

Our gift to you

Today you hold in your hands the first edition of what we expect will become an annual event for your home town newspapers.

We believe "A Place Called Home" to be the most special edition ever produced by our staff. It is special for many reasons, the most important being that it was published for you, our loyal readers.



Bill Parsons
Publisher

As you may know, The Kings Mountain Herald and the Cherryville Eagle have played an important part in their respective communities for over 100 years. The BannerNews has served Mt. Holly and Belmont for over 70 years. We appreciate the tens of thousands of people that have read our papers over the years and we appreciate you. We hope you will accept this collector's edition as a gift to you with our sincere thanks for making us part of your home each week.

The theme, "A Place Called Home" was a natural, because each edition of our papers is about you, your families, your communities and your towns. This section is about those communities, the past and the present.

Since I started working in the newspaper business some 30 years ago, my family and I have lived in several communities throughout this wonderful country from coast to coast. Each town has been different, but they all had one thing in common: the people who lived in those communities and towns called them home. They were people much like

you. People that live the American dream each day, trying to make life better for their family and themselves. People just like you and your family, friends and neighbors. It is those stories that we hope to tell of in "A Place Called Home."

Stories about people that you work with, go to church or school with. People that you see at the store, at ball games or at community events. They could be people that you grew up with. Maybe the stories are about people that you have never even met or heard of. It does not matter if they have lived here all their lives or just came to visit and decided to stay, they are people that have called or now call Cleveland and Gaston counties home.

Our goal with this section is to bring back fond memories of a time and place that used to be. We want to make you smile or maybe even shed a tear. For those that have lived in this area all your lives, we want to take you back in time. For those that are new to the area, we want this section to be a history lesson on how these communities came to be. We think you will enjoy finding out about this place that you now call home.

As newcomers to this area, my family and I are still learning new things about our new home each day. What we have seen in our few short months here are communities and people that take pride in themselves. People that believe in helping one another. We have seen businesses, organizations and individuals come together in efforts to raise money to help their neighbors or total strangers in time of sickness, accidents or natural disasters. We have seen people willing to offer a hand up to those that have fallen.

We have seen people give of their time to help organize events such as parades, 4th of July celebrations, county fairs, school events and much, much more. All of these things make a community more than just a place that you live, it is what makes a town or a community, a place that you call home.

We hope that you enjoy this very special edition. We hope that you will read all 46 pages. Not just look at, but really read the stories. We hope you will look at every photo and take time to remember. Most of all we hope you will pause for a moment and give thanks that you have the opportunity to live in one of the most beautiful and friendly places in our great country.

An edition such as "A Place Called Home" does not just happen. It has been a huge undertaking for our staff to bring "A Place Called Home" to you while at the same time producing your hometown newspapers each week. Many long hours have gone into this section over the past several months. Even though I call it "a labor of love," I am sure the staff has called it a labor of something else. Without the efforts of a very talented group of individuals, you would not be holding this very special edition. I would like to take a moment to thank each of the team members that made all of this possible.

First to our front office staff, who have answered countless phone calls and kept things running smoothly while their coworkers put this edition together. Thanks to Kathy Reynolds and Janey Ollis.

The credit for all the stories and pictures goes to our editorial staff. The effort was coordinated by BannerNews editor Diane Turbyfill. Diane had excellent support from the editor of the Herald, Gary Stewart, and the editor of the Eagle, Andie Brymer. In addition to Gary and Andie, the editorial staff of all three papers did an outstanding job. Thanks to Emily Weaver of Kings Mountain, Lib Stewart of Cherryville and Jim Heffner and Richie Hallman from Belmont/Mt.Holly. We also had several freelancers that contributed to the success of this section. A truly super effort by super people.

The wonderful ads that you see in the edition were created by our very talented production staff of Senior Graphic Artist, Jeannine McDonald and Graphic Artist, Dan Shoemaker.

The ads were sold by Nancy Miller and Cecil Smith. A truly remarkable effort, especially considering that the two of them did the work of three people. The section would not have been possible without your efforts.

Last but certainly not least, you would not be holding this section in your hands today without the effort of our circulation and mail room staff. Led by Betty Johnson, Mary Wood and Helen Wells worked long hours to put this package together for you. Thank you ladies. Also a very special thank you goes out to Claude Dixon, an important member of our staff for over 60 years.

Finally a big thank you to all of the readers that have shared their stories, their pictures and their memories with us. This section would have been impossible to do without you. Thank you for sharing the place that you call home with us.

As we enter into this most remarkable season of giving, we hope that you will enjoy our gift to you of "A Place Called Home" as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to you. On behalf of the staff and myself, let us be one of the first to wish you and your family a most blessed holiday season and a very Merry Christmas.

The Herald

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Since 1889

50 Cents

Crime or tragedy?

Kings Mountain woman charged with killing husband but attorney's photos show her with bruises on face and arms

GARY STEWART

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Sgt. Lisa Proctor of Kings Mountain Police Department Tuesday said the investigation into the Saturday morning shooting death of Kings Mountain body shop owner Todd Weaver is "far from over."

Weaver's wife, Tina, was charged with murder shortly after police were called to the Weavers' Southridge Drive home at 4:16 a.m. She was confined to the Cleveland County Law Enforcement Center under no bond, but has since been released

under a \$40,000 bond.

Sgt. Proctor said the couple was in the home alone and Todd Weaver had been shot "multiple times" with a small calibre handgun. He was transported by EMS to Cleveland Regional Medical Center in Shelby and a short time later was pronounced dead.

On Monday, Tina Weaver's attorney, David Teddy of Shelby, released photos that were reportedly taken shortly after the incident that showed bruises on Mrs. Weaver's face and arms and a cut inside her lower lip. Tina Weaver had reportedly taken out a domestic charge against her hus-

band once in the past, but it was dismissed. Sgt. Proctor said Tina Weaver has no previous criminal history.

Mrs. Weaver's first appearance hearing was Monday in District Court. Teddy said she waived her right to a court-appointed attorney. He said a probable cause hearing is set for December 14 at which time the D.A. or judge could decide whether to continue with the case or dismiss the charge.

Teddy refused further comment.

Sgt. Proctor said she is in contact with Tina Weaver, 7A



Attorney David Teddy of Shelby released this photo of Tina Weaver after she was charged with murder in the death of her husband, Todd Weaver.

CHRISTMAS TIME IN THE CITY



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD
Ray Wittneben puts up Christmas trees at Terry Saunders' Christmas tree lot at the intersection of NC 161 and East Gold Street.

Kings Mountain Christmas parade Saturday at 3 p.m.

EMILY WEAVER

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Saturday's Kings Mountain's Christmas Parade will be televised with full commentaries.

Pastor Roger Woodard with the Family Worship Center will be airing the event on the Time Warner Cable lease access channel 9 on Mondays at 5 pm and on Friday night at 12 midnight. It will also be shown in Gastonia on Tuesdays at 5:30 pm. His wife and one of the ministers of music at the church said that they will be filming in front of Gateway Real Estate to get the best view of the procession. The inspiration to air this annual Kings Mountain event hit them at last year's parade. "We're very excited about doing this," Mrs. Woodard said.

The parade will begin at 3 p.m.

Special Events Director Ellis Noell said that about 60 people have registered to be in the procession so far, but he anticipates over 100 entrants signing up by this weekend.

"As the weather begins to look more favorable, more people are signing up," he said. Although rain is expected Thursday and Friday, the skies are supposed to clear up on Saturday for an afternoon high of 59 degrees. Registration will continue until Friday at 3 pm. There is no cost or registration fee. Applications are available online at cityofkm.com. For more information, contact Noell at 704-730-2103.

Grand marshals will be the returning soldiers in the Army National Guard 505th Engineering Battalion. In uniform and with military pride they will ride through the streets of Kings Mountain on their Army National

See Parade, 7A

Ingles moving forward with plan to locate

Ingles Markets is moving forward on plans to build a new super store in Kings Mountain.

Ben LaFrombois, Inhouse Counsel for the Asheville-based food chain, was at Tuesday night's City Council meeting and heard the vote of 7-0 to satellite annex 21.45 acres on US 74 West (Shelby Road) owned by Mrs. Ethel Yarbro and her son, Eddie Yarbro.

"We haven't bought the Yarbro property yet but that's what we're looking at," said LaFrombois who said he is pleased with the response of Kings Mountain people to Ingles plans to locate here and to the warm welcome from city officials. In recent weeks LaFrombois said he has been working closely with Mayor Rick Murphrey and other city officials and also with the N. C. Department of Transportation.

"We have several hurdles to clear in this process before we can give a timetable for the project but it won't be long until we can present a site plan to the city," said LaFrombois.

The mayor said the annexed area can be provided with fire services, water and sewer services that are substantially equivalent to those within the corporate limits. The location of the Yarbro land is closer to the city's corporate boundaries than to any other municipal corporate boundaries limits. The Yarbro family petitioned the city for voluntary annexation.

Fire departments get \$989,020 grant for radios

EMILY WEAVER

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The Kings Mountain Fire Department and all of the other 15 fire departments in Cleveland County will be receiving new radios valued at nearly \$3,900 apiece from a \$989,020 grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Congressman Patrick McHenry announced Monday that the grant, applied for by the Waco Volunteer Fire Department on behalf of the county, will be awarded as the largest single Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) in North Carolina.

While the grant is helping the departments pay for some of the equipment, the county is footing the bill for the infrastructure of the new 800 megahertz (mHz) system. Cleveland County recently set up towers to expand their current communication system from about 100 mHz to 800 mHz. "This is just a start. Now the work really begins," said Chief Kevin Gordon with the Waco VFD. "But the biggest hurdle is now out of the way."

"The hardware we had to purchase was out of our reach. It would have taken us a long time to raise the money," he said.

See Grant, 7A