

MOUSE PAD?

Rid home of rodents with peppermint/6D

Volume 32 No. 51



J.C. Smith's Golden Bulls look to put pep in their offensive step/1C



Our stories

African American experience part of annual Charlotte Film Festival/1D

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The Charlotte Post

The Voice of the Black Community

Also serving Cat

Train of thought: Future of mass transit debated at forum



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Charlotte Area Transit System's Lynx train heads north along Camden Road during a test run Tuesday. Two-thirds of the half-cent transit tax up for a November referendum funds buses, but light rail has drawn fire as a waste of public transportation dollars.

Town hall meeting examines half-cent transit tax referendum

By Herbert L. White

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The public debate over funding public transit moves to northwest Charlotte Thursday.

The Black Political Caucus of Charlotte-Mecklenburg is sponsoring a town hall meeting at 6 p.m. at West Charlotte High School, 2219 Senior

Drive with proponents and opponents of Mecklenburg County's half-cent transit tax. Among the panelists are anti-tax organizer and former Charlotte City Council member Don Reid; current City Council member Patrick Mumford and former Charlotte Area Transit System chief Ron Tober.

"By the grace of God, we had no problem getting them together," said BPC Chairman Dwayne Collins. "They were very eager to come to the table and give their divergent views on both sides of the issue."



Collins

The transit tax, which was approved by voters in 1998 and produced \$77 million for CATS last year, is up for repeal in November. Critics contend the money can

Please see TOWN HALL/2A

"We're concerned specifically about the east and west sides from an economic standpoint. We want to make sure the numbers are comparable from an economic impact."

Black Political Caucus Chairman **Dwayne Collins** on the impact of adding light rail to Charlotte's transportation options.

CATS PEOPLE

Ridership
66% African American
28% White

Gender
52% Female
48% Male

Employment
83% work full-time

Income
74% earn \$40,000 or less;
Local riders earn an average of \$20,870 a year; Express riders earn \$54,490 annually.

Top bus ridership routes
Central Avenue (1.4 million)
North Tryon (1.1 million)
Beatties Ford Road (1 million)
South Boulevard (788,000)

SOURCE: CHARLOTTE AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY



Gabriel Prosser led a slave revolt in Virginia in 1800.

Virginia slave revolt leader earns pardon

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

RICHMOND FREE PRESS

RICHMOND - He was hanged as a criminal from a Richmond scaffold for leading the area's biggest slave revolt.

Now 207 years later, Gabriel Prosser has received a full pardon from Virginia Gov. Tim Kane.

Please see 1800/2A

Churches sought to provide shelter

By Herbert L. White

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The Salvation Army is reaching out to black churches to provide temporary shelter for homeless women in Charlotte.

On September 15, women will have to leave emergency winter shelter so the facility can prepare to house homeless men starting Oct. 1. Until Room in the Inn opens on Dec. 1, there is no additional space for homeless

women to go.

"What we really need is for the African American church to help us with this sheltering issue," said Salvation Army Director of Social Services Deronda Metz.

Two black congregations - Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and St. Paul Baptist Church - have joined the program. Victory Christian Center houses 50 women at Church in

the City near Johnson C. Smith University.

"Typically, 70 percent of our population is African American," Metz said. "We're located in the Greenville community and it would be great if we could get churches on our side of town involved."

The 200-bed Salvation Army Women's shelter in the Greenville community, is work-

See SALVATION/6A

CENTER OF SUCCESS



PHOTO/CENTRAL PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Central Piedmont Community College President Tony Zeiss (third from right) helped dedicate the Student Success Center at the Levine Campus in Matthews. The center connects students to information and services including financial aid, career counseling and enrollment assistance.



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Dorothy Counts-Scoggins fights back tears after accepting an honorary degree from Harding High School Tuesday. Counts-Scoggins was one of four black students to desegregate Charlotte schools in 1957.

Day of infamy now an honor

Desegregation of schools brings tears and diploma

By Erica Singleton

FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

On Sept. 4, 1957, Dorothy Counts walked into Charlotte's all-white Harding High School. Fifty years later, Dorothy Counts-Scoggins was joined by family, friends, city officials and Charlotte residents who filed into the former Harding High School, to preview the documentary "9/4/57."

"On the 50th anniversary of Dorothy Counts walking up the steps, we wanted people to walk up the steps on the same day," said filmmaker Steve Crump, who directed and narrates "9/4/57." "By allowing people to walk down Irwin Ave...they got a sense of what Dorothy did."

For Counts-Scoggins, the anniversary started out just as it did a half-century ago. "When I woke up this morning and I started getting dressed...I looked at the clock and I said 50 years ago at 8 o'clock I was leaving going to school," she said. "Fifty years later, I'm leaving to go to work. It was a very emotional feeling for me, and probably the first time I really got emotional about this day. I think it's because it's such a milestone."

Much like 50 years ago, September 4 held another unexpected outcome for Counts-Scoggins. During a public viewing of the documentary, she was read a letter from Gov. Mike Easley by N.C. Senator Charlie Dannelly, and received a certificate of recognition from

Please see DAY OF/3A

Museum pays homage to black WW II soldiers

By Wilson Ring

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

POWNAL, Vt. - Down a dirt driveway, in one of the whitest states in the nation, is a museum dedicated to the experiences of black service men and woman during World War II.

The Museum of Black World War II History is run by Bruce Bird, a white, retired factory worker who sold his home and used the proceeds to convert a two-room 19th-century schoolhouse to house it. The museum, which opened in June 2006, and has display cases filled with World War II weapons, models of tanks and aircraft and other memorabilia.

At best, it gets a handful of visitors a week. Bird doesn't know where the money will come from to pay his next fuel oil bill.

But he's steadfast in his resolve to recognize the service and sacrifice of more than 1.1 million black service men and women who had to

See MUSEUM/6A



Black workers still on the bottom of pay and opportunity scale/5C

INSIDE

Life 1B
Religion 5B

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Business 8C

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