

Wiccan sues over town councils prayer and wins

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREAT FALLS, South Carolina—A small South Carolina town is facing a hefty legal bill after losing a battle over whether it should stop using Jesus Christ's name in prayers before council meetings.

The U.S. Supreme Court refused in June to hear the town's appeal of a lower court ruling over the prayers.

Now Darla Wynne wants Great Falls to pay her more than \$65,000 to cover legal bills. A judge is expected to rule on the matter within the

next two months.

Wynne, who describes herself as a Wiccan priestess, sued Great Falls in 2001, saying the town violated the separation between church and state by using the name Jesus Christ in prayers because it promoted one religion over the other.

The money is not covered by insurance, and it is unclear where the town would get the cash. The amount is about 7 percent its annual budget.

"It'll be an enormous under-

taking for us," town attorney Michael Henlepp said.

Wynne's lawyer said attorneys had incurred only about \$18,000 in expenses before the town decided to appeal. "We spent two years in extra litigation while they went to the U.S. Supreme Court, and I think the case was clear from the beginning," said attorney Herbert Buhl.

The Rev. Michael Sollers, pastor of Evangel Temple Assembly of God, said most of the town supported the council's decision to keep fighting.

Man dies after robbery attempt

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Witnesses told police the men fled in a maroon vehicle, Wade said.

A preliminary investigation revealed Middleton died of severe head trauma, Hinds County Coroner Sharon Grisham-Stewart said. If an

autopsy confirms Middleton died as a result of injuries from the assault, his death will be ruled a homicide, she said.

The Rev. Arthur Sutton, pastor of Progressive Baptist Church, said the men accused of assaulting Middleton were trying to be good

Samaritans, "but it turned bad on them."

"They did what they thought was right in their hearts to do," Sutton said.

Three windows at the church were damaged, but were repaired Thursday, Sutton said.

Nation of Islam leader agrees with Mexican president's statement that offended many African Americans

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MILWAUKEE—Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan says Mexican President Vicente Fox was correct when he said in May that Mexican immigrants take jobs that blacks do not want.

Although Fox was sharply criticized for his remarks by some black American leaders, Farrakhan asked a crowd Sunday during an appearance at Mercy Memorial Baptist Church: "Why are you so foolishly sensitive when somebody is telling you the truth?"

Farrakhan said blacks and

Latinos should form an alliance to correct differences and animosity between the two communities.

He said blacks do not want to go to California to pick fruit because they already "picked enough cotton."

Farrakhan, who spearheaded the Million Man March that drew hundreds of thousands of people to Washington, D.C., in 1995, was in Milwaukee to promote the Millions More Movement, which has scheduled a rally Oct. 15 on the National Mall in Washington. He urged fellow blacks and people of other races to take part in the reunion of the event held 10 years ago.

"Why should we have a Millions More Movement? The

United States is the greatest nation in the world. But today America is losing friendship all over the world," he said.

Farrakhan also called upon blacks to provide goods and services within their communities instead of giving their money to merchants of different races.

"In our community, we have those from the Middle East and those from Asia ... getting up shops and providing goods and services we should be providing for ourselves," Farrakhan said.

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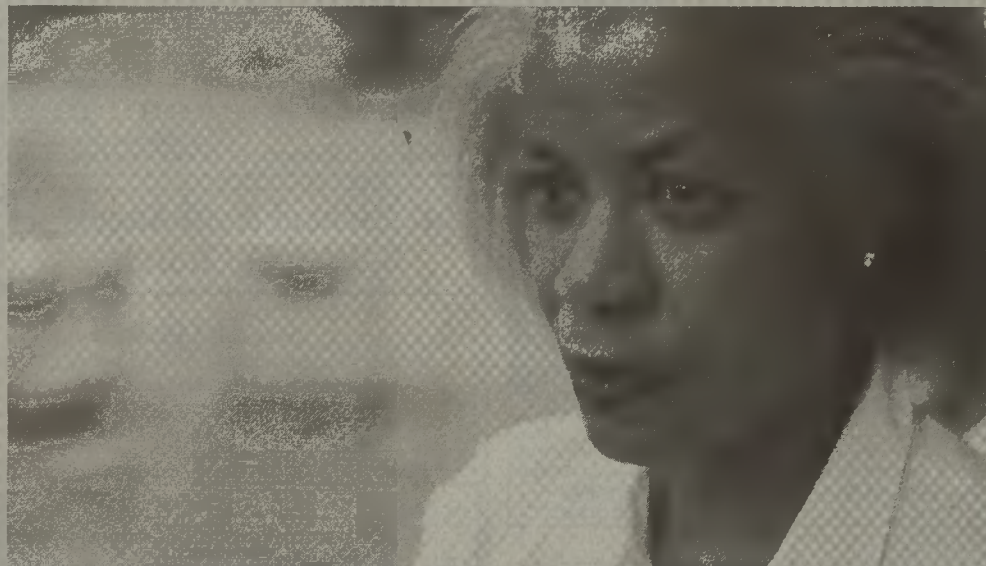
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