

Rowan events: Toastmasters

Continued From 8B

N. Main St., Salisbury.
 • 6-8 p.m. - Parenting class, Third Creek AME Zion Church, 415 E. Main St., Cleveland. Educational program for pregnant and parenting teens. Rev. Brenda Williams, coordinator.
 • 6:30 p.m. - RAMBA Toastmasters International, Miller Recreation Center. Members are competing for Competent Toastmasters Award.

June 4
 • Noon - Prayer service, Soldiers Memorial AME Zion Church, 306 N. Church St., Salisbury. Free.
 • 5:30 p.m. - Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Soldiers Memorial AME Zion Church, 306 N. Church St., Salisbury.
 • 7 p.m. - Praise service, 7:30 p.m. - Bible study, Gethsemane Baptist Church, 719 S. Caldwell St., Salisbury.
 June 5
 • Noon - Prayer service,

Gethsemane Baptist Church, 719 S. Caldwell St., Salisbury.
 • Mini camp - West Side Community Center, China Grove. Ages 6-12 and 13-17. Registering now for June 9. For more information, call Mary Leach (girls) at 857-8377 or Stanley Rice (boys) at 857-6585.
 To have your announcements included, call Gwen Plummer at 636-9219 by 10 p.m. Sunday for inclusion in the next week's Post.

S.C. rapper gets real with lyrics

Continued From 8B

him to Ohio, Detroit and New York.
 Although he says he's heard a lot of positive comments from record executives, most larger companies seem wary about signing on another rap act.
 Frustrated, Robinson signed up for seminars on how to start a

small business and soon began producing his own projects.
 He's spent close to \$7,000, which he saved from working odd jobs. He has yet to turn a profit.
 Robinson says he's not discouraged, though, and things are looking up.
 He said he recently spoke to a representative from an indepen-

dent record company in St. Louis who said she likes his demo tape. That's all Robinson needed to hear.
 "I have cried for this. That's how much music means to me," he said. "I'm going to keep at it and keep at it until I make it. This is my dream."

Annexation battle pits two Rowan towns

Continued from 8B

the predominantly white town would not have to file for it or dispute its boundaries.
 East Spencer started its annexation case last October, but did not file an ordinance for the land. A couple of months later, Spencer officials filed an annexation ordinance and were granted approval, making East Spencer's plans invalid.

Spencer lawyer Anthony Fox told the Salisbury Post that Spencer's adoption of an annexation ordinance gave it prior jurisdiction.
 "Spencer has the right to annex territories within its resolution of intent," he said.
 Fox said the ruling will be sent to town board members by the end of May.

Schools under state fiscal scrutiny

By Brian Powe FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

SALISBURY - The Rowan-Salisbury school system faces money problems and demanding legislators.
 During a recent summit in Salisbury, lawmakers told school officials that receiving more money will not eliminate concerns but further the system's problems.
 State Sen. Betty Cochrane of Davie County said problems in the school system are far too complicated to worry about additional funding.
 "All the proposals being brought forward for the schools have the best intent," she said. "But they're Band-Aids on a problem. More money being thrown at it is not the solution."
 Cochrane said of all the money already poured into the school system, parents and supporters still do not see significant changes.
 "Until we get children coming to school ready to learn and respect authority, schools are going to have a problem," she said.
 Cochrane said the school system must set some strict prior-

ities and channel energy and funds towards eliminating problems.
 One proposal would raise standards for teachers and students. The General Assembly is considering Gov. Jim Hunt's Excellent Schools Act, which would raise teacher salaries to the national average by the turn of the century, will cost \$235 million the first year.
 However, Rowan Rep. Charlotte Gardner doesn't want school improvements at the expense of other programs. Gardner, who co-chairs the House Committee of Human Resources, says that agency is staring at about \$20 million worth of cuts if the monetary proposals are granted.
 "The governor made some proposals I'm not thrilled about," she said.
 Some of those proposals include cutbacks in Medicaid expenses and slashing of the Smart Start program in schools, which would mean less protection for pregnant women and young children.
 Gardner said she advocates pay raises for teachers, but not at the expense of her budget.
 Eugene McCombs said voters

have already approved a \$1.8 billion proposal for school construction, and now they are considering passing the Excellent Schools Act proposal.
 McCombs said one of the major flaws in schools is the lack of parent-teacher trust.
 "It is time for the parents of our country and state to realize that we don't have perfect children," McCombs said. "Every time that a teacher tries to correct and be helpful to a student, the parents should not run to the school and belittle the teacher for trying to correct the child for his misbehaving and being disruptive in the classroom to the point where 25 students are being deprived an education due to the actions of one student."
 Cochrane said that under the Excellent Schools Act, the system can locate, supervise, and evaluate the effectiveness of teachers, making it easier to fire poor teachers.
 During the summit, lawmakers and school board members also discussed the growing effects of home and private schools in the state as well as training teachers and their tenure at public schools.

KKK building sold to S.C. minister

Continued from page 8B

Howard's head of security, he was the Emperor's Night Hawk. He stockpiled a small arsenal in the old theater.
 "I was in control," Burden said. "I wasn't being controlled; I was in control."
 Then, while driving across Georgia, he saw a Confederate shop that sold Klan and Civil War memorabilia.
 "I got to thinking about it. And I said, 'There ain't nowhere I know of in South Carolina that you can buy Confederate flags and such.'"
 Burden and Howard restored the theater's lobby, opening the Redneck Shop in March 1996.
 The store stocked pens, knives, T-shirts, figurines, key chains, belt buckles, bumper stickers and a variety of Confederate battle flags. In the back was a museum filled with Klan memorabilia.
 Kennedy was one of the shop's most vocal critics, leading rallies and marches.
 Burden said he was prepared to kill the reverend if he threatened Howard. But that was before

Judy Harbeson.
 "See, I bottle my feelings up. I've had to do that all my life. Nobody cared how I felt. But she did," Burden said. "She told me, 'I care.'"
 Within the next few weeks, Burden left Howard, the store and the Klan.
 "She reigned emotions in me. Now, to this day, I got a conscience. I care. I care about other people," Burden said.
 On April 22, Burden sold the Echo Theater to New Beginnings Missionary Baptist Church for \$10. Howard retains the right to use the building for the rest of his life.
 "At some point in time," Kennedy said, "we are looking forward to transform that building from a building of hatred to a building of love."
 Burden and Harbeson were married on May 2. "I'd like to tell the black community that I'm sorry for what I done. As far as the white community: Don't fall victim to it. Don't be a fool. There ain't no reason to hate nobody. All it's gonna do is ruin your own life."

Knox Middle School gets dress code

By Brian Powe FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

To the chagrin of many Knox Middle School students, the Board of Education has authorized the wearing of uniforms at the school next fall.
 Though many students hated the plan, Board of Education officials sided with Knox's principal Catherine Rivens, instructors, and parents requiring that students must

wear uniforms next school year.
 "We're elated. We're excited. We do believe this is going to make a difference," Rivens said.
 School administrators felt the need to back the proposal because some students' spring attire had become a little too risqué.
 Jerome Banks, a Knox math teacher, says that some of the

things being worn at the school were ridiculous.
 Banks, who is notorious for settling even the most rowdy middle schoolers, said, "Some of these clothes like Daisy-Dueks, extremely short skirts and skin tight jeans should not be worn at the school."
 "And, although we haven't had a huge problem with boys fondling these females, they cause a lot of disruption and havoc in the schools everyday."



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