

▲ SPORTS WEEK

A Night of Torment for Carver
...
Black College Sports Page



See A1



See A3



See B1



See C1

▲ COMMUNITY

VisionWork holds annual banquet
...
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WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

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THE CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1999

Zoning plan yields feast for suburbs, famine for inner city

Paisley, Hanes see huge drops in enrollment

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

In the constant debate over the school system's controversial redistricting plan, the issue of school capacity is seldom broached.

Nevertheless, capacity has become a constant side effect of redistricting and an issue that school officials are taking their time to address.

"Until the Board of Education takes a stance on this issue (there) are going to be issues of under- and overcapacity at schools," board member Geneva Brown said recently.

The trend of overpopulated suburban schools and greatly underpopulated inner-city schools continues this year. Like previous years, the problem appears worst

at system middle schools.

Paisley is the latest middle school to experience a mass exodus of students, most of whom were white.

According to 10th day enrollment figures from the school system, Paisley has lost more than half of its student population since the end of the last school year.

On the 10th day of the current school year, Paisley had 287 students on its rolls, compared to 717 students at the same time last year.

A little more than 80 percent of Paisley's students are minorities this school year; the remaining students are white. The school's racial makeup has undergone stark changes. Last year, white students made up nearly 57 percent of the student population.

Paisley joins a growing list of inner-city schools that are operating under capacity as a result of the redistricting plan, which, beginning in 1995, replaced cross-town busing with a school-choice plan.

Last year, Atkins Middle School, a school which like Paisley

once served as a high school for blacks, saw nearly 400 students disappear from the year before. Hill Middle School also saw sharp declines last year. Atkins expected to gain a significant number of students this year as a result of nearby Kennedy Middle School becoming LEAP, an accelerated program for students who have failed a grade.

Atkins has 498 students this year, according to the figures, only 14 more students than it had around the same time last year. Atkins' enrollment topped 810 during the 1997-1998 school year, one year before the school came under the redistricting plan.

Hanes Middle School's enrollment is also down this year, from 1,006 last year to 634.

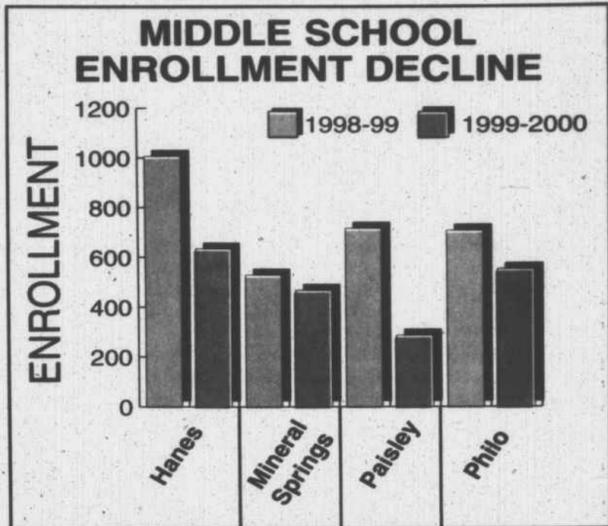
On the other extreme, a number of suburban schools are struggling



Brown



Marshall



See Zoning on A10

Thousands get 'Taste of Triad'



Photo by T. Kevin Walker

Members of the Keith Byrd Ensemble perform for the throng that gathered Sunday for "Taste of the Triad," an annual fund-raiser for CONTACT, a 24-hour helpline. For more on the event see page A9.

Roundtable discusses Edison

Johnson brings plan to privatize schools to BLR

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

Victor Johnson Jr., a member of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School Board, gave an update on the Edison Project to the Black Leadership Roundtable's education committee and then the Black Leadership Roundtable in separate meetings last Thursday.

Johnson organized a community forum about the Edison Project Sept. 9. Edison Project, now called Edison Schools, is a New York-based for-profit company that runs schools.

Petree, Ashley and Cook elementary schools are the schools most often mentioned as possible Edison sites.

Johnson told roundtable officials last Thursday several reasons why he thinks the School Board should hire the Edison Project to operate an inner-city school or schools.

He said that students should be educated the first time around, rather than through remediation.

"Next year the third, fifth and seventh grade kids will be retained if they don't pass end-of-course tests," Johnson said. "You're talking about money that is wasted. Now we're going to allocate 80 hours of instruction (for students) that failed that end-of-course test. You're talking about somewhere in the neighborhood of 1,500 to 2,000 kids that could possibly fail that end-of-course test."

See BLR on A10

Flood brings grief, unity to Trenton

BY ALLEN G. BREED
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRENTON, N.C. - This was a town divided by race and a river. The Trent River swallowed the town Friday, and black and white were united in sorrow.

"In the middle of a crisis, you don't distinguish between people," said Billy Olsen, pastor of the Trenton United Methodist Church. "There is no racial division in a flood."

In March, the board that runs this coastal plains town of 250 refused to annex three black neighborhoods, and Mayor Joffree Leggett reportedly said blacks were "not leaders" and "would rather work for a white person."

Now, waters driven by Hurricane Floyd have swamped the hamlet.

And its people came together to seek shelter.

"Mother Nature took care of us," Leggett, 82, said as he stepped - barefoot, pant legs rolled up - out of a boat and into the brackish water that had turned Highway 58 into a boat ramp.

Everyone was watching the coast, expecting 100-plus mph winds and 20-foot surges to take out the beaches. Few expected such damage 40 miles inland.

People in Jones County began evacuating when the storm hit Thursday. James Wilder, a state transportation worker from Trenton, drowned Thursday after falling from a truck while trying to rescue a stranded motorist.

By Friday, more than 700 people

See High waters on A11



Associated Press photo by Todd Sumlin

Interstate 40 remained flooded in northern Pender County Sunday afternoon. Hurricane Floyd saturated eastern North Carolina with 20 inches of rain. For information on local efforts to aid victims of the flooding, see page A11.

Putting an end to school violence

Angelou Institute, Winston Lake Y and Urban League begin series on school issues

BY JERI YOUNG
THE CHRONICLE

Ending the violence that has rocked schools around the nation was the goal of a group of educators and community leaders who gathered Tuesday at the Anderson Center at Winston-Salem State University.

Armed only with pens, paper and a desire to learn more about what causes students to lash out violently, the group joined thousands around the nation for a teleconference on violence. The event was sponsored by the Bloomington, Ind.-based Hope Foundation, a 10-year-old organization that researches ways to end youth violence.

During the 90-minute broadcast - sponsored locally by The Maya Angelou Institute for the Improvement of Child and Family Education, the Winston-Salem Urban League and the Winston Lake YMCA - local educators shared their thoughts with a panel of psychologists, educators and students via phone and fax. The video conference's topic, warning signs that a student is becoming frustrated enough to commit a violent act, is a timely one, attendants said.

"One of things that they talked about in the video is that children have to talk to adults," said William Peay, principal of Philo Middle School. "Children have to ... be able to talk to adults to make them feel

See Conference on A11