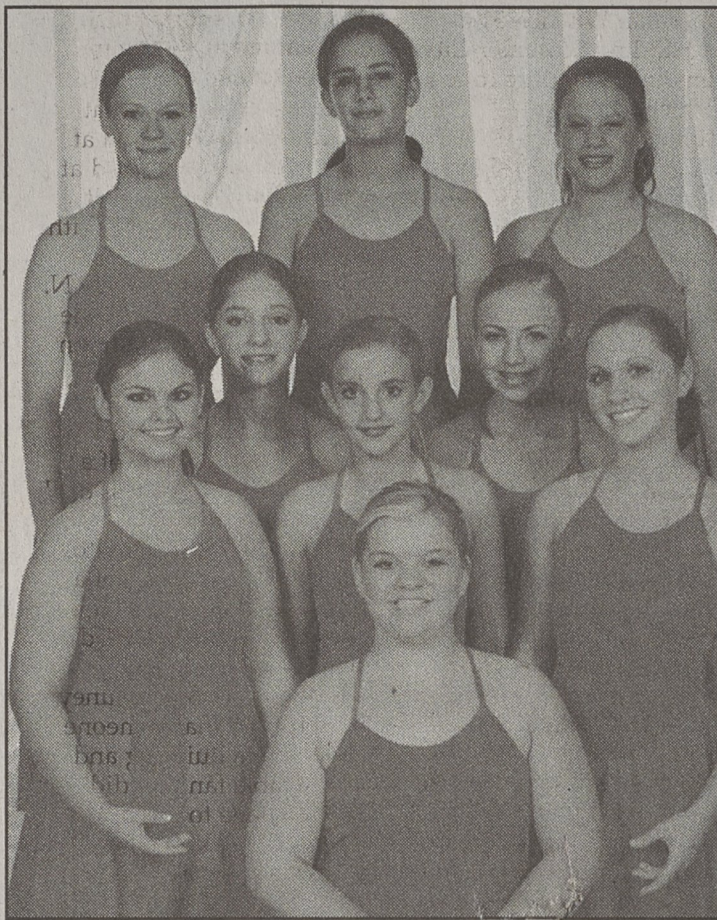


LOCAL



Petite Images Dance Troupe members Ashlea Hodge, left, front, Madisyn Bolin, Katelyn Smith, Katelin Cunningham, left, second row, Savannah Croft, Johana Sellers, left, third row, Chelsea George, Morgan Bowen and Rachel Mower took high honors in competition in Hickory and Spartanburg. Honors included platinum gold, awesome gold and second and third place overall. Susan Morris is the owner/instructor and other instructors are Jennifer Hansen and Diana Welch.



Team Images Dance Troupe members Kaitlin Goodson, front row, Megan Bradshaw, front, left, Rebekah Will, Lauren Hudachko, Emily Hurst, left, third row, Lauren Wright, Dana Miller, left, back row, Martena Smith and Jessica Smith received numerous honors at 204 Dance Machine national competition in Wilkesboro. They won the platinum gold, awesome gold, first and second place overall, high score of the day and the top choreography award. The team is part of Dance Reflections.

COUNCIL

From 1A

Some of the company's Enka employees have indicated they will relocate to Kings Mountain, Sampson said. At this time it appears Enka workers will not lose jobs, according to Sampson.

According to Cleveland County finance director David Dear, company officials told him wages would meet or exceed \$12.75 an hour. Gilbert called it "not your typical \$9 an hour."

Sampson described those wages as "middle of the road to above average." Health insurance is available to all full time employees. Sampson said Southeastern pays the "lion's share" of employee premiums and a "portion" of dependent coverage. The company also has a 401 K plan.

Resident Jane Martin requested a written promise that the city would not raise taxes during the next five years, the same life span as the incentive package.

Martin told council that citizens were left in the dark about the decision making process.

"We want direct answers," she said.

Gilbert told council the industry was badly needed. "You live here. You know what it's like," he said.

From 2001 to 2003, 43 plants have closed across Cleveland County, according to Gilbert.

Gilbert asked for an agreement similar to what Cleveland County gave the company.

"All I'm asking for is a little flexibility," he said.

In a telephone interview Tuesday, Gilbert said this meant if the investment is over or under the expected \$26 million, the incentive could be adjusted based on that percent.

According to Darnell, plastics are regarded as a safe and fast growing industry. Southeastern was started in 1982 and now has seven additional locations in Orlando, Fla., Winchester, Va., Hudson, NH, Effingham, Ill., Bowling Green, Ohio, Cleveland, Tenn. and Wappingers Falls, N.Y.

"We've had a tremendous amount of growth in the past 22 years," Sampson said.

Johnson Brothers Development of Greenville

owns the Kings Mountain Commerce Park at N.C. 161 and I-85 where the plant will be located. Southeastern will rent the space from Johnson.

Johnson currently pays tax on \$5 million in property. Once equipment is moved into the building, \$25 million can be taxed, according to Killian. That means Southeastern will pay around \$88,000 in city taxes annually during the first five years. Because the incentive grant breaks down to \$78,000 yearly, the city will net approximately \$10,000 in property tax each year.

According to Mayor Rick Murphrey, the incentive package is needed for Kings Mountain to be competitive.

Equipment and people probably will be in the plant by the end of 2004 or early 2005, Sampson said.

He was not aware if the company had a public website.

"We're not a very public company. We tend to be low key and private," he said.

Sampson also said the company does not need to advertise.

"We're very stable," he said.

Andie Brymer can be reached at abrymer@kingsmountain-herald.com or 704-739-7496.

KM WEATHER REPORT

By Kenneth Kitzmiller

	Sept. 8-15	Year Ago
Total precipitation	1.13	Tr.
Maximum one day	1.10 (8th)	Tr. (8th)
Month to date	7.36	.10
Year to date	39.68	73.61
Low temperature	61 (11th)	57 (12th)
High temperature	81 (11th)	85 (14th)
Avg. temperature	71.4	69.5

OBITUARIES

SIMON STROUPE

KINGS MOUNTAIN - "Simon" Brian Keith Stroupe, 48, 136 Judy Court, died September 11, 2004 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late Marshall-Claude and Myrtle Wilson Stroupe. He was also predeceased by his brother, Roger Stroupe.

He is survived by his daughters and son-in-law, Crystal and Wayne Winfield of Shelby and Jessica Stroupe of Kings Mountain; brothers and sisters-in-law, Joe and Carol Stroupe of Kings Mountain and Buddy and Helen Stroupe of Gastonia; sisters and brothers-in-law, Patsy and Larry Pruitt of Kings Mountain, Marsha Claudette and Denny Martin of Kings Mountain, and Peggy and Randy Picklesimer of Gastonia; and grandchildren, Kiersten and Jagger Winfield.

A graveside service was conducted by the Revs. Larry Laws and Roy Clark at 3 p.m. Tuesday at Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Greene Funeral Service - West Chapel, Gastonia, was in charge of arrangements.

HAROLD REINHARDT

JAMESTOWN - Harold Griffin Reinhardt, 71, died September 8, 2004 at Moses Cone Memorial Hospital.

A native of Caroleen, he was the son of the late Pierce and Elsie Reinhardt.

He graduated from Kings Mountain High School in 1952 and later graduated from Benjamin Franklin University with a B.S. in Accounting.

He served in the United States Air Force and was retired from Bernard Robinson & Co. He was preceded in death by his sister Peggy, and two brothers, J.W. and Robert.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Jean Beaver Reinhardt of the home; daughters, Carol Andrews and her husband Rob of Jamestown and Linda Overton and husband Robert of High Point; brothers, Joe Reinhardt and wife Josephine of Florida and Coman Reinhardt and wife Kay of California; and four grandchildren, Derek and Ryan Andrews of Jamestown, and Lauren and Sarah Overton of High Point.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Saturday at Hanes-Lineberry Sedgefield Chapel. Burial was in Guilford Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association, 202 Centreport Dr., Suite #100, Greensboro, NC 27409.

Hanes-Lineberry Funeral Home Sedgefield Chapel, Greensboro, was in charge of arrangements.

MAE BELLE WRIGHT

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Mae Belle "Jo" Wright, 82, 307 West Gold Street, died September 8, 2004 at her home.

A native of Haralson County, GA, she was the daughter of the late Jim Archie and Lela Mae Summerville Wright. She was also preceded in death by brothers James Taylor Wright and Charlie William Wright, and sister Eunice Wright Greeson McGhee.

She was a retired sales lady and a homemaker.

She is survived by her daughter, Joyce Watson Dobbins and husband Ronald of Kings Mountain; brother J.A. Wright of Dalton, GA; grandchildren and their spouses, Julie Black Whitener and Dale, Penny Dobbins Ware and Larry, Jo Ann Carmichel of Kings Mountain, and Frankie Dobbins and Kelli; 11 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, September 11, 2004 at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

BETTY MURRAY

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Betty Hamrick Murray, 73, 314 Edel Street, died September 7, 2004 t her home.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Garland and Earlie Clary Hamrick. She was also preceded in death by brothers Howard Hamrick, James Hamrick and Lawrence Hamrick; and sisters Kathleen Lancaster and Wittie Hamrick.

She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her husband, George Junior Murray of Kings Mountain; sons Doug Murray and wife Melody, Russell Murray and wife Terri, and Gene Murray and wife Janie; daughters Kathy Jenkins and husband Tony, Darlene James and husband Davey, and Annette Forbes and husband-Darrell; brothers Herman Hamrick, Marvin Hamrick and Jesse Hamrick; sisters Winnie Hudson, Mary Etta Short and Della Faye Benoy; 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Bob Hope, James Williams and Claude Babb at 2 p.m. Friday at Midview Baptist Church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Junior Murray, 314 Edel Street, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Entries being accepted for Miss KM pageant

A Miss Kings Mountain Pageant is part of the Gateway Festival. The pageant takes place Saturday, Oct. 9 and is open to ages newborn to 19. Entry forms are available at First National Bank, Ashley's Antiques, Frady's Florist, This & That Novelty Shoppe and Kings Mountain City Hall.

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