

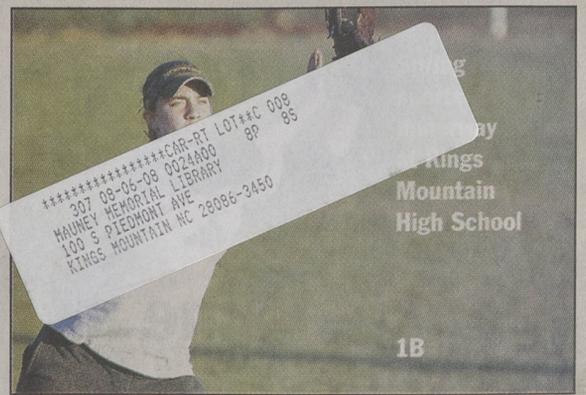
# KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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## Grenade found in hunter's chair

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Sometimes the most innocent things can be loaded with danger. The Cleveland County Sheriff's Office was called out to a residence on Farris Road near Kings Mountain Monday night after a man made an explosive discovery. Tucked away in the pocket of a hunting chair that was given to him by a co-worker, he found what appeared to be an unexploded hand grenade.

He also found bullet casings or shells in the pockets, but the explosive device compelled him to call 911. Cleveland County Sheriff's officers responded around 5 pm. After determining that the device was indeed a grenade, they called the Gaston County Bomb Squad to remove it.

Gaston County Police Department Bomb Squad Officer Lou Calindo said that the grenade appeared to be a souvenir-type pineapple Mk 2 grenade, like those used in WWII. "It looked like it had been improvised in some fashion," he said. "The pin was partially removed from it."

Bomb squad officers have to treat any hand grenade or like device that appears to be improvised with extreme care and caution. He said that old, souvenir grenades, which may no longer be active, can be improvised to be made live again. With the pin partially removed, officers had to be extremely careful when handling it. The pin is used as a safety device that keeps the handle from releasing and starting the fuse on most grenade.

Bomb squad officers were able to remove and dispose of the device without any damage or casualties. Officer Calindo said, "Any time you find any type of suspicious device, the best thing you can do is call law enforcement and keep away from it, until they come and investigate."

Gaston County Bomb Squad was unable to determine whether the grenade was live or a dud. But because it appeared to be improvised, they treated and disposed of it as if it were a live grenade.

Cleveland County does not currently have a bomb squad, so all related matters are usually referred to Gaston County.

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John Harris stands in front of old Eagle Store which he has purchased and plans to turn into a coffee/dessert/wine shop.

## Old Eagle Building

# Harris plans upscale coffee shop downtown

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Kings Mountain businessman John Harris recently purchased the old Eagle Store in downtown Kings Mountain and is "90 percent sure" it will house an upscale coffee shop.

Harris has acquired a demolition permit and will basically "gut" the building and rebuild the inside, just as he did the adjoining former Rexall Drug Store which will soon house Alliance Bank and Trust downstairs and Harris' offices upstairs.

Harris hopes to begin renovating the property within the next two weeks and have it ready for occupancy in six months. The building, as well as the Rexall building, recently received a new roof.

Harris said after consulting with people in a "very upscale" coffee shop business in Charlotte that they have determined the potential Kings Mountain business would be best described as a coffee bar/dessert bar/wine bar.

"We feel the demographics is too small to support it with strictly coffee," he said. "It would also offer upscale desserts and fine wine by the glass." He said the business would showcase wines produced in North Carolina.

Harris also envisions jazz bands performing several times a month and making the building available for rental. He stresses that it would not be open on Sunday.

A resident of Kings Mountain for the past 11 years and active in the county's economic development efforts, the grandson of Harris Funeral Home founder Ollie Harris says he has seen numerous major industries locate in and around Kings Mountain recently and he is confident downtown Kings Mountain is also poised for growth.

"We're seeing businesses building and renovating all up and down King Street and now there is a very serious push with renovating buildings downtown and bringing industry down there," he said. "I am proud that we've come as far as we have in such a positive manner over the last 11 years."

While he can picture what he wants the new building to look like, Harris said much will be determined by what type of business occupies it.

"Obviously, this is a much older facility than most, but we hope we can finish it in four months," he said, "and maybe have something in there in less than six months. My plans are to start demolition right away, but during the renovation and construction period if we know what's going to go there obviously it saves a lot of time and money to complete it without having to go back in and tear out. We want to make sure we don't have to re-trace some of our footprints."

Assuming the present plan becomes reality, Harris said local cooks or other See Harris, 7A

# Every Drop Counts

## Despite critical shortage, only ten people show for blood drive at Grace United Methodist Church

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Less than 10 people showed up to give blood to the American Red Cross at Grace United Methodist Church on Thursday, in spite of a great shortage of types O and B. Coordinator for the drive Cynthia Falter said the low amount of donors is probably due to the snow and ice that came and canceled the KM drive a couple of Thursdays ago. They had to reschedule it for last Thursday without much time to get the word out. Another possibility, she said, and reason for so many winter shortages is that flu and colds keep people from donating.

"We have a short supply right now on all types, but especially on type O and type B blood," Falter said. "We always have a short supply this time of year."

She said that they are low on positive and negatives of both types. "O negative is in real demand because it's a universal donor, which can be given to anyone," she said. It really comes in handy for transfusions to infants and premature babies, whose types are often unknown at the time blood is needed.

Falter said that giving blood is very important. "About 95 percent of all of us will need blood at some point in our lives. But only about five percent of eligible donors will actually give blood," she said. One pint, which is comprised of red blood cells, platelets, plasma and white blood cells, can save up to three lives.

The process of giving blood is simple. A donor walks in, registers, discusses his or her medical his-

tory with a qualified nurse, undergoes a mini-physical, gives blood and enjoys refreshments. Grace UMC had chili, crackers, cookies and soda awaiting their generous donors. Falter said some people are afraid of contracting diseases and they opt not to give. But, not only are they cautiously selective in their donors, every needle used is brand-new, sterile and discarded after use.

When donating, only about one pint is drawn from the body which has 10-12 pints running through it at a given time. The body will replace donated blood within hours making new, fresh blood. According to givelife.org, "Most donated red blood cells must be used within 42 days of collection. Donated platelets must be used within five days of collection - new donations are constantly needed."

With the amount of Kings Mountain's donations looking dismal, George T. Pasour walked in at 5:30 pm, 30 minutes before they were to close shop and go home. He said that he was afraid that he was too old to give. "You're never too old to give," said Nurse Beth Martin. "We're glad you're here."

Within minutes he breezed through the physical and was seated in the donor's throne.

The delicious aroma of homemade chili wafted through the air - his savory reward.

"Anyone can be a sponsor," Falter said. If you would like to bring a blood drive to your community, church or business, call the American Red Cross chapter in Shelby at 704-482-4671 and they will take care of the rest. To find out when and where the next drive will be in your area, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.



George T. Pasour poses with his nurse Beth Martin as he donates blood to the American Red Cross.



Police Explorer Robyn Medlin (right) learns about Kings Mountain's first line of defense from telecommunicator Leanne Deviney.

# Me & My Shadow

## Local Scouts learn about government by spending a day with city employees

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About 10 scouts shadowed local city leaders Friday morning, learning about all sorts of important jobs from fighting crime to running the city's electricity.

Boy Scout troops from Kings Mountain First Baptist Church and, for the first time ever, a young lady from Kings Mountain's Police Explorers, gathered at City Hall to find out which department head they would shadow for the morning. Their destination was tucked away in a single envelope. They had to draw.

Police Explorer Robyn Medlin was "keeping her fingers crossed" for an envelope that held the words "Police Chief." She got it. "Oh this is rigged," someone joked, while Medlin maintained her ear-to-ear grin. For her first task, Chief Melvin Proctor handed her the paychecks to distribute to the officers. She held them proudly, excited about her day with the chief.

Mitchell Hardee drew a second year in a row shadow at Mauney Memorial Library with Children's Librarian Christy Conner. He helped shelve a cart of books, played with puppets from the children's programs, and learned a little more about the job of a librarian. "I guess I know what I'm gonna be," he joked, after his second stint at the library. But he enjoyed his time with Conner and happily walked away with two free t-shirts from last year's Summer Reading programs.

Brandon Laughridge and Aaron Parsons also enjoyed their parting gifts: a yellow hard hat and an orange vest. Laughridge spent the See Shadow, 10A