



**Kings Mountain Police Department's patrol division has launched Taking It To the Streets. The campaign fights drugs at the street dealer and user level.**

ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD

## COPS

From 1A

Interstate 85 is another pipeline. Twelve miles of interstate run north and south through Kings Mountain. Patrol officers are now watching transfer trucks there and on N.C. 74. During a recent Highway Drug Investigations class, officers received intelligence

reports on trucking companies known for trafficking. Additional training continues.

The types of drugs and who uses them knows no bounds, officials say. Methamphetamine, cocaine, crack, marijuana and xanax, oxycontin and other prescription drugs have been confiscated. Arrests span economic, gender and racial lines.

Murphrey and the city council are

backing the department's efforts with funding. Murphrey has heard from several families hurt by drugs.

Sometimes a child is addicted, other times it's the parents.

"It tears the family apart," he said. More busts are planned though Proctor won't give details.

"If they want to know, they can call me."

## MCDANIEL

From 1A

could be enjoyable. It's the chance to serve others that appeals to him.

"At a time like this, they (families) need some help," he said.

McDaniel and three other licensed funeral directors share the responsibility of being on call. That means middle of the night work sometimes.

McDaniel began his career in 1949, two years after Ollie Harris started the funeral home. He remained as a part time employee from 1960 to 1996 while working for the postal service. In 1996, McDaniel began a full time schedule once again.

McDaniel has watched the funeral industry change over the past half century. When he started, hearses doubled as ambulances. With standard first aid training, the undertaker doubled as an emergency medical provider. The floor of the hearse, equipped with rollers for the casket, flipped over providing a smooth surface to place the stretcher. A red light on the dash signaled other drivers to clear the road.

In the 1950s and 1960s, most families received friends at home. Today, the funeral home averages only one family per year holding a home receiving. According to McDaniel, using the funeral home is more convenient for most families.

"It's easier on them," he said.

The price of a funeral has changed over the decades. When McDaniel began, the average funeral cost was between \$500 and \$800. Today, funerals run from \$6,000 to \$7,000. He credits this to inflation and the Federal Trade Commission requiring itemization.

Cremation was rare decades ago. Today, 10 percent of families served by Harris opt for it. The practice has historically been more popular in northern states. As more people move south, requests for cremation have increased. The practice is also gaining in popularity among natives.

"A lot of people are going to that," he said.

Despite all the changes, McDaniel says families still grieve as much as ever.

McDaniel says he and his co-workers deal with the sadness they see daily

by not taking the job home with them. "You've got a job to do. You brace yourself up and do it," McDaniel said.

He admits this is not easy when a child or mother of young children dies.

McDaniel says he was nervous when he first began his career. Literally recruited out of the cotton field, he was only 18 or 19.

While visiting McDaniel's father's farm, Ollie Harris turned to the young man and asked him his plans for the following day.

"He told me to 'put your suit on and help me,'" McDaniel said.

McDaniel's first duties included getting flower arrangements in and out of churches. In 1955, he was licensed as a funeral director. In 1956, he graduated from the Dallas Institute Gupton Jones College of Mortuary Science. Since then he has done all aspects of funeral care except for hair styling.

McDaniel plays golf every Tuesday. He is a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church. He and his wife June have two children, Susie Teres and David McDaniel. They have two grandchildren, Brandy McDaniel and Josh Newton.

## BRASWELL

From 1A

Johnson. "The mother (of Justin) is satisfied. We're pleased."

Braswell, who was developmentally delayed, was 19 at the time of his death. He was robbed and then shot while walking home from a city sponsored street dance in 2001.

Another defendant,

Adrian Slade, still awaits sentencing.

Johnson is relieved the case is almost finished.

"Hopefully a little bit of closure can come forth, for the family and for us," Johnson said.

The detective said the case should serve as a reminder that anyone can be a victim.

"You have to keep your eyes open," he said.

## KINGS MOUNTAIN WEATHER

By Kenneth Kitzmiller

	Sept. 10-16	Year Ago
Total precipitation	.06	2.63
Maximum 1 day	.06 (15h)	1.45 (14th)
Month to date	.16	2.63
Year to date	73.67	26.84
Low temperature	57 (12th)	63 (10th)
High temperature	85 (14th)	91 (11th)
Average temperature	69.9	74.9

## AREA HIGH SCHOOLS ABC RESULTS

Highland Tech	88.5% students proficient
Kings Mountain	80.7% students proficient
Crest	78.1% students proficient
Forestview	77.3% students proficient
Cherryville	74.3% students proficient
South Point	70.5% students proficient
East Gaston	70.5% students proficient
Ashbrook	69.4% students proficient
Burns	69.4% students proficient
North Gaston	64.9% students proficient
Shelby	64.1% students proficient
Hunter Huss	58.8% students proficient

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## SCHOOLS

From 1A

ry.

"We're really proud. All of our schools for the first time are high growth," said John Goforth, director of curriculum and instruction.

Goforth realizes that there is controversy over testing. Some say students are tested too frequently.

"There is a good deal of testing at the high school level but at the elementary there are two days of End of Grades testing," he said.

There is speculation that once most schools meet the criteria set by the state, the requirements will be raised.

"Eventually they will raise the bar. We will respond to what they do," Goforth said.

## KM SCHOOLS ABC RESULTS

### Schools of Excellence

KM Intermediate	92.4% students proficient
Bethware Elementary	93% students proficient
North Elementary	93.6% students proficient
East	93.9% students proficient
West	96.2% students proficient
KM Middle	91.8% students proficient

### Schools of Distinction

KM High School	80.7% students proficient
Grover Elementary	89.9% students proficient

## Gospel sing at senior center

Carol George and John Heath Jr. will be in concert Friday at 10:30 a.m. at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life and Conference Center.

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# The Herald

Published every Thursday  
Periodicals postage at Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
USPS 118-880 by Republic Newspapers, Inc.  
Postmaster, send address changes to:  
P. O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
Phone (704) 739-7496 • Fax (704) 739-0611  
Office: 824-1 East King Street • Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
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