

Rowan proposes to help give kids a Smart Start

By Brian Powe
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

SALISBURY - The Rowan Partnership for Children has proposed a plan it hopes will insure that infants are physically and mentally prepared to start school.

The Smart Start program of North Carolina was designed to help parents find family

support services, health benefits, and affordable child care.

Rick Travis, director of the Rowan Department of Social Services, and Amelia Watts, director of the Cooperative Extension Agency, are serving as moderators for this effort in Rowan County.

A committee of Rowan Partnership board members, child care caterers, and human

service agents, have taken on the task of seeing that Smart Start's goals are developed and established in Rowan.

According to officials, the coalition will work until children and families in Rowan County are physically, emotionally, socially, financially, and spiritually healthy. Concurrently, parenthood will be viewed as a major responsi-

bility and the children will be valued beyond compare, so that, they will be able to reach their potential and become contributing members of society.

Chairperson of the Rowan Partnership for Children, Dr. Shirley Richie, told The Salisbury Post that the program should make sure children are taken care of in the

future.

"It's prevention, not waiting until things happen and then react," she said.

Richie said that she would be happy if more parents and members of the community would come forward and offer suggestions on how the Smart Start plan could work more effectively.

"They're the ones with the

most at stake. I'm very proud, but we're facing apathy. It's either a whole lot of trust or lack of interest."

Officials say there is still plenty of leeway for suggestions about Smart Start.

If all the programs objectives are met, children will receive: dental services, immunizations, medical exams and

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Around Rowan Poetry reading at Tubman Little Theatre

April 17

• 7 p.m.: Poetry Reading, Juanita Torrence-Thompson of New York; Livingstone College, Tubman Little Theatre, 701 W. Monroe St., Salisbury.

April 17-18

• 7:30 p.m.: Revival, Mt. Calvary Holy Church, 1400 Standish St., Salisbury.

April 17-19

• 10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Curator's Choice exhibit, Waterworks Visual Arts Center, Kerr & Waters Streets, Salisbury. In conjunction with Livingstone College Fine Arts Festival.

April 18

• 4 p.m.: Poetry reading, Livingstone College, Aggrey Student Union, 701 W. Monroe St., Salisbury. Students, faculty and staff participating. Admission free.

• 7 p.m.: Bible study, Jerusalem Baptist Church, N. Long St., Spencer

April 19

• 9 a.m.: Salisbury District Missionary Prayer Breakfast, Third Creek AME Zion Church, Cleveland. Sponsored by the Supply Department of the Woman's Home and Overseas Missionary Society. Tickets \$4.

• 3 p.m.: The Ink Spots, Catawba College, Keppel Auditorium, 2300 W. Innes St., Salisbury. The internationally renowned recording artists appearing in concert. Sponsored by Rowan County Concert Association. For information call 638-9887 or 633-1474.

• 6 p.m.: Gospel Choir 28th anniversary, Gethsemane Baptist Church, 719 S. Caldwell St., Salisbury. Director: Milton Griffith, pastor: Rev. J.L. Stowe.

April 20

• 2 p.m.: Author showcase, Rowan Public Library, 201 W. Fisher St., Salisbury. Meet 14 different authors, including Betty Lou Lowery Grace: "Things to remember for Children & Youth of Color."

• 3 p.m.: Usher's Day, Miller's Chapel AME Zion Church, 1114 Miller's Chapel Church Road, Salisbury. Seven churches participating in the Fruit of the Spirit. Pastor: Rev. Matthew Williamson.

• 3 p.m. Men's Day, Love Christian Center, 102 N. Long St., East Spencer. Pastor: Ronald Hash. Guest speaker: Minister Alvin Harris of Refuge Temple, Jonesville, N.C.

• 7:30 p.m.: UNC-Greensboro Jazz Ensemble, Catawba College, Keppel Auditorium, 2300 W. Innes St., Salisbury. Concert featuring jazz across the years. Sponsored by the Rowan County Concert Association. Admission: \$15

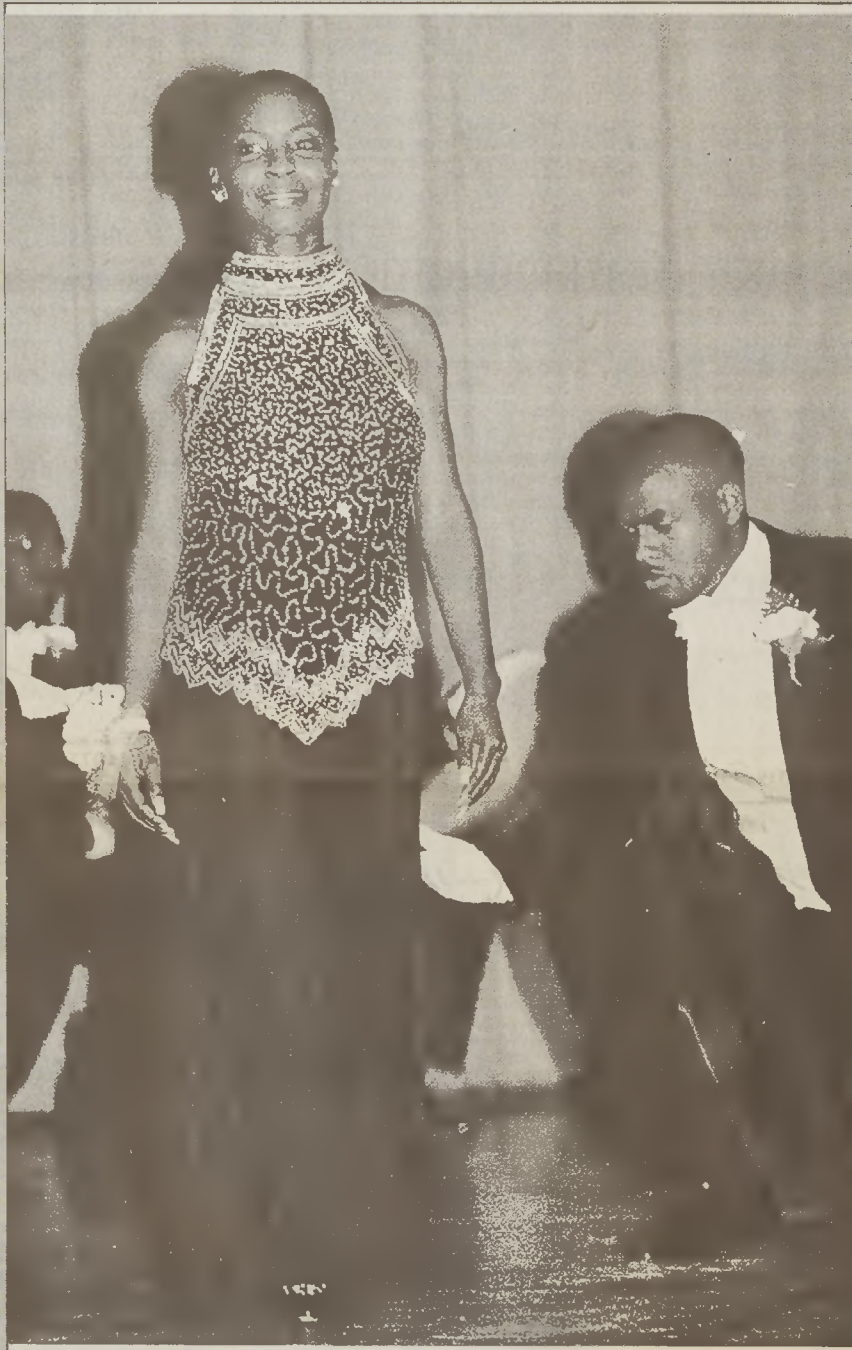
• 4 p.m.: Gospel Choir In Concert, Gethsemane Baptist Church, 719 S. Caldwell St., Salisbury.

April 22

• 6-8 p.m.: Parenting classes, First Union Methodist Church, 110 W. Church St., China Grove. Educational

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Campus royalty



Shinea C. Wright gets the royal treatment at the Miss Livingstone College pageant

PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Step show stresses positives

By Brian Powe
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

The Stay in School step show will take place Saturday at the Paul Laurence Dunbar Center in East Spencer at 6 p.m.

Boogie D and Busta Brown, radio DJs of 102 Jamz in Greensboro, are hosting the show.

Jerome Banks, program organizer and director of the

Trojan Legion drill team, said the program was created to demonstrate there are relevant and effective ideas being manifested in the black community.

"We want to show that there are some positive things being done with our children," he said. "There are people who really care about our youth and are willing to do for them, not just bad mouth them."

"We have to do more than just say, 'We want them off the

street corners.' We have to get up and make things happen. So in response, this is one of the initial examples of practical programs being implemented for our youth to have some fun and be positive at the same time."

Banks said the event will feature step teams from: Carver High School of Winston Salem, West Mecklenburg of Charlotte, the Boys To Men drill team of East Spencer, and the Trojan Legion team.

There will also be step teams from North Carolina A&T's Kappa Kappa Psi, Winston-Salem State's Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, and Livingstone College Pep Band.

In addition to the step show, a dance will be sponsored until midnight. Banks says elementary school students can party from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and middle and high school students from 9:30 until 12 a.m. He said that DJ-14K will be on hand providing the music.

Admission to the step show and dance is \$3. Refreshments will be sold.

See BASEBALL on page 10B

Baseball Challenge tests youngsters' diamond skills

By Brian Powe
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

SALISBURY - The Salisbury Parks and Recreation Department and the Charlotte Knights are co-sponsoring a Baseball Challenge for youth in Rowan and neighboring counties.

The tournament, for girls and boys from the age of 9-14, is starting its second season.

"The guys are instructed separately according to their age and gender," director Jeff Holshouser said. "This way, each individual can maximize their potential as a baseball player."

Each player competes on an individual basis during the challenge in three categories: batting - distance one can hit the ball off the tee; pitching -

School tries to meet state time standard

By Brian Powe
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

SALISBURY - Knox Middle School is having a huge problem with meeting the state's requirement of 5.5 hours of instructional time each day.

Because of circumstances seemingly beyond control, the predominantly black middle school has had to change its class schedule several times this year to make sure it satisfied state regulations.

According to the Principal Catherine Rivens, Knox has not violated time regulations anytime during the year, though the school has been cutting it close.

"We were meeting the 5.5 hours, but it was real close," she was quoted as saying. "We certainly want to be in compliance. We were kind of on the border line. We wanted to make sure that we had 5.5 hours."

One of the overwhelming problems that contributes to the situation is bus transportation of Rowan County students.

Knox Middle has to share school buses with Isenberg and Overton elementary schools as well as Salisbury High School. The lack of vehicles has caused a drawback as to what time students are picked up and dropped off from their schools.

Initially, the school year with a schedule which started at 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., but that program quickly changed. Because Knox students were taken home first, their students were mandated to leave school earlier than expected.

"We were never able to let out at 2, which is what we wanted to do," Rivens said. "We'd like to go until 2:15."

Nevertheless, Rivens says Knox which dismiss students the earliest of all Rowan County schools, has always met the requirement if the minutes taken for lunch and changing classes are removed.

After some changes and rearrangements, Rivens has set a new schedule which puts Knox students in school from 7:25 am to 1:57

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Rebel flag will be factor in S.C. Senate race

By Robert Tanner
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, S.C. - State Attorney General Charlie Condon is flirting with a run for the U.S. Senate that could turn into a hard-fought Republican primary with the Confederate flag at the center.

Condon, who has a knack for headlines and emotional issues, said he was offended by U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis' criticism of the GOP's Southern strategy, which stresses the South's conservatism but which has been criticized as racially divisive. Inglis, of Greenville, is the only announced candidate to challenge U.S. Sen. Ernest "Fritz" Hollings, a 75-year-old Democrat and former governor who has served since 1966. Condon said he will decide in a few weeks.

Some Republicans say Condon would be a powerful candidate against Inglis and Hollings, who only narrowly beat his Republican challenger in 1992.

"Quite frankly, if he enters I'd have to install him as the favorite over Inglis," said Neal Thigpen, a Francis Marion University political science professor and a Republican. "He's going to get nothing but positive reaction." Condon is well-known

statewide, has strong political and financial connections after a prominent role in Bob Dole's campaign for president, and appeals to Republican voters strongly in support of the Confederate flag. He vocally opposes Gov. David Beasley's stalled effort to move the Confederate flag off the Statehouse dome. Inglis supports Beasley's idea to move it to a Statehouse memorial, but three of every four voters in the 1994 GOP primary said the battle flag should stay where it is. Condon went on statewide TV to oppose the Republican governor late last year, but said he would not challenge Beasley next year. But Condon said Thursday he is "leaning toward" the Senate race after Inglis criticized the GOP's Southern strategy for failing to reach out to minorities.

"As I read it, (Inglis) was saying that the Republican Party is morally bankrupt or a moral failure - everything's designed to stir up 'rednecks,'" Condon told The Greenville News. "Here you've got Fritz Hollings and he's a known liberal; and here you've got (Inglis) our standard-bearer at this time, unopposed in the Republican nominating process, rejecting what the GOP stands

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