



James Blake to play in W-S Open

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Grad rates are up at local high schools

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Free camp pushes fitness

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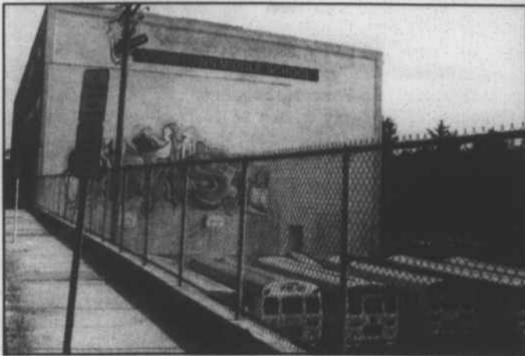
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THURSDAY, July 21, 2011



Under New Management

National company taking over Downtown Middle

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Some big changes are on the horizon for Downtown Middle School.

Mosaica Education, a for-profit company that manages more than 70 schools worldwide, took over management responsibilities at the charter school earlier this month.

The school was founded in 1997 by Dr. Constance Brown, a former principal of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County's Downtown Elementary, and Deborah Hall as an answer to parents' demand for a middle school component to the popular magnet elementary, explained DTMS Financial Director Gail Duggins, who has been with the DTMS since its inception.

But since it opened its doors, the school has seen several shifts in curriculum-themes and focuses. The changes have also included a parade of at least six different administrators over the course of the school's 14-year history. Duggins is hopeful that Mosaica Education will be the answer for DTMS.

"I have very high hopes," said the mother of two. "I've been very impressed with the Mosaica people that I've met, and I think it will

be a good thing for the school."

Under Mosaica's leadership, DTMS will utilize Mosaica's patented "Paragon" curriculum, which emphasizes hands-on learning and pairing real world experiences with classroom lessons, and adopt a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) theme, according to Mosaica Regional Vice President Melvin Brown, who is overseeing the transition.



Brown

"We have a proven curriculum that provides global perspective and has been very successful," noted the father of two. "The curriculum gives students a chance to see that education is relevant."

Brown, a former public school educator and administrator, believes the STEAM curriculum will jibe well with the artistic and technological entities that already exist in Winston-Salem.

"We'd like to capitalize on the industry that's there," he stated. "We want to pool those resources into the school so the kids see the relevance of what they do on a daily basis."

DTMS, which has tentatively been renamed STEAM Academy of Winston-Salem at the Downtown Middle

See DTMS on A2



Photo by Todd Luck

Full-figured women walk the runway at the Fourth Annual Sista Big Bone Fashion Show.

BIG-BONED SISTAS STRUT

Fashion show gives full-size ladies a chance to shine

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The Fourth Annual Sista Big Bone Fashion Show proved that beauty and glamour comes in all shapes and sizes.

Ahmad Johnson watched proudly as full-figured models took to the runway at the Benton Convention Center on Saturday.

Johnson was inspired to create the fashion event after taking note of how confident and fashionable his full-figured friends were.

His first Sista Big Bone Fashion Show was a small



affair held at Glenn High School. The audience was made up mostly of family members and friends of the

models. Word of mouth helped the event's popularity grow quickly. His most recent shows have drawn crowds of hundreds, and full-figured women across the city and beyond are jockeying to take part. Johnson, who has garnered the nickname "Mr. Big Bone," now has to hold auditions in order to pick the 15-20 ladies that model in the shows.

Johnson, a case manager at Youth Opportunities, says that seeing the models gain even more self-confidence by taking part in the shows is a



Ahmad Johnson

See Big Bone on A8

Davenport takes future engineer under his wing

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Since embarking on his high school career four years ago, Portsmouth, Va. native James Doran has had his sights set on his career goal.

So while his twin brother attended Glenn High School, Doran, who was an aspiring architect at the time, chose to go his own route and enroll at Atkins Academic and Technology High School, whose programs are designed for students who want to pursue competitive, lucrative careers.

"Everybody expected me to go to Glenn, but I said I need to see if this is for



Davenport

See Davenport on A7



Photos by Layla Farmer

James Doran stands outside of Davenport Transportation Consultants' downtown office.

See DTMS on A2

Fun relived at 50th anniversary reunion



Photo by Todd Luck

The Atkins Class of 1961 Reunion Committee members pose at Friday's opening reception.

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Members of Atkins High School Class of 1961 came from near and far last week to mark their 50th Anniversary Reunion.

Held at the Hilton Garden Inn off of Hanes Mall Boulevard, the three-day, weekend gathering included a banquet, a dance and a picnic. Each event gave members of the class the chance to laugh, catch-up and recall their high school memories.

Reunion President Edna Smith said the reunions become more important as the class gets older. The Reunion used to be held every five years. They are now held

See Atkins on A6

Dancing All the Way to the Bank



UNCSA Photo by Donald Dietz

UNCSA students Lauren Haug, Gabriel Arant, Shannon Sollars-White and Leslie Williams perform earlier this year in the school's production of "Oklahoma!" UNCSA officials announced last week that the production grossed more than \$1 million in ticket sales. A large portion of that money will be used for scholarship programs. Read more on page A5.

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