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expected to grow about 2.2 percent

In an interview this week with The Chronicle, DeBerry said a relative, who has chosen to stay at home with her children, has been contacted more than once by

Allegations of mismanagement

Harris seeks financial aid

By SHARON BROOKS HODGE THE CHRONICLE Editor

On election night, when John Harris came up 10 votes shortin his bid to unseat Greensboro City Councilman Earl Jones, he refused to concede.

Two months later, he's still holding on to the notion that he is the voters' choice. And this week, Harris wrote his supporters seeking financial assistance in his legal battle to challenge the outcome of the Nov. 5 municipal election.

"Despite documented voter fraud and unethical election-day antics by tax and spend incumbent Earl Jones and his cronies, John Harris came within ten hardearned votes of winning the race," stated the letter, whgich was signed by Harris and his campaign man-

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The audience stood to join in the hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God."

Emancipation Association celebrates black freedom

Keynote speaker Dr. William Turner examines flaws of **Emancipation Proclamation**

by Felecia P. McMillan **Community Correspondent**

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Emancipation Association held the annual celebration of emancipation on Thursday, Jan. 1 at Grace Presbyterian Church located at 3901 Carver School Road in Winston-Salem.

Held to honor President Abraham Lincoln's signing of the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan.1, 1863, this year's observance was dedicated to the memory of the late Rev. Dr. Kelly Oliver Perry Goodwin, former president and staunch supporter of the association.

He was also the third pastor of Mount Zion

Baptist Church for 31 years. Dr. William H. Turner, educator, writer and consultant in the areas of race and ethnic relations, was the keynote speaker. Annie Brown Kennedy, an attorney, presided as mistress or ceremonies and chairman of the program.

The Grace Men's Chorus, under the direction of Mr. Rudolph Boone, chairman of constitution and bylaws committee, provided special music. The host pastor, the Rev. Dr. Samuel Stevenson was also on the chorus.

In keeping with the theme of liberation, Harvey L. Kennedy, chairman scholarship committee, recognized the academic achievement of eleven high school seniors and awarded two of

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authority of DOT audit

RALEIGH (AP) _ The N.C. Department of Transportation has given State Auditor Ralph Campbell sole authority to examine the troubled agency and has scrapped an earlier proposal to hire an outside auditor, a DOT spokesman said.

Campbell said Friday that Transportation Secretary Garland Garrett told him the DOT will pay the cost of speeding up a comprehensive management audit conducted by independent firms hired and supervised by Campbell's agency

DOT spokesman Bill Jones confirmed the transportation secretary's arrangement with the state auditor.

"In trying to get it done as quickly as possible, that has been agreed to," Jones said.

The move will remove the audit activity from the Transportation Department's hands and allow a more-independent probe of the department, said Campbell. Several senators have questioned whether an audit done by DOT would be accepted by the public, given recent reports of apparent conflicts of

and other problems have plagued DOT for months and a variety of critics have called for audits and other

investigations. Campbell said the decision to take the audit

out of DOT's Ralph Campbell hands will pacify critics.

"Our strong point is the independence of this office." Campbell said. "We need to conduct an/independent review to improve public confidence in the Transportation Department."

At least one critic of DOT policies hailed the decision.

"That's good, that's positive," said Bob Hall, research director of

Friends in High Point honor the New Year with Native American tradition of the campfire **Theme:** Reflection and Forgiveness

Aariizonnaas Oone Vviisiionn, meriy known as Robbie Konn, has held eight campfires in the campground she created in the backyard behind her home in High

"That land kept calling me. I don't understand it. It was something I had to do," she said.

On Sunday, Jan. 4, 15 people met at her home to honor the year 1998 around the campfire. The theme for this fire was "Reflection and Forgiveness" in recognition of the new year and of her daughter's birthday. Her daughter drives an 18

wheeler, and since she was one the

road during this special day, Vviisiionn did not forget. Vviisiionn believes that forgiveness is necessary to move forward down a spiritual path. Around the fire, the people discussed what forgiveness means, how one knows he has forgiven and the benefits of

According to Vviisiionn, being unforgiving can block the path to healing. As she is facing hip surgery, she wants to be sure to clear the way for her blessings to flow. Everyone around the fire was allowed to feed

the flame with corn meal or tobacco the finite with corn meat or tobacco as a way to burn negative thoughts or to disperse good thoughts into the universe. When the tobacco or corn meal goes into the flame, it rises slightly in recognition of this thought. Vvisiionn's father is part Cherokee and is a native of Tulsa, Okla. Her great great great great great great great

great, great grandparents are full Cherokee. She learned of this custom from Floyd "Red Crow" Westerman who came to do workshops for the Guilford Native American Association.

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Left to Right) Clay Harris of United Positive Pe opia of Ore

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