

How single men balance dating and fatherhood/1B



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JOHNSON THE A he Charlot and the series of t

Also serving Cabarrus, Chester, Mecklenburg, Royan and York countie



County's no miser on water saving

Fly on the Wall is rumor, innuendo and a smattering of truth for first-time readers or those who just don't know

any better. Now that the disclaimer

any better.

Now that the disclaimer has been dealt with, courtesy of the crack law firm of Dewey Cheatham and Howe, barristers to the wanna-be stars, lets get the mischief, mayhem and malleasance underway, shall we?

Mecklenburg County will never earn its own Water Stars Award for conservation.

A few weeks ago the county asked citizens to be "Water Smart" and Irrigate lawns between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. One of Fly's spies peeped Parks & Recreation sprinklers watering Independence Park's soccer fields at 1:30 p.m. Monday. Oh, did Fly mention it was 96 degrees and the sprinklers were set so high it looked like a tugboat stream?

Now if Charlottestream?

stream?
Now if CharlotteMecklenburg Utilities wants
us to get up in the middle of
the night and water the yard,
why can't the department
change the automatic timers
on public pranerty? Charle

change the automatic timers on public property? Check your water bill next month. You may be drowning in their malfeasance.

- Fly got lost the other day finding the Education Center, which is now on Martin Luther King Boulevard, the former Second Street. But that's the norm around here. Seven around here. Seven

norm around here. Seven Charlotte streets have changed names this year, so pay attention, lest you lose your way and sanity. You no longer drive on lower East Independence Boulevard. That's Charlottetown Avenue. Where's that, you ask. Between Seventh Street and the now-acios Midtown Square by the Cherry neighborhood. For you newbles, that's the site of Charlotte's very first mall, now the new uptown Target store.

ry first mall, now the new town Target store.

While we're on the street topic, Fly will be on the Westside June 28 at 10 a.m. as one of Charlotte's most dedicated businessmen has a street named his honor.

Cloudman Street will be

Please see WORD/3A



PRIOTO LEPICA SINGLETON
Ronald Neal sits on the porch of his Gilbert Street home while a crew of World Changers put a
new roof on the house. The World Changers ministry has renovated homes in some of Charlotte's
poorest neighborhoods over the last three years.

Changing the world one house at a time

Volunteers take summer break to help struggling communities

By Erica Singleton

FOR THE CHARLOTE FOST

If you drove past 2919

Botany Drive this week, you might have wondered why there were so many kids on the roof of the house, but homeowner Deborah Williams considered the kids, and what they were doing, a blessing.

"I imherited this house from my parents: "Williams said." It

"I inherited this house from my parents," Williams said. "It was one of the first houses built in the [Lincoln Heights] area in the early 1950s."

Like many old houses, the one Williams' grew up in had fallen into disrepair.

"Unfortunately, due to inclimate weather and wear and

PROVIDED BY

tear, the roof just started leaking on the inside." A single parent, Williams and her daughter did all the "band aiding" they could, but didn't know what else she could do, so she turned to the city for help. And help came in the form of 320 volunteer youth and adults with an organization called World Changers that, according to its website, provides "dynamic week-long mission trips for students

seeking to make a difference in the lives of those with spiritu-al and physical needs." Since Monday, Williams has watched the World Changers sing, dance, and replace her

itasy rool. "It's a blessing to have these young people to come in and see what they can do, and how well they do it," said Williams. "It's just lets me know that there is hope." leaky roof

See CHANGING/2A

Luncheon honors women's leadership



By Herbert L. White

From philanthropy to entrepreneurship, five women will be honored by poet Maya Angelou for their achievements in making Charlotte a better place to live.

Oh, and the hats are back, too.
That's all part of Saturday's Maya Angelou Women Who Lead Luncheon at the Westin Charlotte, 601 South College St. The luncheon is a fundraiser for the United Negro College Fund. The luncheon begins at 10 a.m., and this year's honorees are:
P.J. Benton, CEO of PJJD Enterprises;

Gigi Dixon, senior vice president f national partnerships at Wachovia

Corp.;

Vi Lyles, project director at The

Vi Lyles, project director at The Lee Institute;
 Cama McNamara, publisher of Today's Charlotte Woman and
 Sarah Belk Gambrell, a philar-thropist and recipient of the first Maya Angelou/Elizabeth Ross Dargan Lifetime Achievement Award.

"This year's honorees have a deep love for education and are fantastic examples of how passion and commitment can have a profound impact on our community and our world."

Please see WOMEN S/3A

Please see WOMEN S/3A





County's

Commissioners wrestle over referendum cost that will generate support

By Herbert L. White

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herb.while@thechotoftepotd.com
A record bond package for CharlotteMecklenburg Schools is giving Mecklenburg
county commissioners a case of sticker
shock.
A proposed \$617 million
bond package suggested by
County Manager Harry Jones
faces stiff opposition from a
razor-thin majority of commissioners. The board's four
Republicans – Dan Ramirez,
Dan Bishop, Bill James and
Karen Bentley – favor a \$486
million proposal. Democrat
Valerie Woodard broke party
ranks to join the Republicans, citing efficiency concerns and the tax bite voters
potentially face with future transportation
and education projects.
"Six-anything is too high in lieu of losing
the bond referendum two years ago,"
Woodard said. "That's a lot for the average
person to endure in a short amount of
time."

A majority of commissioners voted down
a \$620 million package, maintaining its
size will all but doom it to failure in
Please see BOND/3A



Please see BOND/3A

N.C. Medicaid debate leaves lawmakers with bumps, bruises

By Herbert L. White

North Carolina needs a solution to its Medicaid funding gap by the end of the

North Carolina needs a solution to its medicaid funding gap by the end of the month.

Lawmakers have yet to agree on a budget in part because of an impasse over how to help counties pay their share of the federal health insurance program for low-income Americans. A temporary quarter-penny sales tax will expire on July 1, which would leave the state with a \$260 million revenue shortfall.

Lawmakers and Gov. Mike Easley have both proposed \$20 billion budgets. The House budget includes \$100 million in Medicaid relief for counties, while the Senate version provides none.

N.C. counties are required to pay 5 percent of their Medicaid costs, but rural counties and urban counties like Mecklenburg with large population increases are struggling to keep pace with costs.

The federal government funds the bulk of Medicaid at 64 percent; the state chips in 30 percent and counties pick up the remainder.

Senate Republicans propose a plan the would shift local sales tax revenues to the

remainder.

Senate Republicans propose a plan that would shift local sales tax revenues to the Please see N.C. MEDICAID/3A

Set everything straight

The June 14 article on Father's Day lessons misidentified radio personality Jai Delai's employer, WQNC (Q. 92.7 FM).
A graphic in the June 7 article "Selling the mission" should have shown in-state tuition of \$3.842 at UNC Charlotte and \$3.414 at N.C. A&T State University in Greensboro.



How to protect your home from Mother Nature's fury/6D



Life 1B Religion 5B

A&E 1D Classified 3D



