



Rams Fan Day will be this Saturday

-See Page B9



Women join fight against cancer

-See Page A3



Annual festival for seniors a big hit

-See Page B1



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DNT TXT & DRV!

Initiative launched to deter dangerous habit

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

N.C. State Troopers are working to stop teenagers from engaging in a dangerous activity while driving.

Text messaging has become increasingly popular among teens in particular, and many think nothing of sending texts while driving, or doing anything else, says Lt. Doug Hayes, who created the "Dnt Txt & Drive" program. The spelling of the program is similar to the abbreviated words many use when texting messages using their cell phones and other handheld devices.

"It's their culture, really; it's how they communicate," commented Hayes, who has a 14-year-old daughter. "...Traffic fatalities in teens are on the rise, and I really think this is the (chief) contributor."

The lack of experience teen drivers have, coupled with their distraction, due to text messages and the like is

a recipe for disaster, says Trooper Kevin Hennelly.

"A lot of the kids are taking it for granted that it's not going to happen to them," Hennelly stated. "We were all that age - you think you're invincible ... but we can show them the numbers; (fatalities on the road are) happening to them more than anyone else."

A group of State Troopers visited North Forsyth High School Friday, to expose an estimated 350 juniors and seniors to the dangers of texting while driving.

"My main objective is that they gain an understanding of how truly dangerous it is to text while driving," commented Principal David Burleson. "My hope is that by doing this, we'll save a life."

Teens, mostly upperclassmen, are asked to navigate a small obstacle course in golf carts. The first time, they are asked to concentrate on driving. The second time around,



Lt. Hayes



Photos by Layla Farmer

See Texting on A9 Sgt. Rich Alred takes a student through the course.

Council hopefuls tackle questions

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem Urban League Young Professionals' Town Hall and Candidate Forum Tuesday evening drew many of the men and women who want to lead Winston-Salem as members of the City Council.



Montgomery

Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke was the only incumbent on hand for the forum, although the East Ward's Derwin Montgomery is virtually already a Council Member since he won his primary and has no opposition in the November General Election. The others who joined Montgomery on the panel aren't so fortunate. All of them, including Burke, face opposition next month.

Other candidates who fielded questions on a variety of issues during the forum were Democrat Denise "D.D." Adams and her Republican opponent in the North Ward, John Hopkins; Claudia Shivers, Burke's Republican opponent in the Northeast Ward; James Taylor, the Democrat running for the Southeast Ward seat; and Peter Sorensen, the Republican taking on Wanda Merschel for her Northwest Ward seat.

Sorensen went after Merschel, the head of the Council's Finance Committee, and other Council Members for throwing money at Dell in order to lure the company to Winston-Salem. Last week, Dell announced that it would close its mammoth Winston-Salem production facility after just five years. More than 900 people will lose their jobs.

"Going after just a large enterprise wastes all of your time and puts all of your eggs



Photo by Todd Luck

David Weaver chats with students.

FOR SKIP

Players, university honor late coach with youth reading program

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Pint-sized fourth graders at Latham Elementary School got some big visitors as last week.

Members of the Wake Forest University basketball team visited the school on Wednesday, Oct. 7 to kick off a literacy program that the university has started to honor of former Wake Basketball Coach Skip Prosser, who passed away suddenly in 2007 of a heart attack.

It was important to Prosser that his players excel on the court and in the classroom, so a literacy pro-



Prosser

See Reading on A10

See From on A10

Hailing a Hero



Flowers cover the hood of Sgt. Mickey Hutchens' cruiser, which is parked outside of Police Department Headquarters. The 27-year veteran died Monday, a few days after being shot in the line of duty. A public memorial service for Sgt. Hutchens will be held on Friday at 2 p.m. at WFU's Wait Chapel. Today, his body will lie in the chapel from 2 to 5 p.m. The Police Benevolent Foundation has set up a donation fund for Hutchens' family. Donations can be made at any Wachovia branch or online at www.pbfi.org. Please join The Chronicle in praying for Sgt. Hutchens' family; Officer Danny Clark, who was also shot; and all of our public safety officers.



Photo by Todd Luck

Black Panther legacy lives on

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The struggles and accomplishments of the Winston-Salem Chapter of the Black Panther Party were recalled Sunday afternoon by the men and women who lived through them.

Several former Panthers came to the opening of an exhibit in their honor at Delta Arts Center. The exhibit features newspaper clippings, photos and documents of the local Black Panthers Party, which operated from 1969 through 1977 and was the



Photo by Todd Luck

Nelson Malloy and Larry Little

See Panthers on A12

DON'T PASS THE BUCK

BUY LOCAL

