

# The Herald

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## Traffic stop results in drug bust

### Anthony Hillman faces cocaine, marijuana charge

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
 Staff Writer

A routine traffic stop by Kings Mountain Police Officer T.S. Harrelson turned into a felony drug arrest Saturday afternoon.

Harrelson stopped Anthony Obian "Bubba" Hillman, 23, of 408 West Graham Street, Shelby on N.C. 74 at the Oak Grove Road exit.

Hillman was charged with felony possession, buy and sale of 4,480 grams of marijuana and 16.39 grams of crack cocaine. The street value of the drugs has not yet been determined.

Hillman also was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, a seat belt violation and unsafe movement. Police confiscated approximately \$4,500 in cash.

Hillman was jailed under \$50,000 secured bond at the Cleveland County Law Enforcement Center. The case is still under investigation and other charges may be pending depending on the outcome, according to Sgt. Lisa Proctor.



Kings Mountain Police Sgt. Lisa Proctor counts cash confiscated in a felony drug arrest Saturday. To her right is Officer T.S. Harrelson who made the traffic stop which led to the seizure.

## Hedden last to leave sinking ship in D Day invasion of Normandy

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
 Staff Writer

Joe Hedden, who literally survived a sinking ship during the allied invasion of Normandy, is among soldiers interviewed by History Channel producers for a documentary.

At press time the documentary was scheduled to air Tuesday. Hedden has worked with producers for over a year.

Stationed aboard the USS Meredith, Hedden was deciphering codes at 1 a.m. when a German glide bomb hit the middle of the ship. The blast knocked out the fire, boiler and engine rooms.

"You could have driven a tractor trailer through the hole," Hedden said.

The evening of the blast Hedden's friend James Wagner was in the code room helping him decipher messages for the British. An engineer, Wagner enjoyed figuring out the codes.

Just before 1 a.m. Wagner left the room, headed for his bunk. He never made it. The blast hit the area of the ship Wagner was walking through.

A few hours later the captain ordered the men to abandon ship. The USS Meredith was towed closer to the coast of France so it would not be a hazard to other boats. After sunrise Hedden and several other men reboarded. As a communications officer his job was to destroy all classified documents, keeping vital information out of German hands.

Hedden filled more than 12 lead-bottomed bags with sensi-

tive information and tossed it all overboard. He added more metal to insure it sunk. Hedden had to smash with a fire axe small equipment including radar and radios.

Hedden still has a small, black and white photo of himself and other sailors in Scotland. He is wearing his cap, the only part of his uniform he could salvage off of the ship.

Years later he would wear it when he directed Kings Mountain High School's marching band. His wife Francis was able to make Hedden a band uniform from another Navy uniform.

Hedden credits his Navy buddy Newt Marler for his marriage to Francis. Hedden says Marler diagnosed him as "love sick" and covered for him while he left Baltimore for Boston to marry Francis.

"Even with permission you weren't suppose to go more than 50 miles away."

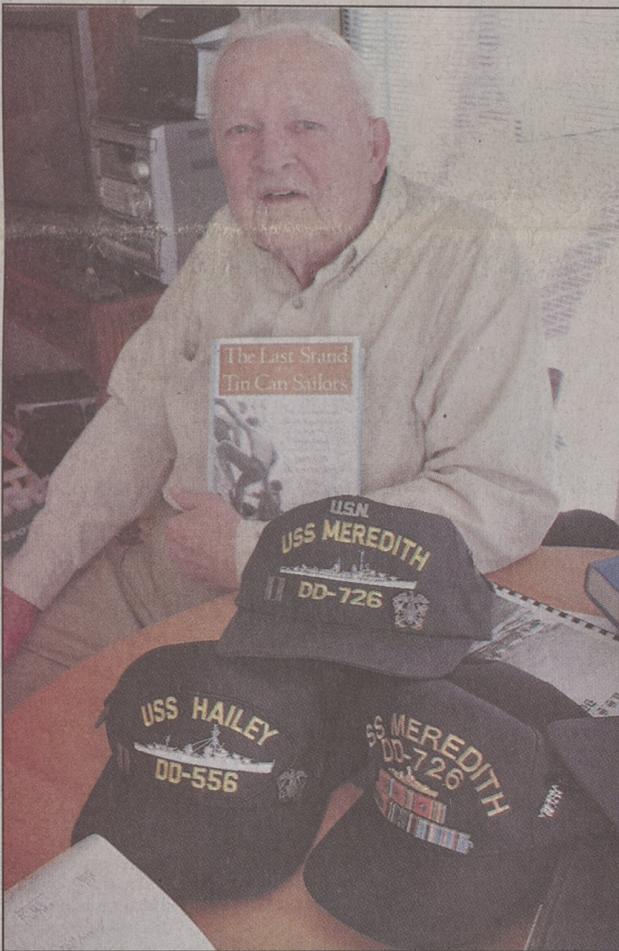
The two had met earlier when Hedden was a student at Western Carolina University. As a member of the Kings Mountain High School marching band, Francis visited the campus for a music competition.

"She had the prettiest red hair you've ever seen."

Hedden was impressed with both the young musician and band director Paul Hendricks. Years later he would have a chance to do Hendricks' job at KMHS.

"I wanted to be Paul Hendricks."

Hedden took all the music See Hedden, 3A



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD  
 Joe Hedden helped with a History Channel documentary on the sinking of his ship, the USS Meredith, during the invasion of Normandy.

## Gaston residents of the City of Kings Mountain concerned with delay of 911 ambulance service

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
 Staff Writer

Could a county line make a difference in receiving life saving care? Naomi Curry fears it might have Saturday.

Curry's husband, Charles Curry, was at a Mother's Day gathering at his parents' 121 Lewis Curry Road residence when Robert Gene Jeffries became ill. An ambulance was delayed in answering calls for assistance. Jeffries died the next day.

"This is not acceptable to us," Naomi Curry said.

Jeffries died from lack of oxygen to the brain, according to Curry. She said a guest who is a Kings Mountain Police Officer performed CPR and called for an on-duty officer to bring a defibrillator. That response time was

five or less minutes.

The Gaston EMS paramedic unit which responded from Bessemer City got lost in route, according to GEMS Director Mark Lamphiear. GEMS' ambulances use a computerized mapping system which shows where the unit is at and where the call comes from. A route is mapped but the computer does not include the portion of Cleveland County which must be entered to reach a small section of Gaston County.

"We are working on that," Lamphiear said.

The Currys live in the Gaston County portion of Kings Mountain. Their neighborhood was annexed two or three years ago, Naomi Curry said. Police and fire services are sent from the city and response times are good, according to Naomi Curry.

However EMS response areas are determined by county lines, not city limits.

A GEMS unit was dispatched at 5:38 p.m. and arrived at 6:09

p.m., according to Lamphiear. Curry disputes the arrival time saying that Kings Mountain Police Department told her they got a call at 6:18 p.m. asking where the ambulance was.

A Dallas Rescue Squad unit which was in the Bessemer City area heard the call and asked if it could assist. That unit went in route at 5:41 p.m. and arrived at 6 p.m. When GEMS arrived, Dallas EMTs had already placed Jeffries in their ambulance. A

See 911, 5A

### "This is not acceptable to us."

Naomi Curry

Gaston County resident of City of Kings Mountain

## KM Hall of Fame banquet Saturday

By GARY STEWART  
 Editor of The Herald

The 18th annual Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame dinner and induction ceremony will be held Saturday, May 14 at Kings Mountain High School.

The meal begins at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria. The induction ceremony begins at 7 p.m. in B.N. Barnes Auditorium.

Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased from any member of the Hall of Fame committee, or at the door.

Three individuals and one team will be inducted, bringing the total number of inductees in 18 years to 60 individuals and eight teams.

Inductees include former KMHS athletes Paul Brannon and Rusty Bumgardner, retired KMHS football coach Dennis Hicks, and the state championship 1989 Mountaineer baseball team.

In addition, two men who spent many years supporting Kings Mountain youth sports will be awarded this year's Distinguished Service Awards. They are the late fire chief Eugene Tignor, who was a longtime softball player and coach and athletic officer for American Legion Post 155, and Donnie Mace, who has been the volunteer sideline manager for Kings Mountain High football teams for a number of years.

Six deserving Kings Mountain High seniors will receive \$500 scholarships.

Brannon, who is now an assistant principal at a middle school in Guilford County, was a football and baseball player at KMHS from 1987-90. He led the 1989 baseball team to the state championship. He was a two-time All-State selection, hit a state record 20 home runs in 1989 and 41 for his three-year career, and was the 79th draft pick in the 1990 major league draft.

He will be inducted by his high school coach, Bruce Clark, who will also induct the 1989 baseball team which set a state record for home runs with 51. Brannon's and the team's home run marks still stand.

Bumgardner was a baseball and football standout at KMHS in the mid-80s and went on to start for four years as a lineman at Wake Forest University. He also played baseball for the Demon Deacons his senior year. He is now a professional softball player and holds the record for the longest ball ever hit out of the Minnesota Metrodome - 515 feet.

He will be inducted by his brother-in-law, Mike Mahaffey, who is head baseball coach at Bessemer City High School. Bumgardner is an assistant coach at BCHS.

Hicks served as KMHS football coach from 1983-1994, the longest tenure of See Hall, 5A

## Mayfest Saturday in Grover

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
 Staff Writer

Grover Mayfest starts Saturday at 10 a.m. The day-long festival happens at the town park.

There will be antique farm equipment, canine and DARE units from the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office and crafts. Church groups and a Grover "Cleveland County Idol" contestant will sing. Volunteer baseball and softball games are slated.

Vendors will sale hot dogs, cakes, hamburgers and in the morning sausage biscuits. The Grover Women's Club, the sponsoring organization, will sell sno-cones.

See Grover, 2A