

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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Actress Laura Beth Moss visits family in Kings Mountain

3A

STEAG coming to KM

GARY STEWART

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STEAG, LLC, a company that cleans, processes and regenerates catalyst filters for power plant smoke stacks, will begin operation in the old Anvil Knit building on Linwood Road during the first quarter of 2007.

The company will eventually employ approximately 35 persons and will be a large City of Kings Mountain utility user.

The company plans to invest \$5 million in the Kings Mountain operation.

The official announcement by the company was expected to be made Wednesday afternoon at the Chamber of Commerce and was not available at the Herald's press deadline.

Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey said the city is pleased to see another major industry coming to the city.

"We're excited about a company coming and bringing jobs," he said. "Again, this shows that Kings Mountain is moving progressively forward by adding additional industry to the community and bringing new jobs. The staff and Council and citizens continue to work to provide that business atmosphere and make sure we're competitive with our utility rates. We have a lot to offer in our city."

STEAG, which originated in Germany, has an office in Charlotte.

Murphrey said the company has indicated it will begin operation in Kings Mountain with about 18 employees and hopefully increase to 35 or 40. It has been permitted for 150,000 gallons of water per day.

"They intend to use local vendors and skilled labor and craftsmen," Murphrey said. "We're excited that they chose Kings Mountain."

Four injured in two-vehicle wreck Tuesday

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A two-vehicle accident on Reliance Road Tuesday left four people in the hospital.

Four-year-old Seth Henson, was thrown from one of the vehicles upon impact and was airlifted to Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. He was listed in critical condition Wednesday morning.

The driver, Justin Philip Dills, 17, and Henson's twin brother, Braeden, were also injured and were both listed in stable condition at Cleveland Regional Medical Center. Shirley Hachey, 51, driver of the other vehicle, was said to be in fair condition at CMC. None of the four were wearing seatbelts.

Dills, who was not licensed to drive, was traveling at an estimated 60 mph in a 35 mph zone when he went into center and lost control of his vehicle, a black Ford pickup truck, said an official with the State Highway Patrol. He said that Dills' vehicle slid sideways into the lane of oncoming traffic, where Hachey, driving a Toyota Tacoma, T-boned him in the side of his truck.

KINGS MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS PARADE



A huge crowd fills Battleground Avenue to watch Saturday's Kings Mountain Christmas parade. Below, Kings Mountain High homecoming queen Monique McClain waves to the crowd on East Gold Street.

GARY STEWART / HERALD

Thousands line streets for annual event

A Carolina Blue sky and comfortable 59-degree temperature brought thousands out for the annual Kings Mountain Christmas parade Saturday afternoon.

Well over 100 units wound through three streets - East Gold, Battleground and King - in a parade that lasted over 90 minutes.

Members of the 505th Engineering Battalion of the NC National Guard served as Grand Marshal. The soldiers recently returned from a year's duty in Iraq.

The soldiers, politicians, children from dance schools and day care centers, beauty queens, churches, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and many others participated in the parade and threw candy to the kids lining the streets. Coming down East King Street, the National Guardsmen ran out of candy. Two jumped off the huge truck carrying the outfit and ran into nearby Family Dollar, bought more candy and caught back up with the truck a block down the street.

Parade organizers, led by KM Special Events coordinator Ellis Noell, termed the event a huge success and they look forward to an even bigger and better parade next year.



A Christmas Po-Knee

Hawks adds new meaning to playing 'horsie' with kids

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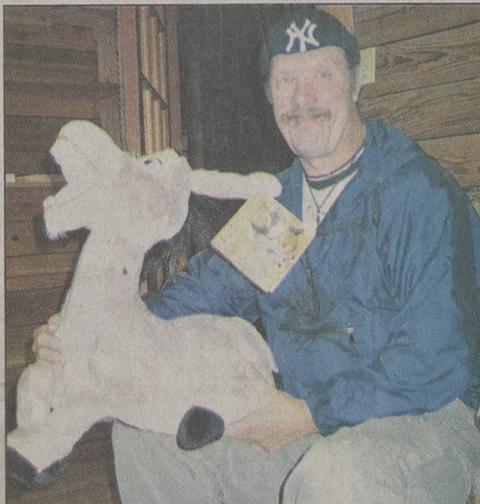
Of the many sights and sounds at Mountaineer Christmas this Friday, there is one vendor's booth you won't want to miss. The story behind the vendor is enough to warm the heart. The product itself is a favorite of all children.

Randy Hawks, of Mt. Holly, is a grandfather. When his grandchildren were smaller he used to bounce them on his knee to simulate a horse ride, just like many parents and grandparents have done for centuries. Then one day he had an idea, a pure

"Eureka" moment. He sawed off the saddle and head of a plastic hobby horse and placed it on his lap. His grandchildren loved it. More of the simulated feeling was brought to life. They cried each time they were taken off and fought for turns on granddaddy's lap.

But that was 15 years ago. Having witnessed the success and promise of his creation those many years ago, Hawks tried to get a patent. He documented his proofs, drawings, sketches and had them notarized. His papers were in order. But money was too tight to cover the

See Po-Knee, 2A



EMILY WEAVER / HERALD

Randy Hawks displays one of the Po-Knees he will be selling at Mountaineer Christmas this Friday.

Mountaineer Christmas Friday night

Shopping, food entertainment in downtown Kings Mountain

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Celebrate a true Kings Mountain Christmas downtown at Mountaineer Christmas on Friday from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Downtown stores and booths will be open for festive shopping and the Kings Mountain Little Theatre will have a coffee house set up at the Joy Performance Center on Railroad Avenue. Cash Pro & Cleveland Music, Dellinger's Jewel Shop, This & That Novelty Shop, McGinnis Department Store, the Harris Building, Bridges Hardware, and Hometown Hardware will be offering different treats and sales for festival-goers.

The Gazebo at Patriot's Park will house most of the entertainment for the festival, where the happy feet of local dance teams will "rock around the Christmas tree" and local church groups will fill the streets with carols. Musical stylings from mountain dulcimers will also drift through the crisp winter air from the Gazebo.

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will be taking a quick break from the North pole to check their lists of toys for KM girls and boys at Ashley's Antiques. St. Nick's lap will be available for gift requests and cameras will be at the ready for a keepsake photograph.

Bellus Tu Day Spa at ScissorSmith & Co. Salon, 125 W. Mountain Street, will be offering free 5-minute massages and refreshments for those already weary from the hustle and bustle of the season.

A store window decorating contest will be held. Hot cider and other seasonal treats will be available from food vendors along with meals from Mountain View Restaurant, subs from the Sub Factory, pizza from Papa John's, hot dogs from the Nazarene church, and a variety of snacks from Ricky Hall's "Cooking for Kids" booth, which raises money for the Kings Mountain Student Scholarship fund.

Grover parade set Saturday

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Marvin Smith, a soldier with the 505th who recently returned from Iraq, will serve as Grand Marshal for the Grover Christmas parade Saturday, Dec. 9 at 1 p.m.

Smith lives in Blacksburg, at a stone's throw from the Grover line, and said he feels very honored to be Grand Marshal. Other soldiers will be the color guard in the parade.

"The welcome we received when we got back from Iraq was unreal," he said. "There's truly no place like home."

The parade will begin at the corner of Linden Street and Cleveland Avenue near First Baptist Church. It will proceed up Cleveland, take a right on Mulberry Street, left on Cherry Street, left on Main Street and end just past Carolina Avenue near Spring Acres. Nearly 50 participants have signed up to join the parade but the Grover Rural Volunteer Fire Department is hoping more people will register. "Our goal is to have 75-100 participants in the parade and we'd love to exceed that goal," said Firefighter Jody Byers.

"We will be taking applications or registrations up until 12 noon on Saturday, so it's still not too late to sign up," said Grover Police Chief and Firefighter Shane Davis.

The Grover Women's Club has organized the parade for the past five years, but the responsibility now rests again with the fire department, which used to be in charge of it years ago. "This is our first year doing it in a while. But it will be good," Davis said.

Applications are available on-line at grovervfd.com or grovfd.com. There is no registration fee or cost to join the parade. "The only thing we ask of people is that they don't hold up the parade. Also for safety's sake that they stay out of the way of the floats and parade traffic," Byers said.