

SPORTS WEEK

Rams pull off impressive victory
 ...
Carver, West have stormy game



See A2



See C1



See B1



See C7

COMMUNITY

Women to complete Habitat house
 ...
Reynolda House to celebrate women

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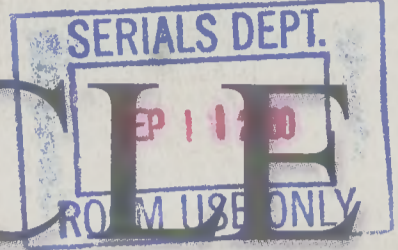
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The race is on

Local parties, groups trying to register, educate voters

BY CHERIS HODGES
 THE CHRONICLE

The first election of the new century has many implications. Voting this year is not something that the major parties want people to take lightly.

In North Carolina there will be a new governor and the seats for many state senators and representatives are up for grabs.

On the national scene, the presidential seat will be decided as well as many seats in Congress.

Voters, particularly minority voters, are the key to these changes. To inform people of the power of the ballot, Gov. Jim Hunt has declared September Citizens Voter Registration Month.

According to Hunt, there are about 1.5 million unregistered eligible voters in the state. The State Board of Elections and the 100 county boards of elections will be conducting a statewide voter registration drive in September.

In Forsyth County, voter registration applications must be post-

marked by Oct. 13 in order for a voter to be registered for the Nov. 7 general election. If applications are returned in person, they must be received by 5 p.m. Oct. 13.

The local Democratic and Republican parties are also actively reaching out to educate voters about their candidates for various offices. Jack Stewart, chairman of the Forsyth County Republican Party, said the GOP is sending out candidate brochures to give people



Jack Stewart holds a sign touting the Republican candidate for president.

See The race on A5

Green reprimanded after chair-throwing incident

JOY SCOTT
 THE CHRONICLE

The Guilford County School Board wasted little time last week in taking action against one of its own members in a highly-publicized incident at a board retreat Aug. 26.

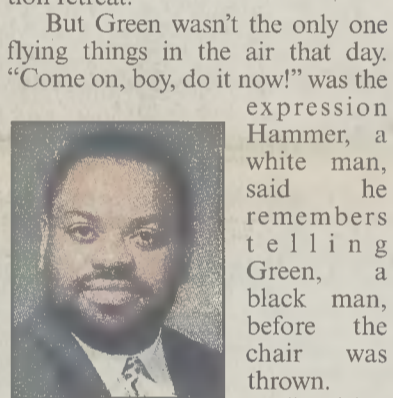
In an emergency meeting Sept. 1, the day after the release of an apology by board member Keith Green for overreacting and throwing a chair at Rhinoceros Times Editor John Hammer at the retreat, the board voted to adopt his letter of apology but reprimanded him for his actions.

"The board finds it unacceptable for a public meeting to be disrupted by such a disruption. Disruptive acts, especially people in the public eye, must be able to freely express their differences," the board's statement read. "The Board of Education demands high standards from students and employees, and can expect nothing less from board members."

In a statement released by Green and his attorney, Green said, "I should have exercised more tolerance and patience. For my conduct, I am sorry."

Green said the apology was targeted to whomever it applies. "I value the high standards that have been set for the board and my conduct will adhere strictly to the code of ethics that governs board members' conduct." "The code, which all board members are expected to follow, states, 'I will act with honesty, fairness, integrity and discretion in all relationships; and respect the opinions of others with tolerance and patience.'" A heated exchange and a chair thrown ended the notion of a relaxed atmosphere that could have been a relaxed atmosphere at the Guilford County Board of Education retreat.

But Green wasn't the only one flying things in the air that day. "Come on, boy, do it now!" was the expression Hammer, a white man, said he remembers telling Green, a black man, before the chair was thrown.



Green

"I wish I had used 'punk' or 'kid,'" said Hammer. "I didn't have a long time to think of what to say."

Because of pending "communicating a threat" and "simple assault" misdemeanor charges pressed by Hammer against Green, Green could not comment on everything that happened during the incident. But in an interview he did say he thought the term "boy" was used as a racial slur.

"I do think the term 'boy' upset him," said Hammer. But, "In my mind it was not a racial incident."

Hammer said the choice to use the term could have stemmed from the hastiness of the incident or the fact Green is younger. He also said he does understand how some may be inclined to tack on the "racist" label hereafter and how it could have been taken in a racial context.

"It was the wrong choice of words, but that wasn't the intent," he said. "I don't take offense if someone calls me boy."

Although he admits his wording was less than professional, he thinks the board owes him an apology.

"It didn't make me angry as

See Keith Green on A3

Officer Friendly

Photo by Kevin Walker
 Capt. Tim Samuels peers out of the window in his office at the Public Safety Center.



After 29 years, Samuels ready to bow out

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
 THE CHRONICLE

Capt. Tim Samuels vividly remembers a conversation he had in the early 1970s with a young Black Panther on the topic of blacks and the Police Department.

The man contended that it was the responsibility of the Police Department to gain the black community's trust and loyalty, even if the department had to bend over backward in order to do so.

The talk was pure obscurity to Samuels back then. He was also young, black and a rookie with Winston-Salem Police

Department, and of the mind-set that his role and that of his colleagues was to enforce the law while protecting and serving.

After 29 years in blue and more than enough police tales to fill an anthology, Samuels' mind-set has changed. He now says the young radical hit the nail on the head all those years ago.

He now says an invisible wall has been erected between the department and minority communities, a wall that officers must scale.

"It's going to take us, the police, reaching out to the citizens," he said.

More black faces in blue uniforms will also help bridge the

gap, Samuels said, blacks who do not have the us against them mentality.

"If we really want changes, we need to get in there (the department)," he said.

Samuels has developed a reputation over the years for his frankness as much as his award-winning smile, which colleagues and friends say he is rarely without.

Often Samuels holds unscheduled meetings with younger guys on the force, mostly African Americans. Samuels discusses with them their particular peril and "sometimes relates stories from his early days in the depart-

See Samuels on A10

Local school focuses on dropout prevention

BY CHERIS HODGES
 THE CHRONICLE

For five years, students have been getting help from a special school in the county.

But Leap Academy is much more than a holding tank for students who have been left behind in traditional schools. The children at Leap actually learn. The teachers are some of the brightest in the county and they work with the students on an intimate and personal level.

According to Leap's principal, Colette Love, the focus of the school is dropout prevention.

"All of the students here have been retained. When you fail a grade you're about 40 percent more likely to drop out of school," she said.

Love added that kids make up their minds to drop out of school at age 10, although they cannot legally do so. She said this is especially true for African-American males. Of the 280 students at Leap, 65 percent are African American.

This year Leap is also serving fifth-graders. Love said the younger the students are, the more responsive they are to Leap's program.

"I am very excited about working with the fifth-graders," she said.

Love said the school does not only help the children learn, it also helps them with other "at-risk" aspects of their lives.

"For instance, if they have a drug abuse problem or they're being abused, we have support for them in those areas to help," she said.

See Leap on A4

Family reunites at Old Salem

BY PAUL COLLINS
 THE CHRONICLE

The Benbow-Oliver family had several reasons to celebrate last weekend. For starters, it was the clan's 30th annual reunion.

Also, research by Mel White, director of African-American programs at Old Salem, has shown that the family is connected back to black Moravian potter Peter Oliver, who died in 1810 and who was the last black to be buried in the Salem God's Acre when the cemetery was still integrating burial sites.

A third reason to celebrate: Some representatives of another side of the family, which has been having its own reunions since 1942, attended the Benbow-Oliver reunion to discuss the possibility of having both family groups meet together in the future.

See Reunion on A5

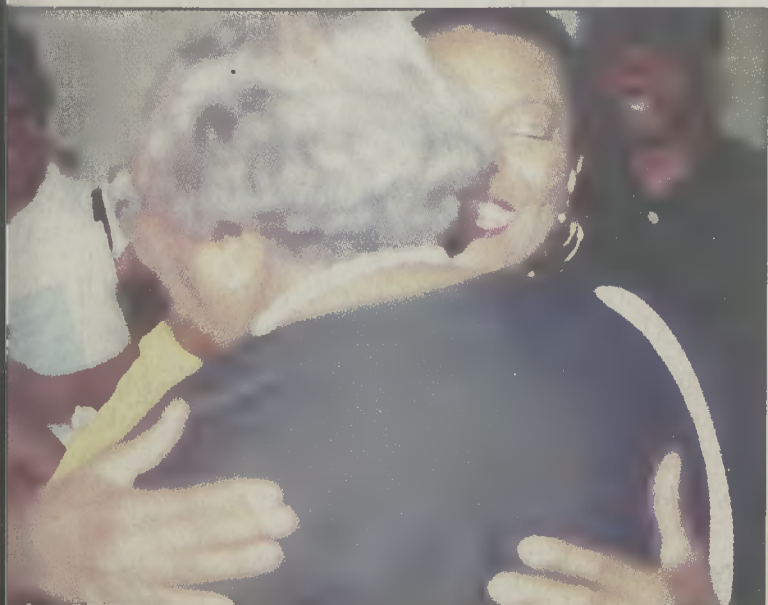


Photo by Paul Collins

Sandra Brown, who is from another branch of the family tree, smiles as she greets a relative from Benbow-Oliver branch.

Tutoring program restarts

BY PAUL COLLINS
 THE CHRONICLE

Deborah Fluit was one of the 400-500 people attending the formal kickoff of the 2000-2001 V.I.P. Corporate Volunteers for Kindergarten Readiness program Wednesday Aug. 30, in the Grand Pavilion Room of the Adam's Mark Plaza Hotel.

Fluit is a first-year volunteer in the program, which has volunteers tutor targeted students who are below grade level.

Fluit said she hopes to learn techniques through the program that she can use at home with her 9-year-old son, who suffered a severe brain injury in a car accident a couple years ago. The boy, now in the fourth grade, receives tutoring in school.

"It was hard for me actually

See VIP on A11



Photo by Paul Collins

Deborah Fluit gets some refreshments after the kickoff program.