

COMMUNITY

SECTION B

Also Sports, Religion and Classifieds

AUGUST 5, 2010



Community Calendar

Piedmont Circle reunion
The Piedmont Circle Turnout, a first-ever reunion event for the community, will be held on Saturday, Aug. 7 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sponsored by the Piedmont Circle Reunion Committee, the event will feature music, food, youth events and much more. The celebration kicks off at 10 a.m. with a parade. For more information, call 336-831-7580.

Forsyth AARP meeting
The regular monthly meeting of Forsyth AARP Chapter # 1797 will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 10 at noon at Senior Services, 2895 Shorefair Drive. The program will focus on "Brain Health" and memory enhancement. The speaker will be Anthony Moran, of the Department of Recreation Therapy, Adult Psychiatry at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. Membership is open to persons age 50 and older. For additional information, please contact Dr. Althea Taylor Jones by e-mail at dratj@embarqmail.com or by telephone at 336-996-3866.

Session for teens
Nest of Love, Inc. will hold another "Teens and Teen Moms Rap Session" on the topic of "How can my Health affect my Education?" on Saturday, Aug. 7 from noon - 2 p.m. at the William C. Sims Center, 1230 Alder St., in Happy Hill. The guest speaker will be Tiffany Gibson. The purpose of the sessions is to explore the factors contributing to teen pregnancy and high teenage drop-out rates. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 336-414-9906 or email, nestoflove09@yahoo.com.

Big Four tickets
The Paisley High School Alumni will host the 2010 Annual Big Four Reunion and dance celebration on Nov. 6 at the Education Building on the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds. It will feature entertainment by the funk rock bands Mother's Finest. All tickets can be purchased at American Legion Post #128, 4617 Old Rural Hall Road, on the following Saturdays: Aug. 7, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.; Sept. 11, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.; and Oct. 9, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

NCNW meeting
The National Council of Negro Women Winston-Salem Section will meet Aug. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Rupert Bell Recreation Center, 1501 Mount Zion Place.

Adult education classes
Adult Basic Education and GED classes for senior adults are held at Brown & Douglas Recreation Center, 725 Indiana Ave., every Monday from 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Forsyth Technical Community College teaches the class, which are free and designed for adults who need help with reading, writing, math and speaking skills. For more information, call 336-661-4987.



Blanche Thomas accepts a bouquet from one of her many great-grandchildren.

Photos by Layla Farmer

MAMA'S DAY

100-year-old
Blanche
Thomas
celebrated

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Nearly 200 friends and family members of Blanche Thomas gathered at Carter G. Woodson School of Challenge on Saturday to celebrate her 100th birthday. "Oh, I thank y'all!" Thomas exclaimed as her guests showered her with bouquets of roses. "This is so sweet," she added between delighted giggles.

Thomas, who turned 100 years-old on July 30, grew up on a farm in Midway. She came to Winston-Salem more than 50 years ago to work at R.J. Reynolds Tobacco, where she was employed for a decade. She has four living children, all of whom were present at the party.

"I don't feel like (I'm 100) - I don't know how to feel," Thomas told those who congratulated her on the landmark birthday.

Thomas, an avid Tiger Woods fan, loves to watch soap operas and spend time with her family members, who take turns looking after her, said her granddaughter Voncille Thomas, 48.

"She's a wonderful person. She is real generous and kind," Voncille Thomas said. "And she has a great memory."

Charlie Thomas, Blanche's oldest child, enlisted in the military at age 19, and spent much of his adult life in Detroit before moving home to Winston-Salem two years ago. At 80 years-old, Charlie Thomas, a Korean War veteran, says he feels fortunate to still have his mother around.

"God's been good to me," he said with a smile. "...to be with my mother on her 100th birthday, I would say that's a blessing."

Lilly Ousley, Blanche's second child, also moved



Blanche Thomas with her children Margie Thomas (left) and (back row, from left) Savannah Jones, Charles Thomas and Lilly Ousley.



A slideshow featuring images of Mama Thomas and her family was shown as part of the event.



Mistress of Ceremony Iris Moss, Thomas's granddaughter, speaks from the podium.

See Thomas on B7