

# Novello events feature wide variety of writers

Continued from 14A

Literary Adventure." Adults can find plenty to do as well. UNC Charlotte professor Tanure Ojaide will be featured on Carolina Writers Night Oct. 20. The Charlotte Post will present Connie Briscoe, author of best sellers "Sisters and Lovers" and "Big Girls Don't Cry," Oct. 23 at the Booth Theater. Briscoe will discuss her works as well as the difficulties of dealing with hearing loss. A book signing will follow. Several neighborhood branches will host activities as well.

Beatties Ford Road Branch Library will host the Charlotte African American Writers series. On Monday at 9:30 a.m., television producer T.X. Green will present a session on developing scripts. At 7 p.m., Gregory Morris, author of "Zon," will discuss writing novels. On Wednesday at 7 p.m., Charlotte Post publisher Gerald O. Johnson, will discuss what it takes to be a good journalist. Here's a list of Novello activities: Wednesday - Friday, 7:30 p.m., "Salute to Hong Kong

Films." Mint Museum. Free. Oct. 16 Reader's Theatre, First Union Atrium, 10:30 a.m. Free. Anne Perry, author of Victorian mysteries, 7:30 p.m. Spirit Square. \$10. Oct. 20 Carolina Writer's Night, Booth Theatre, 7 p.m. Free. Featured writers: Clyde Edgerton, Lee Smith, Hal Crowther, Judy Goldman, Elizabeth LeLand and Tanure Ojaide.

Oct. 21 Scott Adams, author of Dilbert. Marriott City Center, noon. \$35. Sue Grafton, author of Alphabet Mystery Series, Spirit Square, 7:30 p.m. \$10. Oct. 22 Ray Bradbury, author of "Fahrenheit 451," Spirit Square, 7:30 p.m. \$10.

Oct. 23 Connie Briscoe, author of "Sisters and Lovers" and "Big Girls Don't Cry," Booth Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$10. Oct. 24 Storytelling workshop, 4 p.m. Main Library. Storytelling festival begins at 7 p.m. Free.

Oct. 25 Coffee and conversation, Main Library, 10:30 a.m. Children's book authors and illustrators discuss works. NationsBank WordPlay Saturday, Sixth Street, City Fair, Carolina Theatre, Main Library, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free.

## Organic foods popular

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WARNER ROBINS, Ga. - Pete Cimino moved to rural Georgia four years ago to get out of the city and into farming organic vegetables. Now some of his clients are restaurants in cities. "He likes what he's getting, I guess," Cimino said of one of his big-city clients. Cimino's 80-acre farm in Macon County is Georgia's biggest certified organic farm and an example of the growth in the fledgling industry, which uses no herbicides, pesticides or other chemicals.

owned for 28 years in north Houston County, he decided chemicals were unhealthy and opted for organic farming.

Williams now produces chemical-free tomatoes, herbs, sweet potatoes and blueberries on the farm near Warner Robins. "I enjoy the farming," said Williams, 53. "I like to grow stuff that I can eat that's not full of chemicals."

"Chemicals are put on food to kill things - to kill pests. It's a poison," said Macon dietitian Janie Sokol.

While there is a boom in sales of organic fruits and vegetables, the market is still too small for conventional farmers, Phatak said. "There will be a steady increase in organic farms. But it is still comparatively in its infancy stage," he said.

The state's lone cooperative for organic farmers, called Georgia Grown, has seen its membership double in three years to 18. Over the same period, sales from the cooperative, which acts as the organic farmers' marketing arm, have grown from \$100,000 to \$125,000.

"There is just enormous demand," said Anne Brewer, manager of Georgia Grown. "It really comes from the upscale restaurants in Atlanta. The chefs are passionate about produce." Despite the growth, Georgia still has fewer organic farmers than Florida, California and some other states where a premium is paid for the crops, said Sharad Phatak, a horticulture professor at the University of Georgia. To be certified as organic, a farm must go without chemicals for three years before the first organic crop is planted.

"In the conventional system, we destroy the soil's organic matter," said Phatak. "It's not just dirt. Soil is a living entity. It has a lot of living organisms in it. Constant tilling of the soil (and chemicals) destroys the organic matter in the soil."

Organic farm land is much like land that has been used for pastureland for several years and is then converted to farming, Phatak said. The first few years after the conversion, farmers have to put very little into the land.

The biggest difference between conventional and organic farmers is the use of herbicides. Conventional farm land usually looks like a well-kept yard, while organic farm land resembles a yard that is full of weeds and hasn't been mowed.

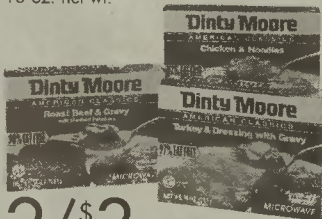
Organic farmers also do not use commercial fertilizers, composted manure and popular pesticides. Instead, they allow natural diseases to kill harmful insects.

When Walter Williams Jr. took over the tiny farm his family has

Coming soon  
The Black Guide



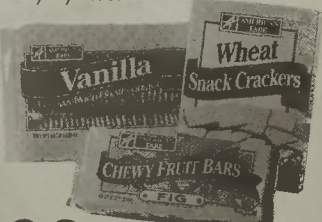
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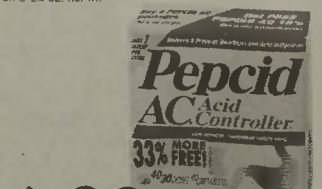
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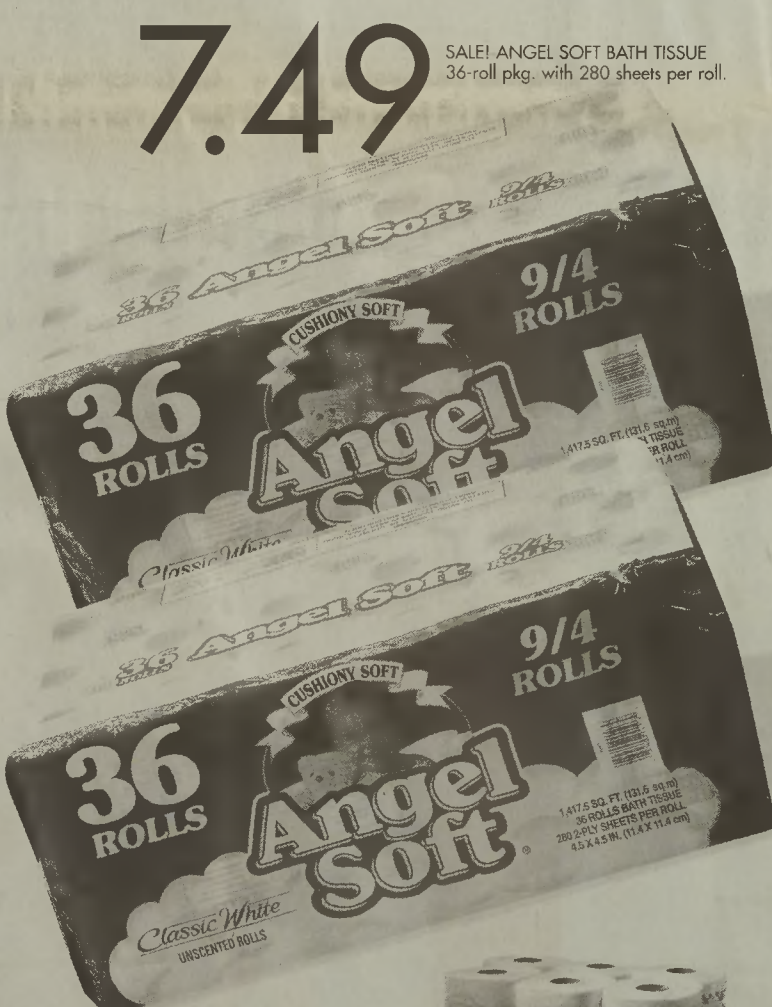
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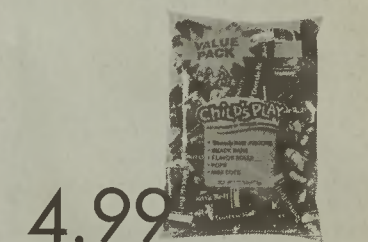
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99¢ SALE! RESTAURANT SPECIAL 2-oz. popcorn or jumbo pretzel with medium Coke.

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