

## LOCAL

# Romanians visit Kings Mountain

EMILY WEAVER

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The visiting Romanian delegates captured the heart of Kings Mountain as they enjoyed a series of historical firsts this week.

The mayor, the police chief, a police officer and a minister from Stei, Romania, flew over on a chance of a lifetime to learn about their new sister city, Kings Mountain. But perhaps what they did not anticipate was the love and the lessons that awaited them.

Around 100 people attended a Community Breakfast at the Patrick Senior Center on Tuesday morning just to welcome them in fellowship.

At the breakfast Mayor Rick Murphrey presented them with gifts, such as a signed plaque of his proclamation marking the historical sisterhood or brotherhood relationship of Stei, Romania and Kings Mountain and a crystal trophy from the citizens of KM to the citizens of Stei.

Although the gifts from KM were profound, perhaps the most precious treasures came from the simple compassion of the Romanian people. Mayor Ioan Lucaciu gave Murphrey a very special rug that was woven by his own mother, who is in poor health, along with various other items to remind him and enlighten him on their community's 500-year-old history. He also gave KMPD Chief Melvin Proctor and Det. Lisa Proctor official Romanian police hats. The Proctors hope to visit Stei, Romania this summer if opportunities permit.

Based on the smiles and the moisture in Mayor Lucaciu's eyes, their cups raneth over as did Kings Mountain's. The door was opened for this opportunity last year during the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast when Senator Radu Tirla and the mayor pro-tem of Stei, Romania visited Kings Mountain.

"We began discussing the different cultures and exchanging of ideas and at that time the senator said that he had a group of Romanian police officers that were going to tour the United States," Murphrey said, adding that they asked for the group to come by Kings Mountain. The group of police officers came last November. Now it was their turn.

The delegates were introduced to Relay for Life at the Walking Track on Friday night. They got to see part of the Over the Mountain Triathlon and were amazed at how both men and women competed together. They took a boat tour of Moss Lake on an illustrious Chris\*Craft vessel and enjoyed, for the first time, a southern BBQ dinner at the home of Mayor Murphrey and first lady Sandra. The hosts had decorated their house and pool-side patio to the hilt with flags

representing both countries, but unfortunately the rain prevented them from spending too much time outdoors on Saturday evening.

On Sunday, they worshiped with the congregation of First Baptist Church and visited the national military park, from which KM took its name. They experienced "Feel the Thrill" at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Charlotte on Monday. "We took the tour and we got in the van. They do that 1, 2, 3, A, B, C, and as we got around the turn on that van, the little guy that was driving kept talking and looking back. I looked at the speedometer and he got up to 80 mph and he's reaching the third turn and I'm thinking 'I know he's done this before.' He just rode us around about 85 or 90 mph on that van. They said they were not concerned at all, but I was," Murphrey said. "I thought 'this is where it's going to end right here on Lowe's Motor Speedway.'"

On Monday night the delegates witnessed a favorite American pastime for the first time - baseball. They also ate their very first hot dog watching the Greenville Drive take on the Kannapolis Intimidators at the West End Field Stadium in Greenville, SC. After the breakfast on Tuesday, they toured city facilities, including the Patrick Senior Center, City Hall, Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works, KM Historical Museum, KM Art Center, Southeastern Container, Chris\*Craft, Life Enrichment Center and KM Hospital.

On Tuesday, their last night, they enjoyed their first Barrel Racing competition at the HH Ranch in Kings Mountain.

They said goodbye on Wednesday morning, taking with them a host of memories and histories destined to be cherished for a lifetime.

## Bethware School to hold parade Thursday

Bethware Elementary School will have its traditional end of year parade Thursday, June 7 at 8:30 a.m. Afterward, the fourth nine weeks awards program will be held in the gym.

End of year awards will be Friday, June 8 starting at 8:30 for K-2 grades and at 9:45 for third and fourth grades in the gymnasium.

Parents are invited.

## Danielle Gill makes Presbyterian dean's list

Danielle Gladneice Gill of Kings Mountain was among the 302 students named to the Dean's List for the spring semester at Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC.

# KMIS principal apologizes for miscommunication at field day

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A miscommunication led to parental distress Friday at Kings Mountain Intermediate School as relatives were denied access to seeing their children compete in Field Day.

"I am so sorry that this happened and I sincerely apologize to anyone who was turned away from seeing their children," said Principal Henry Gilmore. "I am a parent myself. I love children."

He said that a committee helped put together the plans and activities and that although the intentions of student safety was noble, the execution may have been extreme. With all of the dangers in schools today, he said, "sometimes we can be hypersensitive and we have to be careful not to be too hypersensitive to that because we don't want to go beyond what is needed."

This was KMIS' very first Field Day and Gilmore said it provided them with a great lesson. "It will definitely be different next year, even though we look at safety we plan on parent participation next time," he added.

"There was some miscommunication on our parts and possibly some misunderstandings on the parents part," said Superintendent Dr. Bruce Boyles. "But they'll learn and improve the process for next year."

Jessica Cuthbertson said that she received an unfriendly reception from a receptionist at KMIS when she went to see "her girl" compete.

"The school sent home a letter asking for parents to volunteer at stations. It didn't exclude any parents from coming to watch the kids participate," she said. "I just wanted to see my niece do her field day."

When she got to KMIS, she went straight to the front office to sign in as a visitor, as the school requests that each visitor do. She said that the office was filled with about 10 other parents wanting to see their children and that the receptionist was not letting anyone in.

"The warmth of the reception there was just horrible," she said. Cuthbertson is a 25-year-old 2000 graduate of Kings Mountain High School and said that although she is too young to be the mother of her 12-year-old

niece, her relation to the student was not an issue. "They didn't even ask me who I was," she said. "If they would have told me that I couldn't see her because I wasn't a parent, I would have understood. But that wasn't the case. I do look at my nieces as my girls because I don't have any children yet."

She knew that one of the Field Day activities was a Kings Mountain Idol contest and so she went to the school bearing flowers for her niece. But not even the flowers would make it past the front desk. She said that the receptionist told her that she was not allowed to give them to her niece because she was a bus rider instead of a car rider.

Cuthbertson said that she was told the only way that she could get into Field Day was to volunteer at one of the stations. So she finally said that she wanted to volunteer, but was told that she had to wear a T-shirt and not the shirt she had on. "I said, 'Ok I'll buy a school shirt.' But she said that they don't sell school shirts at the front desk. So I told her that I would run to the store buy a shirt and come right back. But then she couldn't guarantee that

I would be in a station that my niece would come through."

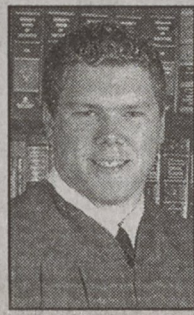
One of the most exasperating things to Cuthbertson now, is knowing that some parents were allowed to watch and not volunteer, while she and many others were kept out.

"Administrators and staff were all out at Field Day so they were not readily available to the parents. But they will do better next time," Boyles said. "This was a learning experience."

"It's been a hard year for my niece and I just wanted her to know that I'm there to support her," she said, adding that when she had Field Day growing up her parents and others were always on the sidelines cheering, a gift she wanted to give to her niece. "These are our kids. This is our future. I know you need to protect the children in the schools but don't shut out the parents in the process."

Gilmore agrees. "When I became principal here one desire I had was to pull community and parents together to help make things successful. One thing that is key to a student's success in school is their parent's involvement and support," he said.

# Williams earns scholarships



WILLIAMS

Joshua Aaron Williams recently received the Bessemer City Lions Club Scholarship for Excellence in Academics and the Kevin Millwood Scholarship

for Excellence in Academics and for Outstanding Athletics at Bessemer City High School.

Williams, who will graduate with High Honors and carries a 3.7 GPA, is the son of Joe and Suzanne Williams and grandson of Joe and Joy Crump, the late Bobby Eters, Lena Jo Williams and the late Garland Williams.

Josh is a member of the National Beta Club, Honor

Society, National Honor Roll, Who's Who Among American High School Students, Student Body Government, and is active in the Police Explorers for the Kings Mountain Police Department. He is a member of First Wesleyan Church in Kings Mountain.

During his high school career Josh played baseball for two years, where he played first base.

He also played football for four years as a fullback and an offensive and defensive lineman. He has been awarded the Most Valuable Player and Best Defensive Lineman awards.

After graduation Josh plans to attend Gaston College and later transfer to UNC-Charlotte where he will major in Criminal Justice and Forensic Science. He will also join his father with his business.

## Bereavement groups to meet at Hospice

"Reflections," a six-week grief support group, will meet June 19, 26 and July 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 10-11:30 a.m. at Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Dr., Shelby.

Participants are encouraged to attend all six sessions.

Hospice also has a bereaved parent support group meeting the first Thursday of every month at 5:30 pm.

## Bell family reunion will be held July 7-8

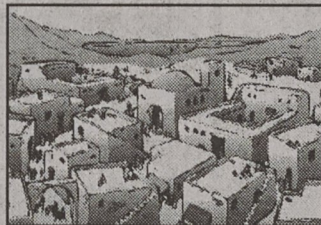
The children and grandchildren of the late Roy Bell St. and the late Marveta Leach Bell will have a family reunion July 7-8. Each family is asked to pay \$25.

For more information call Ivory Bell at 704-937-9504, Gloria K. Camp at 704-937-3536 or Wanda Bell Goode at 704-730-1061.

## Catch Jesus in Action!

First Wesleyan invites children age 4 thru 6th grade to Galilee By-the-Sea. You'll travel back into Bible times. This fun, hands-on Bible-times village will be set up at this address:

First Wesleyan Church  
500 N. Piedmont Avenue  
Kings Mountain, NC 28086



Each day we will become part of history as we see, hear, touch and even taste what it was like to live in Bible times! We'll explore authentic marketplace shops, visit the Synagogue, take part in games, dance to lively Bible songs as we discover more about life when Jesus walked the earth. These experiences make God's Word come alive with new meaning for all who participate!

So mark these dates on your calendar: June 18th-22nd. The adventure starts at 6:15pm and will end at 8:30pm each evening. To pre-register for this awesome Bible adventure, call this number: 704-739-4266.

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SAFE SITTER classes are available through Cleveland Regional Medical Center and Kings Mountain Hospital. A fee of \$35.00 covers the two-day program.

June 11 & 12	Shelby
June 18 & 19	Kings Mountain
July 16 & 17	Shelby
July 30 & 31	Shelby
August 7 & 8	Shelby

For more information have your parent or guardian call:

**487-3182 or 487-3199**

Class size is limited. Pre-registration is required.



Cleveland Regional Medical Center  
Carolinas HealthCare System