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## REGIONAL

## Annexation stirs passion in 2 Rowan towns

By Brian Powe  
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

An annexation dispute between East Spencer and Spencer has become an "unfortunate situation," says East Spencer Mayor Ronnie Rollings.

Rollings' town was on the losing end of a court decision that

temporarily halted plans for the further industrial development of East Spencer.

"The main thing from the beginning was that there was no communication," he said. "We just decided we should not allow another town to box us in from further expansion."

East Spencer officials adopted a resolution last June to

## East Spencer, Spencer at odds

annex about 151 acres of land on the north and east side of town, but Spencer officials say the plan was flawed because it sought to seize land already committed to their town.

Spencer officials filed a suit against its neighbor and has

been granted a preliminary injunction of East Spencer's annexation.

Rollings says he thinks East Spencer, which is 90 percent African American, will file suit with the N.C. Court of Appeals. "I'm hoping that the appellate

court will make a judgement according to the law," Rollings said.

Spencer Town Manager Jeff Causey was satisfied with Judge William Helms' decision. He said Spencer is planning to annex the disputed area and move toward its own expansion. Spencer's expansion, which would widen its bound-

aries to the Interstate 85, will annex approximately 90 acres of land.

East Spencer officials feel the town's plan should not have been ruled invalid, especially when Spencer is filing an annexation case for the same land. Some officials feel that if the land belonged to Spencer, See ANNEXATION on page 9B

## ROWAN EVENTS

## May 29-June 1

• 5-11 p.m. - Carnival, J.C. Price American Legion Post 107, 1433 Old Wilkinson Road, Salisbury. Ride all day Thursday for \$7. Regular price Friday-Sunday. For more information, call 638-0160.

## May 29

• 7:30 p.m. - Play, "Sweeney Todd," Meroney Theatre, 213 S. Main St., Salisbury. Musical cousin of classics such as "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," "Jack the Ripper" and "Count Dracula." Performance dates are May 29-31, June 4-7 at 7:30 p.m. with a matinee June 1 at 2:30 p.m. For more information and reservations, call 633-5471.

## May 30

• 7 p.m. - Bible study, Jerusalem Baptist Church, North Long Street, Spencer

• 7 p.m. - Crusade, Brock Recreation Center, Mocksville. Sponsored by Love Christian Center, Salisbury.

## May 31

• 7 p.m. - Appreciation service for Bishop and Mrs. Cecil Bishop, Moore's Chapel AME Zion Church, 500 Partee St. Salisbury.

## June 1

• 3 p.m. - Appreciation service, Locke Street Church of God, 1004 Locke St., Salisbury.

• 6 p.m. - Evening service, Jerusalem Baptist Church, N. Long St., East Spencer. Pastor Rev. Eric Henley; guest speaker Rev. Johnny Brown, pastor of Anchored in Christ Ministry, Charlotte.

• 7 p.m. - Spiritual growth and development class, Soldiers Memorial AME Zion Church, 306 N. Church St., Salisbury.

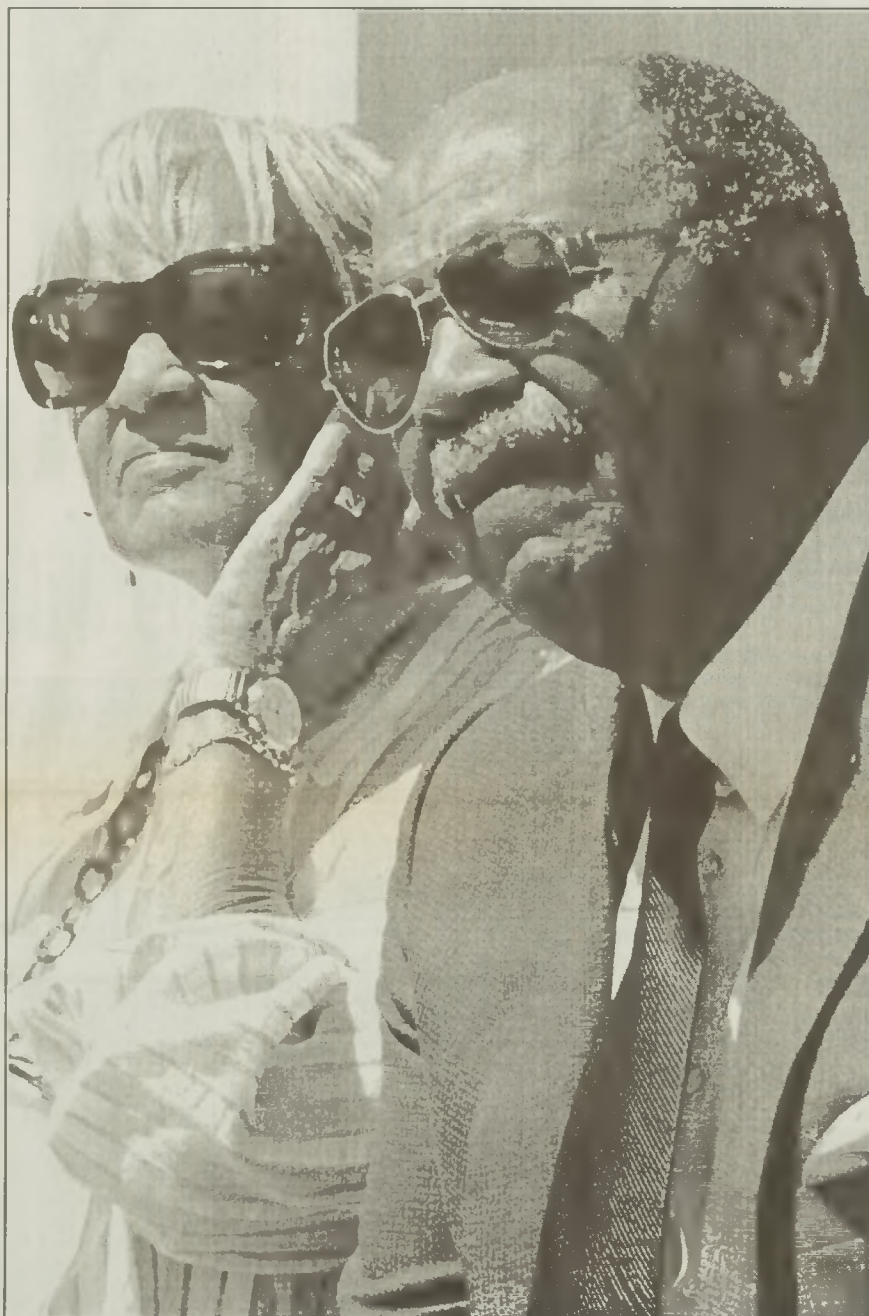
• 7:30 p.m. - Marriage workshop, Gethsemane Baptist Church, 719 S. Caldwell St., Salisbury. Singles and couples are invited. Certificates will be issued upon completion. Free.

## June 3

• 4 p.m. - Salisbury City Council meeting, City Hall, 132

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## Pioneer's day in the sun



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO/LOU KRASKY

Larry Doby and his wife Helyn listen as he is honored with a ceremony in his hometown of Camden, S.C. last Thursday for his accomplishments in professional baseball. Doby was the first black to play in the American League and the second in the majors behind Jackie Robinson.

## Juneteenth celebration gears up for another year

By Herbert L. White  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Rowan County's African American community is gearing up for the celebration of black emancipation next month.

The Rowan Area Minority Business Association will sponsor its third annual Juneteenth celebration June 14 at Kelsey-Scott Park in Salisbury. Events start at 10 a.m. and end at 9 p.m.

Juneteenth is an African American holiday that originated

in Texas in 1865 and is most popular in the southwestern U.S. The holiday came about as the result of Texas slaves not receiving word of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation until two years after it became law. Although the legislation freed "all slaves in areas still in rebellion," slow communications caused by the ferocity of the Civil War, kept Texas slaves from going free until June 17, 1865. The day was set aside as a Texas state holiday and

has been celebrated by black citizens every year since.

Although Juneteenth has more of a following in the southwest, it is becoming more popular in the east.

Area small businesses will display their goods and services. Entertainment will also be provided at the celebration, which has enjoyed steady growth since its start.

"We are very excited about this project and would like for all of

our members to participate as vendors or volunteers to supervise some of the many activities being planned," said Louis Jefferies, president of Rowan Area Minority Business Association.

Registration fee for vendors is \$40 before June 5 and \$45 after. For more information, call Rowan Area Minority Business Association at 638-0260 or fax 638-0270.

## Rock Hill rapper's lyrics tell a grim reality tale of urban life

By Sharyn Lucas-Parker  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROCK HILL, S.C. - Rock Hill is a far cry from the brutal, gang-plagued communities often seen on TV, but 22-year-old Anthony Robinson says he's seen it all anyway.

"Everything," he said. "The drugs, the shootings, the blood."

About two years ago, he recalled, a woman who lived in his apartment building stabbed her husband and left his body in the parking lot. The story made front-page news, and elements of

## He's looking for major record deal

the macabre tale found their way into Robinson's rap music.

"I take a lot of that kind of stuff and fuse it with creativity and just write," he said. "It's like a poet putting his feelings on paper and people listening to what he's saying."

Since he began writing and producing his own material nearly three years ago, Robinson - who

records under the name L.O.C. - has sold more than 800 cassette singles.

Robinson's third single, "Talk About 'Em" was released recently, and like his previous recordings, it is being sold on consignment at local record stores.

Drake Hill, assistant manager at Disc Jockey, says he expects the single to do as well as

Robinson's other releases - or better.

"The people who come in looking for his stuff are already familiar with his music," Hill said. "He's done a good job marketing himself."

Robinson's lyrics are similar in sound to hard-core rappers Tela and Eight Ball and M.J.G.

"It's reality rap," Hill said. "It's

definitely a different clique."

Meaning, unlike so-called gangsta rappers who claim to participate in killings and robberies, Robinson raps about what he has observed.

"I don't belong in a gang. I have never robbed a bank or another person," Robinson said. "But there are a lot of things that I have seen."

There's one story that is too personal and painful for Robinson to write about, though. When he was 10, his father was shot and killed, leaving his mother to raise

Robinson and his four siblings.

One day, he said, when he's "made it big," he'll try his hand at setting the story to music. "I want it to be perfect," he said.

Robinson says his struggle to land a recording contract has been difficult.

Shortly after graduating from Northwestern High School, Robinson, who has been featured in several local talent shows, went shopping for a recording contract. His search has taken

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## Liquor sales not as easy as ABC in Cleveland

By Brian Powe  
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

CLEVELAND, N.C. - This Rowan County town is trying to block plans by the Alcoholic Beverage Control board to build a liquor store here.

The store, which would be constructed next to Cleveland's sole shopping center, has some residents outraged. In 1994, ABC officials suggested starting a liquor store, but the plan was quickly killed after town officials banned alcoholic sales.

Some residents feel it is petty for locals to oppose the new proposal when there's a liquor store just 15 miles away in Salisbury. And, furthermore, some Cleveland officials say that very little of the proceeds from the store will come back to the small city.

ABC officials say all of the proceeds go back to Rowan County. Statistics have shown that Rowan receives 50 percent of ABC earnings and Salisbury gets 30 percent of the profit. The remainder is divided among other cities in the county including, Cleveland, Mt. Ulla and Spencer.

In 1996, ABC establishments earned \$203,980, but Cleveland officials say the town only received about \$1,000 of the proceeds.

Several Cleveland ministers have come together in an attempt to keep the ABC out. They started a petition recently and collected 83 names of residents who are opposed to the liquor store.

The ministers say that the petition will be sent to ABC boards in Raleigh and Salisbury.

Russ Williams, chaplain of the Salisbury Police Department, encouraged town citizens as well as the Mayor Jim Brown to fight the proposal to build a ABC store in the town.

Brown said that the meeting will be set up for the disgruntled Cleveland citizens to meet with the Rowan County Board of Commissioners about the issue. "This is more than just a town of Cleveland issue," he said.

## Klan building sold to black S.C. minister

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAURENS, S.C. - As little as few months ago, Mike Burden was a Ku Klux Klan member prepared to take the life of a local black minister who threatened to close the KKK museum Burden helped start.

Now, Burden says he has turned over a new leaf and also has turned over ownership of the building that houses the museum to the Rev. David Kennedy and his predominantly black church.

Burden said he met John Howard in 1989. Burden said he was 19, homeless and hungry and Howard offered him a job in exchange for room and board.

During the next few years, Howard introduced Burden to the Klan, The (Columbia) State reported Saturday.

"I was led to believe that was my family. That was my life. That was my destiny," Burden said. "And I done the best I could to live up to it."

In June 1994, Howard sold the old Echo Theater Building to Burden. Under the terms of the sale, Howard retained a "life estate" that lets him use the building until his death.

"At that time," Burden said, "I pretty much thought I was gonna be untouchable."

As head of the local lodge, he was an Exalted Cyclops. As state organizer for the Keystone Klan, he was a Grand Dragon. And as

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