



**TAKING CHARGE:**

Michael Jordan talks about his commitment to making the Bobcats a winner on and off the court

P3

# CHARLOTTE BUSINESS JOURNAL

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## Hospitals look for savings in bill

Insurance mandate could help slow the soaring cost of uncompensated care to Carolinas hospitals

JENNIFER THOMAS | STAFF WRITER  
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Federal health-care reform is promising relief to N.C. hospitals on the millions of dollars they lose each year from uncompensated care. But hospital officials aren't counting on that money just yet. In fact, most are still sorting out how the landmark legislation will affect their operations.

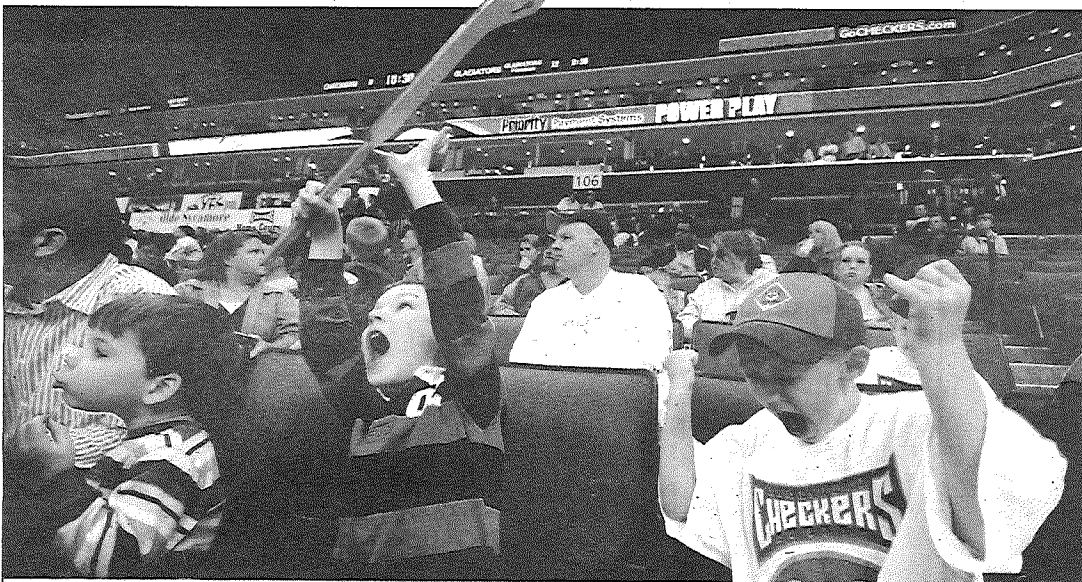
Health-care providers in North Carolina lose a combined \$1.4 billion per year on uncompensated care, according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The changes signed into law Tuesday mean that more patients will have health insurance; by 2014, individuals will be required to have coverage or face penalties.

**MORE INSIDE**

**SEE PAGE 59 FOR:**

- How the state-run exchanges should work.
- A Wake Forest policy expert's view of the new law's impact.

HOSPITALS, PAGE 19



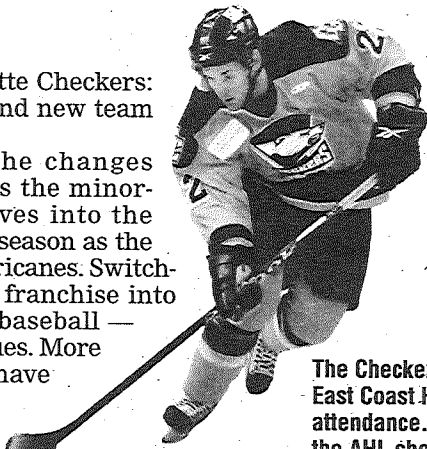
## In the big(ger) leagues

How Checkers franchise is preparing for move to AHL

ERIK SPANBERG | SENIOR STAFF WRITER  
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It's a hat trick for the Charlotte Checkers: new league, new parent club and new team colors.

Those are just a few of the changes announced in recent weeks as the minor-league hockey franchise moves into the American Hockey League next season as the top affiliate of the Carolina Hurricanes. Switching leagues puts the Charlotte franchise into the equivalent of Class AAA baseball — one step away from the big leagues. More important the Checkers will have an alliance with the state's



**QUICKINFO**

**RAISING 'CANES**

- The Checkers become an AHL franchise and top affiliate of the Carolina Hurricanes next season.
- The AHL has seen 1% attendance growth in 2009-10.

The Checkers rank fourth in the East Coast Hockey League in attendance. A move next year to the AHL should provide a boost.

photos NANCY PIERCE

CHECKERS, PAGE 19

## County readies to tell you value of your property

SUSAN STABLEY | STAFF WRITER  
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What is your property worth in such a turbulent real estate market?

Mecklenburg County officials have begun the process to figure that out. Just don't hold out any hope the massive task of appraising current property values for tax purposes — known as revaluation — can be delayed.

The Board of County Commissioners pushed off that job in 2008 with the expectations that market volatility would have dissipated by now.

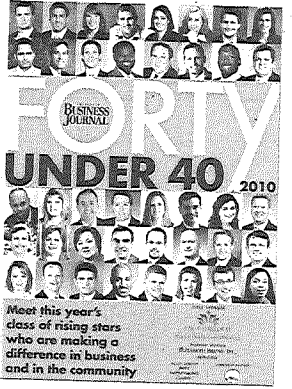
State law requires new values to be set at least every eight years — Mecklenburg's was last completed in 2003 — leaving the county until Jan. 1 to complete the process.

The reassessment of an estimated 350,000 real estate parcels could have a big impact on county budgets and on your tax bill. The county is so convinced it is working in uncharted real estate waters that officials expect disputes over values to drive a record number of challenges.

Skeet Harris, a longtime local appraiser and owner of T.B. Harris Jr. & Associates, points out the delay in revaluation may have protected many property owners from skewed assessments during an era of inflated values.

"We all enjoyed a pretty fast ride as far as commercial property goes," Harris says. "The years 2003 to 2007 and part of

REVAL, PAGE 18



### Charlotte's class of up and comers

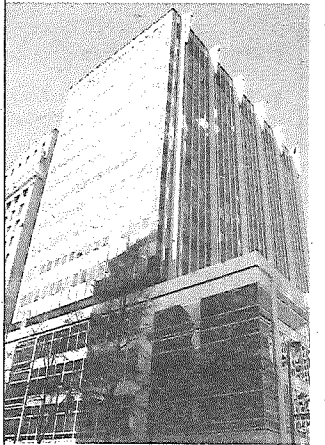
Meet this year's class of rising Queen City stars who are making a difference.

P21

### Duke lining up more China deals

Utility has inked its third contract and expects to add another pact soon.

P6



### Pitching vacant space with class

Detroit-based landlord tries innovative approach to luring Wake MBA school.

P5

### THE LIST

REGION'S LARGEST ADVERTISING FIRMS

P38

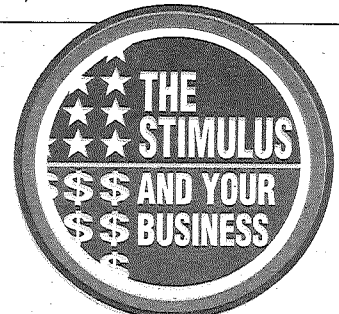
BANK NOTES	14
ENTREPRENEURS	41
GOING GREEN	15
LEADS	43
MARKETPLACE	57
NONPROFIT	14
PEOPLE ON THE MOVE	42
READER'S GUIDE	58
REAL ESTATE ROUNDUP	15
SPECIAL REPORT	21
TABLE TALK	4
TOP 25 LISTS	38, 39
VIEWPOINT	59
WEB HIGHLIGHTS	58

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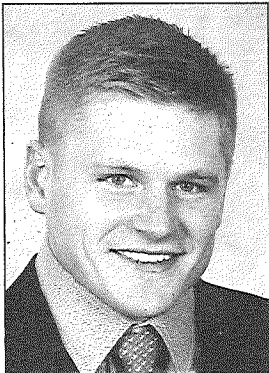
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### Stimulus listings

Find out about requests for proposals and contracts awarded via economic-stimulus funds. On page 17 and at [charlottebusinessjournal.com](http://charlottebusinessjournal.com).



## Steve Puckett Jr.



**Age:** 28

**Current job:** Chief executive, U.S. HIFU  
**Education:** Vanderbilt University, B.A., history, 2003

**Career history:** Austin Surgical Hospital, marketing and physician relations manager, 2003-04; U.S. HIFU, 2004-present

**Family:** Single

**Neighborhood:** Uptown

**Greatest business accomplishment of the past year:** Patients across the United States have received insurance reimbursement for Sonablate 500 prostate-cancer treatments (that use our technology) received outside the country, which, to our knowledge, has never been done before.

**Greatest civic accomplishment of the past year:** Helping support and strategize a close friend's first election campaign for Charlotte City Council

**Civic/volunteer activities:** Board of directors, Speed Trac Inc., a Charlotte-based trucking-logistics company; board of directors, International Celebration Association, a nonprofit that performs charitable work and faith-based initiatives in the Caribbean and South

America; providing the means for talented and underprivileged youth from Rio de Janeiro to participate in martial arts tournaments in the United States.

**What you like best about living in the Charlotte region:** Proximity to the beach, lakes and mountains, plus the direct airline connections

**The most important issue facing the region:** The same one I believe our entire nation is facing: the effect our irrational health-care delivery system has and will increasingly have on our currency.

**Most valued mentor:** My father, Steve Puckett Sr.

**Last book read:** *Negotiations*, Guhan Subramanian

**Last movie seen:** *Avatar*

**Last vacation:** Vienna

**Favorite Web site:** [www.drudgereport.com](http://www.drudgereport.com)

**Favorite possession:** Rocky River Arms AR-15

**Hobbies:** Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, flying, spear fishing

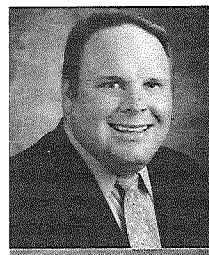
**Heroes:** Jesus, Jonathan Netanyahu

**Fantasy job:** Erik Prince's early career

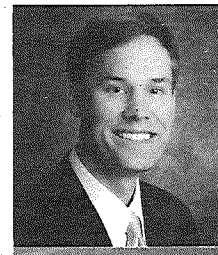
**One-word description of self:** Tactical

## Congratulations to Tim Brookshire and Steve Burr - Named in Charlotte Business Journal's '40 under 40'

*Carolinas HealthCare System appreciates  
Tim and Steve's continued commitment to the organization.*



**Steve Burr**  
Senior Vice President  
Patient Accounting



**Tim Brookshire**  
Assistant Vice President  
Administration

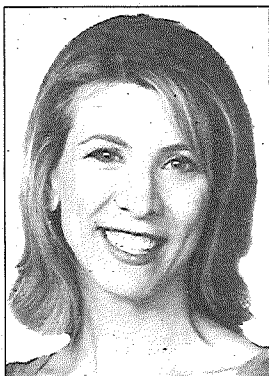


Carolinas HealthCare System

*Uncompromising Excellence. Commitment to Care.*

[www.carolinashealthcare.org](http://www.carolinashealthcare.org)

## Stacey Simms



**Age:** 38

**Current jobs:** Co-host of Charlotte's Morning News, WBT-AM; president of Stacey Simms LLC

**Education:** Syracuse University, B.S., broadcast journalism and policy studies, 1993

**Career history:** WSYP-FM, reporter, 1992-93; WUTR-TV, reporter, 1993-94; WKTV, anchor/reporter, 1994-96; WSTM-TV, anchor/reporter, 1996-99; WBT-AM, reporter/anchor, 1999-2002; WBT-AM, 2002-present; Stacey Simms LLC, president, 2008-present

**Family:** Husband, Slade; daughter, Lea, 8; son, Benny, 5

**Neighborhood:** Davidson

**Greatest business accomplishment of the past year:** The rollout of my book, *I Can't Cook, But I Know Someone Who Can*, with media exposure including television, radio and *Southern Living* magazine

**Greatest civic accomplishment of the past year:** Donating \$10,000 raised through book sales to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Charlotte

**Civic/volunteer activities:** Board member, JDRF Charlotte; board member, USO

of Charlotte; emcee and participant in charity events for organizations including Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Mustaches for Kids and Assistance League of Charlotte

**What you like best about living in the Charlotte region:** There are no closed doors. People are extraordinarily willing to network and collaborate.

**The most important issue facing the region:** As Mecklenburg County Manager Harry Jones has said, "Learning to do less with less."

**Most valued mentor:** My mother

**Last book read:** *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*, Michael Chabon

**Last movie seen:** *Julie & Julia*

**Last vacation:** Syracuse, N.Y., for a college radio-station reunion

**Favorite Web site:** [www.wbt.com](http://www.wbt.com), natch!

**Favorite possession:** My wedding band, passed down from my mother and grandmother

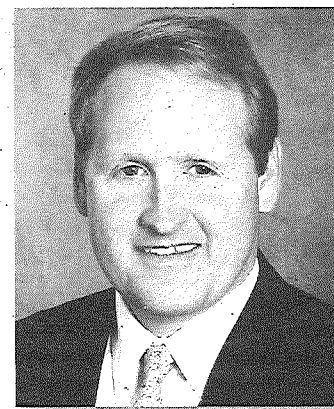
**Hobbies:** Golf, writing

**Hero:** Roz Greenspon, one of the founders of JDRF Charlotte in 1972

**Fantasy job:** Professional golfer

**One-word description of self:** Genuine

## CONGRATULATIONS ED!



2010 WINNER  
FORTY UNDER 40

**ED MCMAHAN, JR.**  
PRINCIPAL



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