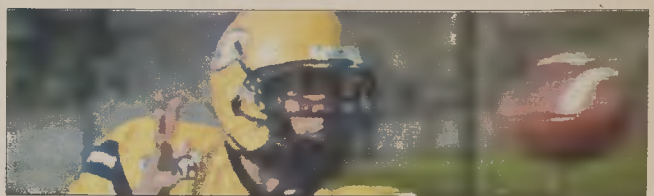




'IDOL' TIME MAKES BORING TV Page 1D



J.C. Smith retools offense during spring drills. Page 1C

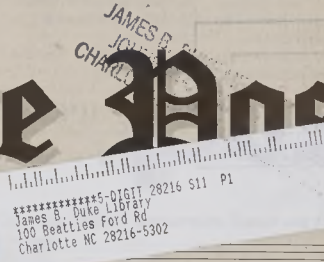
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# The Charlotte Post

The Voice of the Black Community

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Counties



PHOTOS: CALVIN FERGUSON

Antoine Crumpton (left) helps Antoine "Nis" Smith with a music purchase Wednesday at EZ Records in Eastland Mall. A report recommends the razing of Eastland and construction of mixed-use shopping

## Standing up for Eastland

Customers, some retailers say closing shopping center would take away options

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

A report that calls for the razing of Eastland Mall has drawn the ire of the shopping center's tenants.

The non-profit Washington, D.C.-based Urban Land Institute laid out a plan that includes bulldozing the mall and changing the name from Eastland to something else because of the negativity associated with the mall.

The ULI panel contends Eastland's site is no longer a regional location. Growth has

been stifled by the area and incomes are growing only modestly. But some people who work and shop at Eastland don't agree with the report.

"I don't think it's a good idea to tear down the mall," said Antoine Crumpton, manager of EZ Records. "Black people come (to Eastland) and if they tear it down, we won't have anywhere else to go shop. It's a bad idea to me."

The panel's assignment was to come up with alternative uses or reuses for the anchor stores, including bringing in

new anchor retailers and non-retail uses. Findings from the 53-page report concluded "The Mall has suffered from bad publicity/image."

Many National in-line retailers have left, JC Penny has closed and been backfilled with discount retailers. Belk has closed and Dillard's has changed to a discount format and will probably close.

Some popular stores in the mall, such as Victoria Secret, have also closed. At one time, Eastland was the largest mall in

Please see EASTLAND/2A

Black people come (to Eastland) and if they tear it down, we won't have anywhere else to go shop.

Antoine Crumpton, manager of EZ Records in Eastland Mall



## Next up for CMS: Budget support

District wants county to pay extra \$30.4 million

By Herbert L. White

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Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Superintendent Peter Gorman unveiled his proposed budget for the 2007-2008 school year Tuesday.

But how much support will it get from the people who hold the pursestrings?

Gorman's proposed \$1.163 billion budget - which represents a 10.6 percent increase from the 2006-07 academic year's \$1.051 billion - redirects funding to pay for Strategic Plan 2010 initiatives and keep pace with growth and operations.

"We have closely aligned our spending with the board's directives for increasing student achievement and decentralizing the district," Gorman said. "We are funding the new strategic plan by cutting some programs and reallocating our resources to fit our new priorities."

Gorman wants the county to chip in \$346,534,208, which is \$30.4 million more than last year.

"That's about 9 percent," said Mecklenburg Commissioner Dumont Clark. "We have a budget framework (based on revenue and expenses). I think we need to see what that

Please see CMS/6A



Gorman

## Publisher's resume includes top business woman

Dee Dixon owns Pride magazine

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

Communications executive Dee Dixon is Charlotte's top businesswoman.

Dixon earned the honor Wednesday at the 21st annual BusinessWoman of the Year luncheon. She beat out a field that included Bank of America executive Cathy Bessant; Sherré L. DeMao of SLD Unlimited Marketing/PR, Inc.; Alisa A. McDonald of Duke Energy Corp.; and Lou M. Solomon of Interact Skills LLC.

Dixon owns Pride Communications, which

includes Pride magazine as well as public relations and marketing divisions. The company promotes and produces the Pride Sunset Jazz Series and Pride Awards Gala, which promote diversity, cultural awareness and financial support for non-profits. The company also promotes an annual health summit that addresses prevention and improvement of services in the African American community.

Dixon also sits on the Mint Museum board of directors and was also recognized as a

Please see PUBLISHER/2A



PHOTO: CURTIS WILSON

Dee Dixon, CEO of Pride Communications (left) gets a kiss from son Torrey Feimster, publisher of Pride magazine.

## For post-colonial Africa, dreams are deferred

By Scott Baldauf, Rob Crilly and Tristan McConnell  
THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA - At Ghana's celebration last week of its 50th year of independence - the first of a wave of African countries to throw off colonial rule in the 1950s and '60s - there were

brave speeches, feasts, free concerts, and plenty of the national colors of red, yellow, and green.

There were also mutters of disappointment that one of Africa's most promising countries, which gained independence from Britain on March 6, 1957, hasn't achieved more. For many Africans, the lack of post-

colonial progress is brought home by the fact that Ghana has done far better than most other African nations, but far worse than Asian countries that achieved independence at around the same time, such as India, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

If Ghanaians are the first to feel this pungent mixture of pride and resignation, it will not

be alone. Over the next five years, dozens of other African nations will celebrate 50 years of independence and decry the lost opportunities to make more of their freedom.

Ghana "lit the torch of African independence," says Vladimir Antwi-Danso, a lecturer in international affairs at Accra

See INDEPENDENCE S/6A

## the box

NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS

## Subprime loans at root of foreclosure

By Jenice Richardson

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON - Subprime loans have been the gateway to the American dream of homeownership for many, especially African-Americans. However, these loans are in close relation to high trends in foreclosures and is having a significant effect on black borrowers, say fair-housing experts.

"It is not enough to put more Americans into their own homes if we fail to arm them with the tools needed to sustain homeownership," says Marc Morial, president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League. "Far too many first-time homebuyers with limited financial experience have fallen into the trap of predatory lending where unscrupulous mortgage brokers steer them into unsuitable and exploitive mortgage products and turn their American dream into the American

Please see SUBPRIME/2A



Morial



Former TV producer makes transition to home designer /6C

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