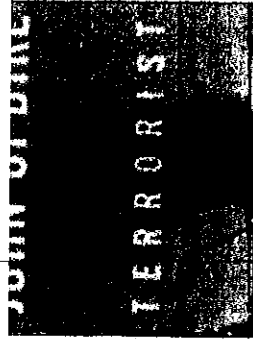


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Monroe, N.C.

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thought there was not ample reason to reduce the speed limit; there had been no complaints. The council came to a general consensus that the Police Department should patrol the area and investigate the situation further before putting in a formal request to NCDOT. Garris said Durn made the request because there are a lot of pedestrians and bikers in that area and neighboring Idlewild Road has a 35 mph speed limit.

Dunn's second request to ask NCDOT to resurface streets within County Woods East in return for the town accepting them into its maintenance system was also put on hold.

Garris said council members, in the interest of fairness, wanted a study done of all state roads in town subdivisions to see which ones might be subject to town takeover.

See STALLINGS/Pae 8A

Equine rescue group plans fund-raising event

BY PETER J. HOVANEC
 Staff Writer

MONROE
 The United States Equine Rescue League will be having a field day fund-raiser Saturday at Why Not An American Ark on Charlie Williams Road, complete with an array of family and children's events and contests.

With a goal of raising \$10,000 for the USERL, organizer and USERL volunteer Darlene Kindle touts the event as a family fun day to raise money for a good cause.

"This organization is something I truly believe in and what I have seen over the past almost two years is an organization that has a heart," Kindle said in an e-mail. "The (c)entral Piedmont area is rapidly growing with horse owners. A lot of them have not a clue on how to care for their horses."

Kindle went on to say the USERL does not want to take horses. Instead,

it wants to educate the public and new horse owners, and if a horse is being abused or neglected, help that animal, which might result in a surrender or seizure.

Saturday's event will feature stick horse races, watermelon eating and seed spitting contests. USERL rescue horses will be on site as will members of the Union County Mounted Patrol. There will also be several raffle items, including artwork, riding lessons, books and more.

There will also be AVID microchipping for dogs (\$23) and AVID microchipping for horses (\$50), which includes registration in the AVID database and with Stolen Horse International.

Debi Metcalfe of Stolen Horse International will give a presentation on how to protect yourself from horse theft.

There will also be freeze branding offered by Wayne Corbin for \$45, a

nutrition presentation by George Ferguson of Blue Seal Feed, a Union County REINS presentation for the "New Horse Owner" and Mike Stine will be there to answer hoof care and shoeing questions.

There will be a fun dog show open to all ages for \$6 per class, a Gymkhana horse show for all ages and levels for \$6 per class. All dogs must have proof of rabies vaccination and all horses must have proof of a negative Coggins to enter the show grounds.

For more information on the event and activities, contact Kindle at (704) 219-3559 or e-mail darlene4hstuff@aol.com, or Deb Carl at dbcarl@carolina.rr.com.

More information can be found on the Internet at www.whynotanamericancarark.com.

—Peter Hovanec can be reached at (704) 261-2223 or via e-mail at pvh@theej.com.

