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# The Charlotte Post

The Voice of the Black Community

Also serving Cabarrus,

WEEK OF MARCH 29-APRIL 4

## N.C. lottery's just the ticket for state's poor



Per capita North Carolina lottery sales by adult is dominated by eastern counties, with 10 in the top 12.

Where the consistent players are  
Top five counties' per capita spending  
Nash (\$227) Wilson (\$220) Vance (\$203)  
Lenoir (\$202) Edgecombe (\$188)



John "Butterfly" Miller of Charlotte shows off his tickets Wednesday. Mecklenburg County residents spent an average of \$84 per adult on lottery tickets

### A year after launch, games' appeal is highest in the East

By Herbert L. White  
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North Carolina's richest and poorest counties are driving sales for the Education Lottery a year after it launched.

Mecklenburg, the richest, accounted for \$55.4 million in sales through March 17, making it second only to Wake's \$70.2 million. But players in prosperous counties make up only part of the lottery demographic. There are the residents of less-wealthy counties who spend

Joseph Coletti, fiscal policy analyst at the John Locke Foundation

more per capita on tickets and bear a heavier tax burden.

A report from the John Locke Foundation, a conservative think tank in Raleigh, found that counties with the highest poverty and unemployment rates tend to have the highest rates of ticket sales. Anti-lottery advocates warned as much during years of debate.

"Opponents of the lottery warned that it would be a tax on poor people, but it's actually turned out worse - it's a tax on poor, unemployed people in eastern North Carolina who already pay high taxes," said Joseph Coletti, a fiscal policy analyst at the foundation.

National studies show that 20 percent of all players - who contribute 82 percent of lottery revenue - disproportionately are low-income, minority men who have less than a college education.

"It really is government undercutting what

Please see HOPE/2A

## Summit brings neighbors together

Citywide symposium a chance to share ideas

By Herbert L. White

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Communication makes good neighbors, too.

Charlotte's 12th annual Neighborhood Symposium Saturday at the Charlotte Convention Center will bring neighborhood advocates from across the city to talk about challenges and results. The symposium is from 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

"It's an opportunity for people in neighborhoods to come together," said Cynthia Woods, the city of Charlotte's neighborhood services supervisor.

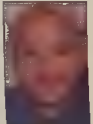
"People on the eastside can talk to people from the southside and west and find out what issues they have and what works for them."

Woods said the symposium is expected to attract a record number of participants, in part due to more community involvement and more aggressive promotion by the city. As Charlotte's neighborhoods evolve, more residents are taking part in setting the agenda.

"If the registration numbers hold true," we should have 600 or 700 people," Woods said.

The keynote speaker is John Barros, executive director of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative of Boston, a residential planning organization that rebuilt an

Please see NEIGHBORS/6A



Barros

## Global court makes first indictments for Darfur crimes

By James Wright

AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS

A leading activist against the genocide taking place in the Darfur region of the Sudan and an organization committed to its end are hopeful that an international court will try to prosecute two Sudanese men who have played a key role in its facilitation.

The International Criminal Court, based in The Hague, Netherlands, wants to try Ahmad Muhammad Harun, the Sudanese minister of state for humanitarian affairs and Ali Kushayb, leader of the government-backed Janjaweed militia that is terrorizing Darfurans and committing such crimes as rape, torture and inhumane acts.

Ahmed Muhammad Harun and Janjaweed militia leader, Ali Kushayb were indicted on 51 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, according to prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo.

However, the Sudanese government has refused to give up the men to the ICC.

The action of the Sudanese government does not surprise Joe Madison, the country's leading activist on the matter of Darfur and a radio talk show host on WOL.

"The men that the ICC wants and the Sudan government refuses to give up have been architects of the genocide," Madison told the Afro. "Harun has gone as far as saying that 'there is no genocide.' He also said that he will not go to The Hague to face charges on anything because he said that the charges are bogus."

Since 2003, Madison has traveled to the Darfur region 10 times to monitor the human rights abuses perpetrated by both sides of

See COURT/2A

## Next NAACP president will face crucial issues

By Hazel Trice Edney

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON - The weighty issues now facing black people in America indicate that the next NAACP president must be an aggressive, energetic leader focused on civil rights in the 21st century, says veteran civil rights advocates.

"I'd think they'd be looking for a relatively young person with vision and vigor who understands the mission of the NAACP

to work to achieve social change, to work for increased economic opportunities for African-Americans, to fight discrimination at every level, to seek empowerment, economic, political, and social empowerment for black people; to find ways and means of hitting a level of global consciousness, to help organize our people in local communities around these issues, and to rise to a new level of dynamism and activism," says the Rev. Joseph Lowery, 85,

known as the dean of the civil rights movement.

Lowery, who co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with Martin Luther King in 1957, says by "young person," he means someone who may have been born inside or outside the civil rights movement, but who is able to vigorously deal with the high level issues of inequality now facing America.

"I mean people who are energetic intellectually as well as

physically energetic," he says.

The nation's oldest civil rights organization, about to celebrate its 100th birthday in two years, is once again without a president after the controversial resignation of Verizon executive Bruce Gordon after only 19 months. Citing irreparable

Please see NAACP/3A



Gordon

## Rally to protest sale of Tar Heel bacon products

By Herbert L. White

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Swine will be on the picket line Saturday.

Protests across three states - including North Carolina - will call for Harris Teeter to switch suppliers for its house brand bacon. Clergy, consumer advocates and civil rights leaders will picket also picket Harris Teeter stores in Tennessee and Virginia over the supermarket chain's use of Smithfield Foods products.

Harris Teeter dropped Smithfield brand products after protests late last year. Saturday's Charlotte protest is scheduled for the Harris Teeter store at

1704 Central Ave.

"We are encouraged by the progress we have seen Harris Teeter make in removing Smithfield Tar Heel pork, but we want them to finish the job," said the Rev. Nelson Johnson, co-founder of the Southern Faith, Labor and Community Alliance. "On (Saturday), we will demonstrate to Harris Teeter that we have mobilized broad consumer support behind the call for Harris Teeter to find a new supplier for its bacon and to remove all remaining Smithfield Tar Heel pork."

Critics and Smithfield workers allege the manufacturer mistreats and abuses its 5,500 work-



FILE PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Wynonna Mims of Charlotte hands out fliers in December to protest treatment of Smithfield Foods employees at the Tar Heel, N.C., plant.

ers at its Tar Heel, N.C., plant - the majority of them African American and Latino.

The Tar Heel plant is the world's largest swine slaughter-

house.

Human Rights Watch has criticized Smithfield in two reports for dangerous working conditions.



Safety should be the first rule in bathtub, regardless of age/7D

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