

City council gets 'CONNECT'ed

By ELIZABETH STEWART
staff writer

"Teamwork gets things done," said Mayor Rick Murphrey last Tuesday as Kings Mountain City Council voted to adopt resolution supporting "CONNECT," a regional vision and action agenda.

Al Sharp, Executive Director of Centralina Council of Government, and Mayor Richard Boyce of Belmont updated Council on the progress of the grassroots effort which has grown to include 17 counties in the Greater Charlotte Metropolitan Area.

"Small municipalities like Belmont and Kings Mountain need to be represented at the table so the region can speak with one voice on common issues," said Boyce, whose grandfather was a former pastor of Kings Mountain's Boyce Memorial ARP Church.

Sharp said the six-prong program of CONNECT is to push well-managed growth, a safe and healthy environment, a strong diverse economy, high quality educational opportunities, enhanced social equity and engagement, and increased collaboration among jurisdictions.

Murphrey said he will be appointing a member from Council to serve as liaison to the group.

Shirley Brutko, Director of the Kings Mountain Branch of the Cleveland County Chamber, echoed the 'working together' theme, which has resulted, she said, in 18 new businesses in 2008 plus nine others in the Greater Kings Mountain area. She said that currently four businesses are looking at the area.

Brutko said the local Chamber is a welcome and information center in downtown Kings Mountain. A big event coming up that will involve some 50 businesses is the four-week long Kings Mountain Business Showcase which begins Feb. 24 in the lobby area of Kings Mountain City Hall. Brutko said she is working with 85 volunteers on this project.

The local Chamber membership, which includes Kings Mountain and Grover, is 107 and Brutko is shooting for a membership of 200 in 2009. Thirty-one new members joined the Chamber in 2008.

KM company named in BBB's 'dirty dozen'

Weir Builders, with business addresses in Kings Mountain and Shelby, recently received a "dishonorable mention" on the Better Business Bureau's 2008 Dirty Dozen List.

The business, owned by local home improvement contractor Sam Weir, operated under the names of Crete Magic, Sun Masters and Weir Grafix. Weir has had warrants issued for his arrest in Lincoln and Mecklenburg counties for failure to perform work after being paid, according to the BBB.

He was arrested in Lincoln County on June 15 and is currently out on bail. After the BBB received several complaints from consumers, the Charlotte-based agency launched an investigation into the company. Results alleged that Weir had defrauded 25 homeowners in eight counties in North Carolina and South Carolina out of more than \$100,000. Investigations are in progress in Gaston and Cleveland counties.

Weir Builders had 11 unanswered complaints in 2008 and 17 total complaints in the last 36 months. The BBB has given Weir Builders an "F" grade.

In 2008, consumers filed 14,972 complaints against businesses in the southern piedmont area of NC and SC with the BBB. "Although 85 percent of these complaints were resolved satisfactorily, there are businesses in our area that do not respond to consumer complaints in a timely manner, if at all," said Tom Bartholomy, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau of Southern Piedmont. "The businesses that have made the BBB's Dirty Dozen list have the most unanswered complaints in 2008 which earns them the BBB's worst possible rating."

To see the complete list or for more information, visit www.bbb.org or call the BBB toll-free in NC and SC at 1-877-317-7236.

Food inspections

Cleveland County Health Department inspected the following restaurants, food stands, and school cafeterias during the week of Jan. 5-9. **denotes 2 extra points added to the final score when an employee working at the facility has attended an approved food handling course.

RESTAURANTS

Asian Buffet, Shelby Road, Kings Mountain, 95.0, smoke free, 1/5/09.

Holiday Inn Express KM, 96.0 smoke free, 1/07/09.

Pizza Hut, Kings Mountain, 97.0,** smoke free, 1/7/09.

Silver Villa Kings Mountain, 94.5, 12/12/08

Sub-Factory, W. Gold St., Kings Moun-

tain, 101.5**, smoke free, 1/06/09.

McDonald's, York Rd., Kings Mountain, 97.0** 1/8/09.

Kings Mountain Country Club, 95.0, smoke free, 1/08/09.

Taco Bell, York Road, Kings Mountain, 95.0, smoke free, 1/07/09.

FOOD STANDS

Linwood Family Restaurant, Kings Mountain, 96.5, 1/06/09

Little Caesar's Pizza, Kings Mountain, 92.5,** smoke free, 1/07/09/

SCHOOL CAFETERIAS

East Elementary, Kings Mountain, 101.0**, smoke free, 1/06/09

Jefferson Elementary, Shelby, 101.5**, smoke free, 1/08/09

MURDER

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had returned home to find that he had been burglarized and to find his girlfriend, Kimberly Francis Pagano, lying on the floor of their bedroom at 306 Compact School Road, according to reports.

Pagano was pronounced dead at the scene. Authorities said that she appeared to have been shot.

But it was unknown as of press time if the wound officers found was the cause of death. Her body was sent to the State Medical Examiner's Office in Charlotte for autopsy.

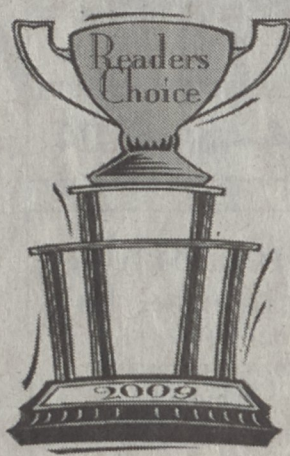
Sheriff's detectives and crime scene investigators and personnel from the State Bureau of Investigation Evidence Response Team are conducting the investigation. Several interviews, including one with Odums, have been conducted at the Sheriff's department.

"Detectives are following up on leads as they become available," according to a report from the CCSD. "No arrests have yet been made in this case."

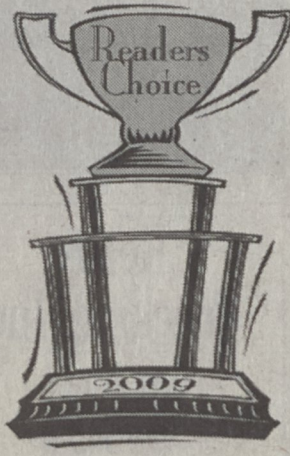
The incident is still under investigation.

The couple had been living at the address for about a month.

Sheriff's detectives request anyone with information in this case to contact the department at 704-484-4888 or Crime Stoppers at 704-481-TIPS.



VOTE Your Favorite!



Tell us who your favorites are in the categories below and you could win a *Memories...A Place Called Home* collectors edition coffee table book. The Kings Mountain Herald is holding our annual Readers Choice Awards in which you, the newspaper readers, nominate your favorites in the following categories. In March we will run a very special publication announcing who you have chosen as the Reader's Choice for the Favorite in each category. One lucky person, whose ballot will be drawn from all of those submitted by the deadline of February 9th, will win a *Memories...A Place Called Home* coffee table book!

KINGS MOUNTAIN HERALD - READERS CHOICE BALLOT

(Only one answer per category, please)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1) Favorite Boss | 19) Favorite Local Dentist | 37) Favorite Heating and Air | 55) Favorite Auto Repair Shop |
| 2) Favorite Place to Work | 20) Favorite Cosmetic Dentistry | 38) Favorite Pest Control | 56) Favorite Auto Body Shop |
| 3) Favorite School (Elem., Jr., High) | 21) Favorite Orthodontist | 39) Favorite Plumber | 57) Favorite Animal Hospital |
| 4) Favorite Teacher | 22) Favorite Local Eye Doctor | 40) Favorite Electrician | 58) Favorite Veterinarian |
| 5) Favorite Local College or University | 23) Favorite Chiropractor | 41) Favorite Home Builder | 59) Favorite Grocery Store |
| 6) Favorite Pastor | 24) Favorite Home Health Service | 42) Favorite Appliance Dealer | 60) Favorite Discount Store |
| 7) Favorite Church Youth Director | 25) Favorite Local Pharmacy/Drug Store | 43) Favorite Hardware Store | 61) Favorite Video Store |
| 8) Favorite Fish Camp | 26) Favorite Funeral Home | 44) Favorite Furniture Store | 62) Favorite Pawn Shop |
| 9) Favorite Steak House | 27) Favorite Bank | 45) Favorite Carpet/Flooring Dealer | 63) Favorite Fitness Center |
| 10) Favorite Pizza | 28) Favorite Savings & Loan | 46) Favorite Carpet Cleaner | 64) Favorite Bridal/Formal Shop |
| 11) Favorite Fast Food | 29) Favorite Investment Broker | 47) Favorite Lawn & Garden Store | 65) Favorite Photographer |
| 12) Favorite Bar-B-Q | 30) Favorite Tax Service | 48) Favorite Landscaping/Mower Service | 66) Favorite Hair Salon/Barber Shop |
| 13) Favorite Iced Tea | 31) Favorite Insurance Office | 49) Favorite Home Improvement Company | 67) Favorite Jewelry Store |
| 14) Favorite Fried Chicken | 32) Favorite Insurance Agent | 50) Favorite Security-System Company | 68) Favorite Nail Salon |
| 15) Favorite Catering Service | 33) Favorite Accountant | 51) Favorite Mini Storage | 69) Favorite Gift Store |
| 16) Favorite Golf Course | 34) Favorite Lawyer | 52) Favorite New Car Dealer | 70) Favorite Dry Cleaner |
| 17) Favorite Family Doctor | 35) Favorite Real Estate Firm | 53) Favorite Used Car Dealer | 71) Favorite Child Care |
| 18) Favorite Hospital | 36) Favorite Real Estate Agent | 54) Favorite Tire Store | 72) Favorite Assisted Living |

Fill out the information below and mail to: Reader's Choice, c/o The Kings Mountain Herald, PO Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 or bring by our office located at 700 E. Gold St., Kings Mountain, NC. Must be postmarked and delivered no later than 5:00 pm on February 9, 2009.

Name _____
 Age _____ Phone # _____
 Address _____

Must be 18 years old or older to participate. Only one entry per person will be accepted. Ballots received after the deadline of 5:00pm February 9, 2009 will not be counted. No purchase necessary to participate. No photo copied ballots will be accepted. Original copies available at the newspaper office at no charge. Winner will be notified by phone. Poll is a general survey of readership who choose to participate. Votes will be tabulated by newspaper staff and all decisions are final. No recounts can or will be conducted. All rights pertaining to this contest/ survey are reserved by Gemini Newspapers, Inc. Ballots must be at least 75% completed (**at least 40 categories filled in**) to be counted. Ballots that are not legible or without all of the necessary contact information completed will be disqualified.