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THE CHRONICLE

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99 REASONS TO HAVE A PARTY

Family celebrates matriarch's birthday a few months early

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Lillie Bell Moseley won't turn 99 until December, but on Saturday Moseley's family - some of whom traveled from as far away as New York - celebrated that momentous occasion five months early.

The fact that Moseley's actual birthday is not until the fall did not stop six generations of Moseley's kin from pulling out all the stops. There were presents, cake and a never-ending stream of hugs and kisses for the family's matriarch. Moseley has been her family's rock, but even Moseley's strong spirit and unbreakable determination have been unable to withstand the effects of time. Diagnosed with Alzheimer's more than 10 years ago, Moseley has been at the brink of death several times. Recently, she has begun to eat less and less, and although the family is keeping the faith, it wanted to make sure that Moseley celebrated a birthday this year, even if it is one in fantasy only.

"We were just afraid to wait until December," said Lillie Gwyn, Moseley's granddaughter and namesake. Gwyn was raised by Moseley, whom she affectionately calls Mama, and cared for Moseley up until a few years ago when Moseley's illness required special attention. Moseley lives at Oak Summit Nursing Center, where

See **Moseley** on A9



Lillie Bell Moseley is flanked by her granddaughter, Lillie Gwyn (center), and one of her care-givers from Oak Summit Nursing Center during Moseley's birthday party Saturday.

Center to use grant for crime fighting

The Center for Community Safety is operated by WSSU

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem State University Center for Community Safety will continue to make the city safer one neighborhood at a time with a \$500,000 grant from the Winston-Salem Foundation. The grant will be used to expand the center's



Oberle

community development work over the next five years.

"Strategies are important and should be focused in other places in the community, and this grant enables us to do that," said Sylvia Oberle, executive director of the Center for Community Safety. "This allows us to strengthen our operation here to keep going and to be even stronger."

Every year for the next five years, the center will work with two new neighborhoods to address their needs and concerns. Oberle says they have yet to select those communities but Forest Ridge Apartments, located on Freedom Street, is an example of the type of neighborhood the center will branch out into. Oberle says the center, with the help of Neighbors for Neighborhoods, has already begun communicating with residents about problems the community has been facing such as crime, violence, drug dealing and run-down apartments.

"This summer there's been a lot of fights and at one point the police had blocked the entrance

See **Grant** on A11



New recruit A.J. Douglas talks to department veteran Capt. Otis Belton.

City's new cops applauded for taking on job

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The man charged with homeland security efforts in the Tar Heel state told the city's newest crop of police officers Friday that choosing law enforcement as simply a career may not be good enough.

Bryan Beatty, secretary of the N.C. Department of Crime Prevention and Public Safety, said the best law enforcement officers - the ones that are able to endure through the tough shifts and great demands of the job - have been called to the profession, much like a pastor is called to preach the word of God.

"There is an important difference between a vocation and a career," Beatty told the 12 graduates who made up Basic Law Enforcement Training Class 51. They weren't just words from Beatty. He has walked the walk during a law enforcement career that has included stints as the head of the State Bureau of Investigation and deputy attorney general under then-Attorney General Mike Easley. Beatty, who worked as a lawyer at the beginning of his career, was appointed to his current position by Easley when Easley became governor in 2001.

Members of Class 51 - who have dubbed themselves the Dirty Dozen - all took different routes to the police force. Some worked in other professions before venturing into law enforcement; others pur-

See **Cops** on A4



Nita Mixaykham (from left), Maggy Sivansay, and Christina Chanthaleukay of the Sao Lao Dancers of North Carolina performed the flower dance, bird dance and other traditional folklore dances from their native Laos during the annual Lanterns of Hope celebration, which was held Saturday at Corpening Plaza. The event brings together people of various racial and cultural backgrounds for activities, entertainment and socializing. To read more about the event, see page C1.

Blind man sees cup as half-full

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Michael Nelson bucks many of the generally-held beliefs that most of us have about the blind.

He looks people directly in the eyes when he talks to them. He doesn't wear dark sunglasses; and he walks upright, without the assistance of a cane.

Even Nelson's guide dog - a playful yellow lab named Molly - doesn't clue most people to the fact that Nelson is blind. Most just think Nelson, a 44-year-old with a runner's physique - is just taking his dog out for a workout when they see the pair walking along downtown streets or in Hanes Park.

Nelson lives his life as a person with sight, despite the fact he has been completely blind for more than five years.

"I look into store windows when I am downtown. I look people in their face. I live my life like a person who can see," Nelson said. He does this because Nelson, a strong believer in God and God's ability to do all things, believes that he will see again.

"I don't wear sunglasses because I don't know when the moment is going to come when I will see again, and I don't want anything (obstructing) my sight."

Nelson's doctors, unfortunately, don't share his optimism. A



See **Nelson** on A5 Michael Nelson plays with his guide dog, Molly.



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