

# The Herald

Thursday, January 26, 2006

Vol. 118 No. 4

Since 1889

50 Cents

\*\*\*\*\*CAR-RT LOT\*\*C 008  
307 08-06-08 0002A00 8P 85  
MAUNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
100 S PIEDMONT AVE  
KINGS MOUNTAIN NC 28086-3414

wonders for LEC  
participants

10A



## 30 seconds of pleasure for a lifetime of pain

David Stone turns drunk driving experience into opportunity to tell others of the dangers

DYLAN LLOYD

abrymer@kingsmountainherald.com

David Stone was pushing speeds in excess of 135 miles per hour when he lost control of his vehicle. The 35th Anniversary Ford Mustang flipped seven times, flinging both passengers along with David from its twisted wreckage. David was not supposed to survive.

David had gotten used to living life in the fast lane, not only while driving but in his social life as well. The evening of March 28, 2003 would be no different.

He had started the night off taking shots at Joe's Pub in Gastonia, and would later smoke marijuana and mix Xanax with his drinking. He remembers feeling bulletproof

that night, tempting fate as his speedometer skirted the 150 mph mark.

He then ran off the road and his Mustang began to tumble violently down an embankment, ejecting his two friends. One was found 45 feet from the wreckage; the other 75 feet. David's mangled body was found beside what used to be a mint condition sports car.

"The doctors were telling my mom and dad to start picking out burial clothes for the funeral," said David. "Before the crash, I thought I was invincible."

Today, David walks with a cane and talks a little slower than he used to. Over are his days of drinking, driving and drag racing. Having learned a hard lesson, he seeks now only to educate those who can still learn the

See Stone, 10A



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD  
David Stone shared the story of his near-fatal wreck Monday at the Life Enrichment Center in Kings Mountain.

## Cop's work never done

Off-duty chief witnesses larceny, follows suspects until marked car arrives

ANDIE BRYMER

abrymer@kingsmountainherald.com

Alleged thieves picked the wrong store Monday night.

Kings Mountain Police Chief Melvin Proctor was waiting in his personal vehicle while family members shopped at CVS on Shelby Road. Proctor was talking on his cell phone when he saw a man struggle with a store clerk in front of the store. Jason Scott Haney, 27, 1216 West Muncy Ave., Gastonia was carrying a shopping basket filled with merchandise, according to Proctor.

Haney got free from the clerk and entered an awaiting 1995 Chevrolet Camaro driven by Kennard Lee Grigg Jr., 30, 1210 W. Walnut Avenue, Gastonia. Proctor followed the vehicle toward downtown. The driver turned right on Sims Street apparently to see if Proctor was following. He then sped up, going airborne while crossing Mountain Street. The vehicle then turned right on Gold Street, then right on Juniper Street and right back onto Mountain Street.

Officers cannot make traffic stops in personal vehicles but Proctor attempted to keep the fleeing vehicle in sight as he radioed its movements to Kings Mountain Police dispatch.

The vehicle apparently then hid. Soon after that it was stopped at the entrance to Mountain Rest Cemetery by a marked car.

Haney and Grigg were arrested and charged with one count each misdemeanor larceny and possession of stolen goods.

## Shelby prison escapees picked up at restaurant in Kings Mountain

Two Cleveland Correctional Center inmates escaped Sunday night from the Shelby facility and were picked up hours later at Waffle House on York Road by Kings Mountain Police.

Gregory W. Cribb, 34, and Jeffrey D. Bailey, 36, were both charged with prison escape which carries between 120 days and two years imprisonment.

Bailey's record includes several driving while impaired convictions and breaking, entering and larceny and assault by pointing a gun and assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill convictions. In 1988 he was convicted of prison escape, according to the North Carolina Department of Correction website. Most of Bailey's convictions occurred in Buncombe and nearby counties.

Cribb is in prison for robbery with a dangerous weapon. He was convicted in Gaston County, according to the DOC website.

Kings Mountain Police Officer Joey Buff See Escapees, 10A

## RELAY FOR LIFE



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD

Taylor Davis has raised over \$1,300 for Relay for Life making her a Grand Relay Club member.

## Taylor Davis, 7, has already raised \$1,300 for cancer research

ANDIE BRYMER

abrymer@kingsmountainherald.com

In less than two months Taylor Davis has already raised \$1,300 for Relay for Life, the American Cancer Society's signature fund raiser.

Raising the \$1,000 makes Taylor, 7, a member of the Grand Relay Club. While all Relay participants get a tee-shirt, Taylor and other Grand Relay members receive a polo shirt.

Taylor, a second grader at East Elementary School, has gotten three corporate sponsors so far - C&C Scrap Metal, Neisler Brothers and Gateway Realty. Her pitch is simple.

"I tell them about my team, it's all kids," Taylor said. Her mother Melissa Davis calls that "the kicker." Davis is a long-time Relay volunteer. Taylor's father is Jason Davis.

Taylor and friends formed their own team last year after she participated on the Kids Fighting Cancer team during Bessemer City's Relay for Life.

Raising funds for cancer research, treatment and prevention are important to Taylor. Her godmother Cathy Powell, grandparents Norman and Mary Ellen Davis and neighbor Frank Ware are all cancer survivors. Taylor also knows several survivors through her church, First Baptist.

Taylor is already looking forward to Relay, an overnight event taking place April 28 and 29. Last year she stayed awake long enough to watch a teammate win the womanless beauty pageant. Taylor slept a few hours on a chair inside her team's tent, then she was up for more laps around the walking track.

To get involved in Relay, call Tammy Hogue at 692-1086 or Tammy White, 739-3601.

# Sun Drop for soldiers

Students hope to help Guard members' craving for junk food

ANDIE BRYMER

abrymer@kingsmountainherald.com

Kings Mountain High School junior Kristen Long is leading Operation Iraqi Sun-Drop Freedom.

The KMHS junior was inspired by her honors history teacher Chris McKay's stories of Army stints around the world. McKay told his students he missed American junk food. That led to the service project idea. Long suggested sending members of Kings Mountain's 505th National Guard Unit serving in Iraq Sun-Drop and Cheerwine.

NCNG First Sgt. Greg Thompson liked the idea. He estimates that nine out of 10 members of the 505th are fans of the two soft drinks which are only available in this area.

The Sun-Drop company is donating 25 cases. Now the students must raise money to ship the sodas. Long, a Beta Club member, got that organization involved in raising the funds. Members are selling during lunch paper hearts to tie around the soda bottles. Students may personalize the hearts with their own mes-



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD  
Kings Mountain High School junior Kristen Long and North Carolina National Guard First Sgt. Greg Thompson hold two of the Sun-Drops which will be shipped to members of the 505th serving in Iraq.

sages.

Anyone who would like to help out with shipping may contact Leigh Ann Long at KMHS, 704-734-5647. The project wraps up February 10.

# Commissioners expect budget increase of more than \$1 million

ANDIE BRYMER

abrymer@kingsmountainherald.com

Rising health care and energy costs will mean an increase in Cleveland County's budget this year.

County manager David Dear briefed commissioners Monday night on what could be over \$1 million in new operating cost.

The county's portion of Medicaid spending has the potential to increase 10 percent or \$760,000. The state will give the county more concrete information in February.

Health insurance costs will go up approximately \$244,000 or eight percent, Dear said. The county's insurance provider will have a quote ready in April.

Utility and motor fuel is expected to cost \$100,000 more this year.

"We're like everyone else, we're at the mercy of the oil company," Dear said.

Revenues are down due to plant closings including Kimmet, RT,

Tagget and Copeland.

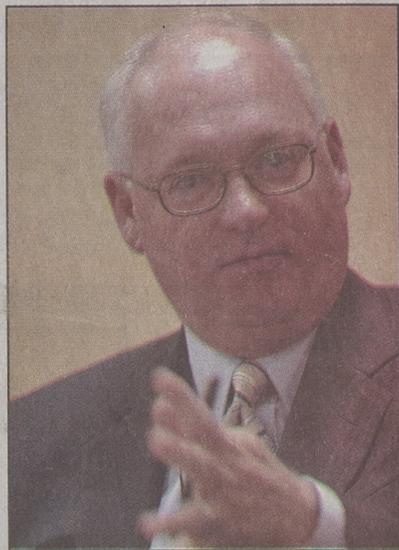
"Between those two things we're looking at a difficult budget year," Dear said.

Monday's meeting was a work session and no action was taken on the information.

Commissioners also heard a presentation from Emergency Management Director Dewey Cook about the need for incentives for volunteer fire and rescue personnel.

In other business, Shirley Brutko, vice-president of the Gateway Trails Inc. project, asked the county for \$1,000. The group is trying to raise \$12,500 to go toward a feasibility study of a proposed foot and bike trail from the City of Kings Mountain to a trail connecting Kings Mountain National Military, Kings Mountain State and Crowders Mountain parks. Most of the \$12,500 will come from private donations, according to Brutko. As of Monday night they had raised \$1,500. The feasibility study costs a total of \$12,500.

See Budget, 10A



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD  
Ronnie Hawkins makes a point at County Commissioners' work session.