

Towne Lake veteran shares story of surviving Pearl Harbor

On Wall Street, the end of an era



Three Cherokee students ace portion of SATs

Cherokee Tribune

CHEROKEE TRIBUNE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2008

75¢

Academic indicators improve

Good signs in district's graduation, dropout, attendance rates

By Kristal Dixon
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Stats/3B

Graduation, dropout and attendance rates for the Cherokee County School District all improved in the school year.

The dropout rate for the district dipped slightly to 4.9 percent last school year compared with 4.9 percent during the 2006-07 school year, according to a report.

The district's graduation rate was 80.3 last

school year, an increase from 76.9 percent the previous year.

The district attendance rate jumped to 94.4 percent last school year, as compared with 92.8 percent the prior year. The percentage includes the number of students who were absent for 15 or fewer days.

CrossRoads Middle/High School, Polaris

Evening School, Ralph Bunche Center and the Mountainbrook Educational Center were not included in the three reports. Creekview High School was not included in the graduation rate, as this is its first year with a senior class.

County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank Petruzziello said the improvements could be attributed to the collaborative efforts of principals, teachers and community



Dr. Frank Petruzziello

partners working to make sure students attend school and graduate. "Kids coming to school on a regular basis is critically important," he said, adding that each school has implemented methods to boost

See Rates, Page 3A

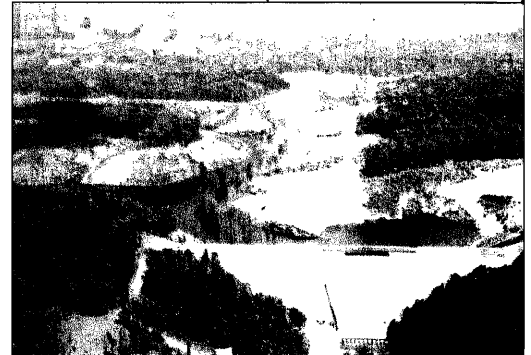


LITTLE TREASURES

The 21st Annual Canton Christmas Parade made its way through downtown on Saturday. Organized by the Optimist Club, the parade was open to anyone in the community who wanted to march or drive along with Santa Claus. **Above:** Ryan Meguin, 5, son of John and Joseph Meguin of Canton, grabs a piece of candy thrown from the parade in downtown Canton on Saturday. **Right:** Tammy Hisoire of Canton holds up daughter Victoria Hisoire, 18 months, while they and Matthew Porter, 6, watch the parade.



Cherokee Tribune/Thinh D. Nguyen



Cherokee Tribune/Amber M. Eberly

Rain and creek water is slowly filling up the Hickory Log Creek Reservoir in Canton, but the flow will pick up speed once a pipeline to the Etowah River is complete. The city began laying pipeline for the project in the past week, with plans to begin pumping river water as soon as late February.

Reservoir could begin operation in early 2009

By Ashley Fuller
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Canton officials could be drawing water from the Etowah River and filling up the Hickory Log Creek Reservoir as soon as the early part of next year.

The last of the permits needed for the reservoir, a license to withdraw water from the river, now is in place, and pipeline construction started in the past week.

The pipeline will run from the river to the reservoir, which is in The Bluffs at Technology Park.

Cole Blackwell, the city reservoir manager, said construction could be completed by the last week in February.

As soon as the pipeline is done and tested, the city can begin pumping water from the river, which could start

by late February or early March.

There are 600 million gallons of water in the reservoir, with an elevation of 976.5 feet above sea level. At full capacity, which likely will take until 2010 to reach, the reservoir can hold 5.78 billion gallons and rise to 1,060 feet above seal level.

"It is only from rain water and from the creek," City Manager Rob Logan said of the water in the reservoir. "It is not filling much."

Construction on the \$120 million reservoir, a joint project

See Reservoir, Page 5A

The Influence Game

Despite campaign rhetoric, donors and lobbyists are helping Obama transition

By Rita Beamish
Associated Press Writer

Faced with hiring a new administration, President-elect Barack Obama is learning how hard it is to keep his promise to avoid aides who have been entangled with the capital's lobbying scene.

An Associated Press review of more than 400 members of Obama's transi-



working on Obama's incoming administration.

During the campaign, Obama promised to keep lobbyists at arm's length, and he has taken steps aimed at

...le that the Interior
 department's handling of
 ...ian trust matters has been
 ...national disgrace." Obama
 ...ially assigned Harper to
 ...his lead adviser on the
 ...partment, but now Harper
 ...advising the campaign
 ...are narrowly on Indian
 ...ing. Harper was regis-
 ...red to lobby on sovereignty
 ...ues for a tribe as recently
 ...this year but did not
 ...pally lobby, transition
 ...es and a tribe official said.
 ■ An Obama transition
 ...viser for health and human
 ...rives, Bill Corr, lobbied to
 ...event children from smok-
 ...g as executive director of
 ...e Campaign for Tobacco-
 ...ce Kids. The group has
 ...ent \$675,000 this year try-
 ...g to influence policymak-
 ...s. Corr has told Obama he
 ...ill not offer advice on
 ...tobacco issues.

■ A transition advisory
 ...ard member, Mark Giten-
 ...stein, was registered until
 ...ugust to lobby on behalf of
 ...e U.S. Chamber of Com-
 ...erence, AT&T Inc. and finan-
 ...al firms such as Ernst &
 ...oung LLP and Merrill
 ...ynch & Co. Inc. Gitenstein
 ...working on transition man-

Reservoir

Continued from Page 1A

...y the city and the Cobb
 ...ounty-Marietta Water
 ...authority, started in 2005.
 ...o far, the dam, reservoir
 ...ad pump station, which is
 ...hind the Waffle House,
 ...ve been completed.

The 180-foot tall dam is
 ...e largest in the state that is
 ...ot owned by Georgia Power
 ...the U.S. Army Corps of
 ...ngineers. Once filled, the
 ...servoir will create 14 miles
 ...shoreline, providing a lake
 ...the center of the technolo-
 ...park, which now is being
 ...veloped.

Canton pays one-fourth of
 ...e tab, \$30 million, and
 ...obb pays the remainder.
 ...e city has paid about \$20
 ...illion toward its share of
 ...e reservoir cost so far, said
 ...cqueline Maloney, Can-
 ...n's chief financial officer.
 ...ie funding has been drawn
 ...om water and sewer system
 ...venues.

Another task related to the
 ...servoir still is to be complet-
 ...: the realignment of Fate
 ...onn Road. Blackwell said
 ...ere is no start time set at
 ...is time for the project,
 ...hich is needed as the road's
 ...urrent location will be
 ...nderwater once the reservoir
 ...uilt.

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