

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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Saddam's death may someday be a victory

EMILY WEAVER

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The "Butcher of Baghdad" is no more. On Saturday, December 31, 2006, at 6 am in Iraq (Friday at 10 am Eastern Standard Time) Saddam Hussein was executed. But what will this act mean for the rest of the Iraqi people and for our soldiers? Kings Mountain native and defense contractor, Jeff Goode, has been to Iraq a few times and many other places in the middle east. He is currently stationed in Sudan where there is also a great deal of conflict. He shares his thoughts about the tyrannical leader's fall below:

"I think it will eventually become a victory for us but in the meantime it will be one more cause for the insurgency or reason to kill Americans. Understanding their culture is the key here in that they do not look at death or executions the same way we do. Death is not a deterrent there but rather a battle cry (jihad). Dying for one's cause is the supreme reward for your 'struggle' against what you perceive as injustice. The Shiite
See Saddam, 3A

County native remembers Gerald Ford

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There is a Cleveland County connection to our nation's 38th president, Gerald Ford, who died last week.

Jim Hastings was born in Casar in 1943. He grew up in the Delight community, a place he described as "staunch republican" and one of the only communities in Cleveland County, at the time, to be so. Conceived republican, he graduated from the old Polkville High School in 1970. From Cleveland County he traveled to Boone, where he attended and graduated from Appalachian State University. Hastings was very active in the Jaycees, a leadership, networking and volunteer organization that was very powerful in the 50s, 60s and 70s.

He volunteered in the political arena for about 10 years. "I was really more interested in Jaycees than anything else though, because it was an exciting opportunity to make contacts and meet new people," he said.

His work with the influential Jaycees and his "staunch" republican background caught the eyes of former president Richard Nixon, who recruited him through strategist Brad Hayes, for his Southern Strategy Campaign of 1962. Hastings said that a majority of the South and of North Carolina had been voting democrat since the Civil War. Nixon wanted that to change. He wanted to revive the republican ticket in the South for himself and for other republican leaders. The plan was simple: Republican James Holshouser was a young rising
See Ford, 3A

A TASTE OF SPRING



David Oliver and his niece, 10-year-old Cheyenne Oliver, enjoy the sunshine as they relax on a park bench at the Kings Mountain Walking Track. Kings Mountain's spring-like weather is expected to continue the remainder of the week.

JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

A project of giving KMHS student Kolin Thennis uses his Senior Project to make a difference in local family's life

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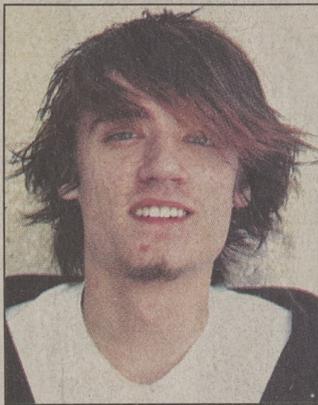
As the first semester of classes at Kings Mountain High School wind down, the seniors are preparing for their presentations of Senior Projects that most of them have worked diligently on over the past five months. Each student has chosen a subject, cause and plan of action that has merit to their future. Eighteen-year-old Kolin Thennis, of Kings Mountain, based his project on his love for car repairs and love for his fellow man.

He raised about \$1,600 to purchase a used car for a local family, struggling from a lack of transportation. With the help of his mentor, Youth Dir. Matt Morris (from his church Central UMC), and his father, Troy Thennis, he

fixed the car up, got it ready for the road and for the family.

"I really like doing auto mechanic work on cars and I've been doing it for two, maybe three years. I really wanted to do something that has to do with cars," he said. "Me and my mentor were talking about it and we both came up with the idea of it being cool to find a family that is in need of a car and giving it to them."

The steps of his project spanned throughout most of his first semester. He first sent out letters to family and friends asking for monetary donations to help with his project. "After that I started looking around and going to the Community Kitchen at my church, trying to look for a family that fit the requirements of what I thought would be a good family to give the car to," he
See Thennis, 8A



KOLIN THENNIS

Centenarian

Friends and family help Mrs. Maaney celebrate 100th birthday at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

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Catherine Herman Maaney celebrated her centennial birthday with over 50 friends and family members at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church on Saturday afternoon. Her real date of birth falls on December 14, but since not every one could make it to that party they decided to throw another one. Five generations of the Maaney family filled the fellowship hall, along with other merged families, like the Hermans, the Housers and the James.

"We're all related in some way or another," laughed Lynne Maaney, daughter-in-law to Catherine.

They all seemed to enjoy each other too, greeting with hugs, kisses, and "I haven't seen you in so long." Like a mother duck gathering her young flock, Catherine summoned her family from across the 50 states for a reunion sparked by her 100 years of memories with them. Her weathered face and worn eyes were lit up with the youthful, radiant glow of a 30-year-old as she looked upon each loved ones face. Her youth came back to her as she soaked up the joy of a happy room filled with love.

Her son Herman said that she was raised in a family of 11 children, nine of whom made it to adulthood. Mrs. Maaney and her 98-year-old sister Carrie Jane are the last two remaining of
See Mrs. Maaney, 3A



Miss Catherine Herman Maaney celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church on Saturday. Louis Dellinger stopped by to wish her a Happy Birthday and to reminisce about some of those good old days.

EMILY WEAVER / HERALD

County Board honors Bridges, approves funds for Ultra Machine

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Kings Mountain native J.C. Bridges, 83, was honored and awarded with a plaque depicting some of the history of Kings Mountain and Cleveland County Tuesday night at the Cleveland County Commissioners meeting for his 3 years of service on the Cleveland County Healthcare System's board of directors and his prior 28 years of service on the board of directors at Kings Mountain Hospital.

The county hospital system describes Bridges as a leader in the community. He co-operated Kings Mountain's first and only airport after WWII in the 40s. He gave private flying lessons along with his partner Archie Costner.

Just as he led the way in KM flight, he also lead hundreds of soldiers as a flight instructor in Texas for the Army Air Corps, now the Air Force, during World War II. He served 29 years in the military, retiring with the earned title of lieutenant corporal.

"Here we have a pilot, a business person and a world-class athlete who has worked on the board on behalf of our citizens," said Larry Corry, chairman of the Cleveland County Healthcare System Board of Trustees. "We thank you so very much."

A member of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club for over 60 years, the Wachovia Bank board, the Neisler Life Enrichment Center and on the board of deacons at KM Baptist church, Bridges is stepping down from most of his leadership roles to enjoy more time with his wife of 61 years, Edith, and their family.

Also at the meeting, a public hearing was held in regards to an incentive package for Kings Mountain's Ultra Machine and Fabrication plant which is expanding into Cleveland County creating at least 60 new positions. No one spoke. Commissioners approved the incentives.

Commissioner Ronnie Hawkins proposed that Doug Lawing be appointed as the new board member for Kings Mountain's Planning and Zoning Board and that KMPD Ofc. Bob Myers be appointed as the city's new member on the Board of Adjustments. Johnny Hutchins seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved the new appointments. Both Myers and Lawing will serve 3-year terms in the positions ending in 2009.

David Ozmore from the Kings Mountain Family YMCA presented the board with statistics and facts on the new Cleveland County Shrink Down program which begins on Monday. The 10-week program is free to every county citizen and to every citizen that works within the county. Register online at www.clevelandcountyshrinkdown.com or on the day it begins at the Kings Mountain YMCA and other participating locations. He said that during the first week they will be providing healthy lifestyles education to participants and a weigh-in. "We hope people will create a habit of healthy living over the next 10 weeks," he said.

Ozmore added that the program will involve fun competition. "Kings Mountain will be competing against Cleveland County and other areas will also compete against each other," he said. "It takes 10 weeks to break a habit and it takes 10 weeks to create a habit."