparations talks in V.I.

By Ayesha Morris  
VIRGIN ISLANDS DAILY NEWS

ST. THOMAS, Virgin Islands — Representatives of a joint task force of Denmark and the Virgin Islands met last Friday with Gov. John deJongh Jr. to sensitize the government to the reparations movement.

Talks about redress for harm caused during slavery and colonization under the Danish flag continued with a public forum.

Those attending the meeting included Danish human rights expert Morten Kjaerum; African-Caribbean Reparations and Resettlement Alliance president Shelley Moorhead; ACCRA board member Kendall Petersen; and Sen. Terrence Nelson.



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