



Introductions over, Bobcats coach **SAM VINCENT** jumps into new job/1C



REV. CLAUDE ALEXANDER earns bishop-designee status from national organization

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WEEK OF MAY 31-JUNE 6, 2007



Adams Wright

Caucus backs embattled colleague

Lawmakers slam critics of Rep. Thomas Wright

By Sommer Brokaw
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

RALEIGH - North Carolina's Legislative Black Caucus members are not ready to give up on Rep. Thomas Wright.

Wright D-New Hanover, a Wilmington Democrat and former chairman of the NCLBC, is accused of committing perjury and accepting illegal campaign contributions.

The State Board of Elections voted unanimously on May 15 to ask Wake County District Attorney C. Colin Willoughby to mount a criminal investigation.

Their move came after SBOE Chief Investigator Kim Strach testified that Wright could have pocketed up to a quarter million dollars in campaign funds for his personal use over the past six years.

Wright was a top ally to former speaker Jim Black, who pleaded guilty to federal public corruption charges in February. He is awaiting sentencing.

Initially, House Speaker Joe Hackney fell short of asking for Wright's resignation, saying only that he could no longer be effective unless he had some satisfactory explanation.

A week later, Hackney asked Wright to resign. "He has not offered any sort of explanation and without explanation he is inefficient in this chamber and that level of inefficiency has reached the point where he should resign," said Bill Holmes, a spokesman for Hackney.

See LEGISLATIVE/6A



Charlotte city workers Nathanette Mayo (left) and Victoria Hamilton (third from left) joined their peers at Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center last week to demand a pay raise and better work conditions.

The cost to be bossed

City workers demand raise, better work conditions

By Michaela Duckett
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

It's hard keeping a growing city clean on stagnant wages. Holding signs that read, "The City Works because We Do," Charlotte city workers took to the streets last Friday to protest unjust work conditions.

Their message: We're fed up with being mistreated, overworked and underpaid.

"We want the public to know how we are being treated," said Ravon Motley. "We keep the city clean. We keep sewer out of the streets. We maintain the water. We do the city a great justice and they don't want to pay us."

According to the North Carolina Public Service Workers Union, approximately 75 percent of all African American

women and 65 percent of African American men working in state agencies are in the three lowest pay grade ranges.

The statistics are similar for city workers.

"Some of us are paid anywhere from 12 to 13 percent below the national average for our job and as you go down the pay scale the gap widens," said Tim Lackey, president of the Charlotte City Workers' Union.

"In upper management they are within 1 percent of their market value and we feel that everybody regardless of their job should be brought within market value or at least as close as possible," said STS worker James Anderson.

"City Council has acknowledged that we have been paid

well below average and they know the pay could be better," said Lackey. Nevertheless, nothing has been done.

"Charlotte has the money. We are the biggest banking city in America now and with this city's growth, it has the money to treat its workers better than it does."

City workers say it is difficult to support a family on their wages and are forced to drop insurance coverage because it has become unaffordable.

"They give us a 3.7 percent raise when insurance is going up 33 percent, so I'll always be behind. I'll never see a raise," said Stan Carter.

"A lot of people are leaving because they are so frustrated.

Please see CITY/6A

Historic life-saving station resurrected

By Kristin Davis
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

MANTEO - Michael Berry played in the sturdy little cookhouse when he was a boy.

It was in Rodanthe then, where the owner used it for storage. Berry knew it only as a place to play, a faded old building whose walls he once helped paint. Now he knows more.

He knows it was built in 1930, that it once sat perched on the beach six miles south of Oregon Inlet and that it was part of the Pea Island Life-Saving Station,

the only one in the nation with an all-black crew.

His grandfather, M.M. Berry, served as a captain.

The family connection has made Michael Berry's recent work doubly meaningful. After leaving his National Park Service job in mid-afternoon, Berry would head to the cookhouse to hang pine paneling, put in new wood floors, clean up old trim and put it back in place. It was set to open Monday at its new home in Manteo as the Pea Island African American

Heritage Center Museum at Collins Park.

A year and a half ago, the cookhouse was worn down, overgrown and full of old papers and little creatures. But a couple of people had a plan to move it from Rodanthe to Manteo, restore it and open it as a museum.

Eugene Austin, whose grandfather and great-grandfather served at the Pea Island station, along with Carole Scott of the East Carolina Pathway to

Please see HISTORIC/2A

Breaking cycle to keep families intact

By Michaela Duckett
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Children of incarcerated parents are six times more likely than other children to get caught up in the criminal justice system.

According to Stacy Renee Sutton, executive director of Charlotte's Summit House, "There are a lot of kids in the system, and at least 9 out of every 10 of them have been separated from a parental figure at some point in their lives."

Summit House helps break the multi-generational cycle of poverty, substance abuse, and crime by keeping families together. The diversion program provides an alternative to prison for pregnant women, or those with young children, who have been convicted of non-violent felonies.

Please see DIVERSION/2A



Stacy Renee Sutton, executive director of Summit House, holds Joseph Marrow as his mom Brittany Housand, looks on. The diversion program provides women an alternative to prison and keeps their families together.



Malcolm X to Do The Right Thing: One fan's list of Spike Lee's best flicks ever/1D

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Secure border or access to labor?

U.S. immigration reform likely to be tedious process

By Herbert L. White
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The battle over U.S. immigration reform has political and economic implications.

But it probably won't be decided quickly - or without national angst.

A joint congressional panel earlier this month agreed on a reform package that President Bush said he'd support. Liberals assailed the proposal as excessively punitive with a "touch-back" provision that would require undocumented immigrants to return to their home country as a condition of returning to American soil. Conservatives howl it amounts to amnesty for law-breakers.

"I doubt very seriously there'll be any immigration reform before the 200 presidential election," said Carol Swain Ph.D., a political science and law professor at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

"The bigger problem is the bill is terrible and doesn't fix anything."

North Carolina has an estimated 206,000 illegal residents according to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. Of

Please see IMMIGRATION/3A

Candidate unbowed by threats on life

By Hazel Trice Edney
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON - Democratic Presidential Candidate Barack Obama, who has received earliest-ever Secret Service protection - apparently because of race-related threats on his life - says he will not be deterred by intimidation. Another former black presidential candidate says the threats indicate a resistance to change in America.

"It's not something that I'm spending a lot of time worrying about or spending a lot of time talking about," Obama told the NNPA News Service last week. "I think that all candidates for the presidency have some security risks. I don't make these assessments. Others make the assessments for us. And I'm very happy for the professionalism and the dedication of the Secret Service folks who are with me, but I'm just spending most of my time thinking about how I can be the best

See CANDIDATE/3A

Controversial MLK statue returns to park

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROCKY MOUNT - It's hard to tell whether the residents of Rocky Mount like the statue of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. any more now than they did two years ago when it was first placed in the park that bears the name of the slain civil rights leader.

Marilyn Lewis said she saw the statue when it was first erected, but "it looks different now."

"It kinda looks like him, and it kinda doesn't," she said Wednesday, the day the statue returned to the park.

Please see MLK/2A