



Rotary rallies to send WWII heroes to War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

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Left, WWII veterans, l-r, Wilson Griffin, James Ingle, Sidney Dixon, Ed Campbell.

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# Kings Mountain Herald 50¢

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No business like 'show' business



Business Showcase honors Revolutionary War with 50 exhibits from different businesses.

## Business Showcase kicks off at City Hall Steve Padgett named Businessman of the Year

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
staff writer

Kings Mountain Businessman of the Year is Steve Padgett, a prominent realtor long associated with Gateway Properties and active Rotarian.

Padgett was recognized as the Cleveland County Chamber kicked off the 11th annual Kings Mountain Business Showcase to a large crowd of spectators Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the lobby area of Kings Mountain City Hall.

"Steve Padgett, board chairman of the Chamber in 2008, has done a phenomenal amount of work for the Cleveland Chamber as a volunteer for a number of years and is most deserving

of the honor," said Shirley Brutko, executive director of the Kings Mountain Branch of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce.

The Showcase is open to the public during City Hall business hours through March 20 and features 50 exhibits of local and area businesses outlining services available to all age citizens ranging from health to entertainment and education and focusing on the "Historic Revolution Theme 2009." The 1780 battle theme is featured in detail by exhibitors using wall mountings, drawings of local people in colonial attire, colorful flags, and replica mountings of Mountain Men in battle regalia.

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Steve Padgett  
"Businessman of the Year"

## 'Laughter through tears' a favorite emotion 'Steel Magnolias' continues at Joy

By EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

Kings Mountain Little Theatre's "Steel Magnolias" opened Friday night in front of a large crowd. It ended with a standing ovation.

And in the words of Linda Nichols, playing "Truvy", "laughter through tears" seemed to be the favorite emotion of the night. The play continues for two final performances at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Joy Performing Arts Center. Tickets will be sold at the box office for \$10 general admission and \$8 - senior citizens and students. Reservations can be made by calling KMLT at 704-730-9408 or at www.kmlt.org

The players, all volunteer actresses from different professions, were under the direction of Betsy Wells, retired head of the Drama department at Kings Mountain High. None of the ladies received any monetary compensation for their talents Friday night, but they were showered with "gold" when it came to the applause.

Janey Ollis, who began as an understudy, was pulled in to play the role of "Annelle", a troubled, wild child turned "born-again Christian." She only had about two weeks to memorize her lines and apparently two weeks were all she needed. She delivered them with ease and confidence.



Left to right, Linda Nichols, Ginger Bullock, Janey Ollis, Vivian Duncan, and Janet Sims act out a scene from Friday night's "Steel Magnolias."

But she almost lost her "baby", a pouch to make her look pregnant underneath her barber's smock in the last scene, from laughing so hard after an unexpected blower. The audience and the cast couldn't help but laugh when one expletive was accidentally replaced with another.

Erika Wood made her KMLT debut Friday night as "Shelby." But it was obvious that she has had a lot of practice on the stage. Her performance was masterful.

Ginger Bullock, who has appeared on the KMLT stage before, played M'Lynn perfectly. Her monologue after the death of "Shelby" was both heart-warming and heart-wrenching as she drew the audience in to feel the character's pain.

Long-time actress Janet Sims was perfect for the

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**Little Caesar's robbed**

## Police need help in finding 'Pizza! Pizza!' crooks

Little Caesars Pizza, 501 E. King St., was robbed Monday night at 9:36 p.m. by two men wearing bandanas over their faces and armed with a small caliber handgun.

Det. Sgt. Lisa Proctor said both suspects are black males possibly in early to mid 20s.

One suspect was approximately 6 feet- 6'1 in height and weighed approximately 170 pounds. He was wearing red pants and a black shirt with white and black tennis shoes with a design on them. The other male was approximately 5 feet 8 inches to 6 feet tall approximately 160 pounds and was wearing a white hooded type sweat shirt with dark pants and black shoes.

No one was injured in the incident.

If anyone has information please contact the Kings Mountain Police Department at 704-734-0444.



photo by EMILY WEAVER  
Alliance Bank & Trust, still a family bank. President Dan Ayscue stands with his family, front row, l-r, Emma, 7, Reese, 6; back row, l-r, Devin, 12, Gina and Dan Ayscue.

## Ayscue named president of Alliance Bank & Trust, Bank to merge with 1st Financial

By EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

Dan Ayscue, of Kings Mountain, officially became chief executive officer and president of Alliance Bank & Trust Financial Corp. last week. A surprise party was held in his honor at Alliance Bank & Trust on Battleground Avenue in Kings Mountain last Friday night.

At 44 years old, he joked that he may be the youngest president of any banking institution in North Carolina and the shortest tenured. It was announced last week that AB&T Financial Corp. will be merging with 1st Financial Services Corp., the parent company of Mountain 1st Bank, in Hendersonville. Once the merger takes full effect, Ayscue will become vice president of the conglomeration. Closing of the merger is expected to occur in the second or third quarter of 2009, depending on approval of shareholders and regulators.

But he said that he isn't bothered by the fact that he may only be president for a couple of quarters. Ayscue said he would gladly give up his title for the good of the bank and the communities they serve. He views this merger as a positive step in all directions.

"We're very excited about the merger," Ayscue said.

He has been in the banking business since 1989. Ayscue graduated top of his class from Appalachian State University with a major in banking and began his career with BB&T through its commercial lending program. In Oct. 2004 he decided to branch out with some co-workers and friends to start Alliance Bank & Trust.

The group began with two offices, one in Shelby and the other in Gastonia. The Kings Mountain branch opened on March 28, 2008, around the same time that a fourth Alliance office opened in Gastonia. With a total of four branches, approximately \$170 million in assets and \$24.5 million in tangible common equity, the group will join 1st Financial, which operates 15 branches throughout western North Carolina.

Together, the merged financial group's "vault" will hold approximately \$880 million in assets, supported by \$71

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