

SPORTS WEEK

Howard settling into leadership role

Aggies move forward after firing Hayes



See B2



See A3



See A4

COMMUNITY

Agencies collecting toys for needy

Tips to protect against CO poisoning

THE CHRONICLE

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Principal choice criticized

Some say that voices of parents, community ignored

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Next month an African-American woman will try to fill Larry Fields' big shoes at Latham Elementary School. But Ingrid Medlock is not the black woman that many people had hoped to see in the principal's office at the school.

The Board of Education voted to hire Medlock Nov. 26, after Superintendent Don Martin told board members that Medlock, an assistant principal at LEAP with 12 years of experience in education, was the best person to replace Fields, who died unexpectedly in September.

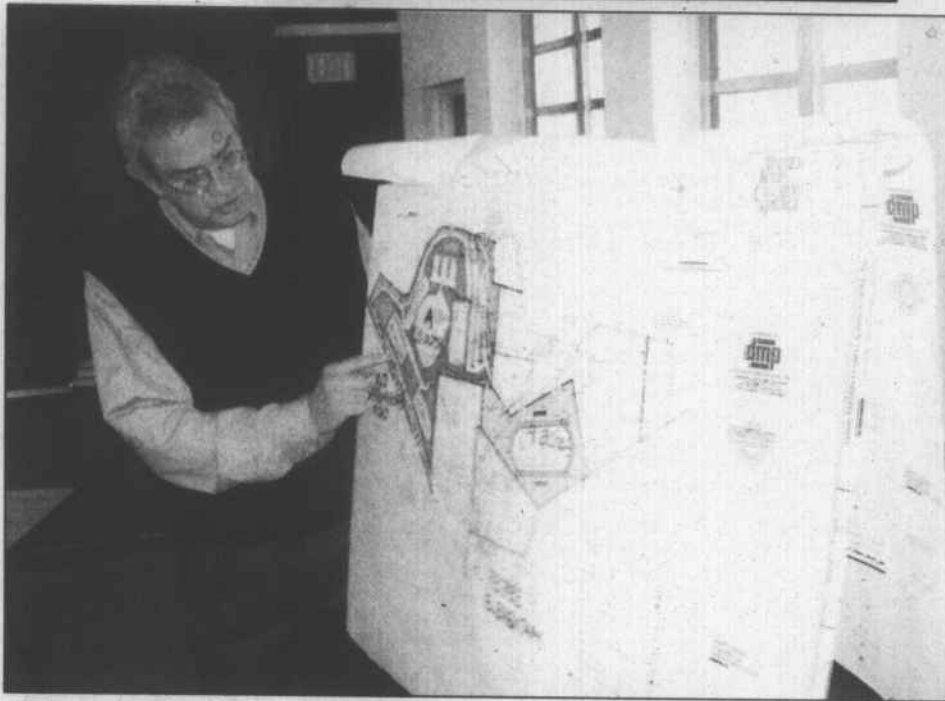
Many parents and community leaders had lobbied heavily for Gwen Johnson to win the job. Johnson is an assistant principal at Latham who worked side by side with Fields as he was putting in place the formula that would take Latham from the academic bottom to the top. Johnson, who was contacted for this story but did not return a phone call by press time, was among the three finalists for the job.

Some supporters are crying foul now that Johnson will not get the job. They say that Johnson was the most qualified of the three and are accusing Martin of bypassing Johnson because some of Martin's most vocal critics are vigorous supporters of Johnson.

See Latham on A9



Mendez



Photos by Kevin Walker

Schools Superintendent Don Martin shows a group of people, a group that included Alderman Dan Besse, how the school system plans to use parts of Winston Lake Park to construct the \$25 million Atkins High School. The school is slated to be a technology magnet that will draw students from throughout Forsyth County.

Inching Toward Resolution?

Full Board of Aldermen will seek public input on school land swap

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Hope is still alive for those who want to see a new technology high school constructed off Old Greensboro Road.

The Board of Aldermen will once again take up the issue of providing the school system with city-owned park land so that the new Atkins High School can be built. The aldermen's Finance Committee forwarded the item to the full board after members of the committee failed to come to any type of resolution Monday afternoon.

The school system is asking aldermen for at least 19 acres of land that is now part of Winston Lake Park. Without the land, the proposed school would be awkward-looking, and sports fields and a stadium would not be possible, school officials said.

Aldermen hedged two weeks to give their OK for a land swap that would give the school system the land it



Members of the Board of Aldermen Finance Committee (Wanda Merschel, from left; Fred Terry; and Vivian Burke) listen to a presentation Monday by school officials.

needed in exchange for several parcels of school-owned land throughout the city. Aldermen voiced concern about turning over more of the city's increasingly shrinking park lands; some aldermen also said that they had been kept out of the loop about the school system's plans for more park land.

In response to the aldermen's indecision on the land

swap, the Board of Education decided to move the site of Atkins High to land off Reynolds Park Road, which angered many African-Americans who said they were promised a school on Old Greensboro Road when they voted to pass a bond referendum a year ago that is making the \$25 million school possible in the first place.

Most members of the

School Board came to Monday's Finance Committee meeting. Donnie Lambeth, chairman of the School Board, said board members will definitely reverse their decision to build at the alternate site if aldermen give them at least 19 acres.

The full Board of Aldermen will consider the matter

See Aldermen on A5

Goler project moving forward

CDC plans to bring new look to area with complex

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Prayers have been answered at Goler Memorial AME Zion Church because Friday the congregation held a ground-breaking ceremony to launch the construction of a brand-new residential development, Goler Heights, which is part of the church's downtown neighborhood revitalization plan.

Rev. Seth Larley, pastor of Goler Memorial, was joined by a host of members from the community who helped the Goler/Depot Street Renaissance Community Development Corp. (CDC) revitalization plan get off the ground in downtown Winston-Salem.

"(God) has given us the blueprint, and we are seeking to follow the blueprint," said Larley, who is also the president of Goler CDC.

Goler CDC was established in 1988 by Goler Memorial to initiate community development, and the church has planned a multimillion dollar renovation project that will span a three-block area of 10 acres in downtown Winston-Salem. Goler CDC hired Pittsburgh-based Urban Development Associates to work on the project.

"What is it that we are intending to do?" asked Rev. Larley. "A long, long time ago there was a man who was born in a manger....He talked about the day when all of us must stand before God. He said to some, I was sick, I was in

See Goler on A10



Larley



Brown



Photo by Kevin Walker

Members of the Brann family try to keep warm Friday night at the city's tree-lighting ceremony. The event was held in Corpening Plaza. For more pictures, see C1.

Restaurant patrons treated to romance

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

It was just another Friday night on the town for Debra Penn. She and her longtime beau, Vernal Lazoson, drove up and down Stratford Road scoping out a place to grab a bite to eat. They ruled out Chinese, pizza and settled on Rock-Ola Cafe, an eatery with a music theme where pictures of '80s pop stars look down over glossy wooden tables.

Penn and Lazoson found a nice spot in the restaurant and placed their orders. When their food arrived, Penn thought it looked great, but the lettuce for the sandwich — which was served on a saucer by itself — looked a little odd. A glimmer of light shooting through the green layers caught Penn's eye. She grabbed the saucer to inspect it closer.

"I just looked at it, and I said, 'That looks like my ring,'" Penn said.

It was indeed her ring. She and Lazoson had gone shopping for engagement rings and she had picked out the diamond-sprinkled band, but she had no idea that Lazoson had planned to give it to her so soon or so publicly.

"She was so cute," Meredith Clinard, a manager at the restaurant, said, describing Penn's reaction after discovering the ring.

See Romance on A10



Photo by Kevin Walker

Debra Penn and Vernal Lazoson will be married on Dec. 21.