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REGIONAL

Holiday Caravan Parade

The Holiday Caravan Parade will take to the streets of Salisbury Nov. 26. Rowan Events, page 11B.

USDA seeks a compromise with black farmers

By Curt Anderson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Looking for compromise, the Agriculture Department is asking attorneys for black farmers to delay their federal discrimination lawsuit and search for an alternative way of resolving their complaints.

But farmers appeared to be cool to the idea.

The USDA's proposal last week for a 30-day stay in the case would allow the two sides time to negotiate a method of addressing the complaints without a federal judge ordering them to go immediately into court-supervised mediation.

Alexander Pires, attorney for 14 black farmers whose suit seeks to represent the class of

all complaining farmers, said the offer was "hazy and bureaucratic" and stopped short of a firm agreement to mediation.

"They want to come up with some alternative dispute mechanism. Why not just mediate?" he said.

The offer from USDA to Pires came just before today's deadline for the agency to meet U.S.

District Judge Paul Friedman's order to turn over documents related to the farmers' complaints that they were discriminated against as they tried to get farm loans and other benefits.

All told, USDA has a backlog of around 950 discrimination complaints against it, but not all stem from denial of farm program benefits as charged in

the lawsuit. Many were simply shelved years ago and never investigated.

To investigate complaints, the agency reconstituted a civil rights unit disbanded by the Reagan administration in 1983.

USDA has set a new goal to resolve the bias cases by July 1998. It has resisted court-ordered mediation, however, contending it is committed to

dealing with the discrimination complaints through its administrative process.

Sam Taylor, a spokesman for the black farmers who brought the federal lawsuit, said USDA's offer is a "positive step." But he said the farmers still plan to ask the judge to certify the case as representing all farmers and want the court to order mediation.

New activism at UNC

Black students present list of demands

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHAPEL HILL — Black student leaders at UNC-Chapel Hill pledging a new era of activism marched to the university's administration building and presented a list of demands to Chancellor Michael Hooker.

More than 100 people participated in Friday's march and rally that ended UNC Black Student Movement awareness day.

"I have been here for years to see this," said Daryl Hunt, a senior and movement leader, "... the Black Student Movement move and do something."

The awareness day commemorated the organization's founding 30 years ago as well as educate the surrounding community, leaders said.

Black Student Movement President India Williams waved the list of 22 demands before the cheering crowd at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Hooker did not attend the event — he had a prior obligation, said Williams, who asked that Hooker send a written response to her in a timely manner.

"We demand to be taken seriously and with the utmost concern," she said.

Some of the demands drawing the most response from the crowd included active recruitment of minority professors and black admissions officers becoming the primary readers of black students' applications.

They also want Hooker to issue a statement in support of a free-standing Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center.

In an unrelated announcement Thursday, Hooker said the center had received a \$100,000 gift from 360 Communications. Alumni and other sponsors have pledged \$3.5 million of the \$7.5 million needed to build a free-standing center.

Heart and soul of food, education



PHOTO/BARBER-SCOTIA COLLEGE

John Mullins, president of the LionsGroup, Inc., center, presented Barber-Scotia College President Sammie Potts, right, with a \$1,500 check for a The Heart and Soul of Good Food Educational Assistance Scholarship last month. Barber Scotia hosted Pure Wesson's Citywide Chicken FryFest for Charlotte area churches. The LionsGroup is marketing the Hunt-Wesson campaign, which includes the \$20,000 Pure Wesson "Chefs of Tomorrow" Sweepstakes this month at Food Lion stores. Patricia Chambers of Jesus Christ Holiness Church won a \$1,500 cash prize in the FryFest. Her church also won \$1,500.

Push on for Fayetteville memorial

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FAYETTEVILLE — Family members slain during a racially-motivated attack by Fort Bragg soldiers want Fayetteville city leaders to erect a memorial at the site of the slayings.

The families of Jackie Burden and Michael James sent letters to city officials last month asking for a permanent

reminder of the 1995 slayings that prompted national attention about racism in the military.

The Fayetteville city council sent the request to the city human relations commission, which will discuss the idea Thursday.

Ira Freeman, Burden's father, said relatives have not decided

what the memorial should look like or who should pay for it. But he said the monument would help the city remember the crime and the racism behind it.

James, 36, and Burden, 27, were shot while walking on a city street on Dec. 7, 1995. Two white 82nd Airborne soldiers, James Burmeister and

Malcolm Wright, were convicted of first-degree murder for the deaths of Burden and James, who were black. A third soldier accepted a plea agreement on conspiracy and accessory counts.

Freeman would like to see some marker up next month for the second anniversary of the murders.

Blazing Stars in concert

By Malcolm Plummer
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

National recording artists Ronica and the Mighty Blazing Stars will headline a free gospel concert in Salisbury on Friday.

The Cornelius group's current CD, titled "You Can't Tell It" has received air play from New York to California, as well as served as a product of concern for young people everywhere.

"I feel a tremendous need for the direction of our children,"

said group leader Robert Bower in phone interview from Rabo Records, the Stars' label. "They've been fed so much negativity that we need to raise their minds to a realm of positivity. Hopefully, our music can connect with the young kids and let them know that they can feel good about doing positive things."

Talk to Bower about his 11-year-old grandson Tony, who plays drums and sings "It's

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Ronica and the Mighty Blazing Stars will perform Friday.

Rowan Events

Nov. 20

6 p.m. — Jujitsu, Paul Laurence Dunbar Center, 820 S. Long St., E. Spencer. Instructor: Sen Sei Craig Harrison, Second Degree Black Belt Jinshin-Do Ju Jitsu. Eight years to Adults. Tuition: \$15 per month. For information call 647-0054.

6 p.m. — Cultural Film Festival, Dunbar Family Resource Center, 820 S. Long St., E. Spencer. Each Thursday, 6 to 8 p.m. Hosted by James Abernathy, Jr. For information call 647-0054.

6 p.m. — Junior Toastmasters, Miller Recreation Center, 1402 W. Bank Street, Salisbury. This program is designed to improve public speaking and writing skills for boys and

girls grades 6-8.

6 p.m. — Girls Club and Boys Club, Miller Recreation Center, 1402 W. Bank St., Salisbury. Fun and games for ages 9-14. Discussions on various topics. Every Thursday, 6-8 p.m. Registration ongoing. For information call 638-5297/5298.

8 p.m. — Second Annual Men's Appreciation Day, Livingstone College, Varick Auditorium, 701 W. Monroe St., Salisbury. Sponsored by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

Nov. 21

11 a.m. International Student Cuisine Day - Livingstone College, Aggrey Student Center, 701 W. Monroe St., Salisbury.

7 p.m. — Bible Study - Jerusalem Baptist Church, N. Long St., Spencer.

7 p.m. — Parents Night Out, City Park Center, 316 Lake Drive, Salisbury. For boys and girls ages 6-12, fun, games, pizza. Register early. Cost: \$5, resident; \$10, non-resident. For information call 638-5295.

7:30 p.m. — Play: Ramona Quimby, Meroney Theater, 213 S. Main St., Salisbury. A Piedmont Players Theatre Youth theater production by children, for children. For ticket information call 633 5471.

7:30 p.m. — Bible Study, Tower of Power United Holy Church, 601 E. Cemetery St.,

Salisbury.

7:30 p.m. — Pre-Appreciation Day Concert, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Borden Quarters, White Rd., Salisbury. Honoring Rev. and Mrs. D. S. Houston. Featuring Rabo Records recording artists Ronica & the Mighty Blazing Stars, with the 11-year-old sensation Tony Bowers. Also appearing, the Gethsemane Gospel Singers of Davidson, The Zionettes of Mt Zion Chapel, and the Young Adults of the Mt Zion Baptist Church. Admission free. For information call Alice Perry, 637-1822.

Nov. 22

9 - 10 a.m. — Intercessory Prayer Line, Jerusalem Baptist Church, N. Long St.,

Spencer. Call in prayer requests. From 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. each Saturday morning — 6373447.

10 a.m. — 1997 Fall Festival Harvest Feast, downtown Spencer. Saturday, 10 a.m. to sunset; Sunday, 1 p.m. to sunset. For vendor information call: Ann King (Running Fawn) 647-9916.

Nov. 23

3 p.m. — Pre-Thanksgiving Service, Third Creek AME Zion Church, 415 E. Main St., Cleveland. Pastor: Rev. Donnie Kent. Guest speaker: Rev. Withrow Stockton, Jr. of Varick AME Zion Church, Kemsbridge, Va.

3 p.m. — Special Harvest Celebration for the

Pastor, Church of God of Prophecy, 730 N. Long St., E. Spencer. Pastor: Bishop James Lott. Guest speaker: Rev. John Jones with congregation of First United Baptist Church, Kannapolis.

4 p.m. — 100 Women in White Celebration, First Calvary Baptist Church, 400 S. Long St., Salisbury. Theme: A Tribute to Our Legacy. Past and present presidents of the General Missionary will be honored. First Calvary Gospel Choir will be in concert. All women are asked to wear white and join in the candle bearing procession.

4 p.m. — Fruits of the Spirit, Jerusalem Baptist Church, N. Long St., Spencer.

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