

INSIDE



Browns honor Jonas Bridges, Mrs. Winnie Robinson pass away

Page 5A

Meet Seneca Sue

8B

Harris Funeral Home
 Locally Owned & Operated Since 1947
 A Family Tradition of Dignity, Service & Understanding
 108 S. Piedmont Ave. Kings Mountain, NC
 739-2591

CAR-RT LOT C 003
 307 08-06-10 0024A00 4P 3S
 MAUNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY
 100 S PIEDMONT AVE
 KINGS MOUNTAIN NC 28086-3450

Kings Mountain Herald

50¢

Volume 122 • Issue 6 • Wednesday, February 10, 2010

HELPING HANDS

KMHS raises money for Haitian family

By EMILY WEAVER
 Editor

A Haitian family with ties to Kings Mountain is in danger and KMHS teacher Dan Potter is seeking donations to help them.

Jean Constant fled Haiti with his family in June 2001. Their lives were in danger so they sought refuge in the United States of America.

For a few years, they lived without fear in the land of the free. Jean and Maggie Constant's second son, Daniel, was born here—an American citizen. Their first son, Junior, started school here.

Jean became head soccer coach for the men's varsity and the women's junior varsity teams at Kings Mountain High School. The family attended regular worship services at their church, the Kings Mountain House of Prayer. It was a good life, but their welcome was about to expire.

The Constants were in the country on a vacation visa and the courts said that vacation was over in 2004. The family petitioned the government for political



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD
 KMHS 9th grader Jason Dawkins, left, buys a snow cone from seniors Lindsey Wright and Jaris Williams, who are helping raise money for a Haitian family with ties to Kings Mountain.

asylum. In Haiti, a country then wracked by political unrest, corruption and poverty, Maggie spoke out against the government on the radio. But free speech is not a right granted in Haiti. The Constants received threatening phone calls. And one day, while Maggie was taking Junior, then

about four years old, to the doctor, they were pulled over by the Haitian police. The officer had his gun drawn and ordered Maggie out of the car, according to KMHS Civics and Economics teacher Dan Potter, who coached soccer at the school for many years and still keeps in contact with his friends, the Constants.

Maggie refused. She locked the car doors and started beating the horn to draw a crowd, Potter said. "The police shot her tire and left." After that harrowing encounter they fled to the U.S., they told the judge. But since they had no hard evidence, no police report

See HAITI, 3A

IN THE RUNNING

And they're off

By ELIZABETH STEWART
 Staff Writer

The 2010 election season heated up on the first day of filing Monday as nine candidates for more than 15 elected positions threw their hats in the ring by paying filing fees at the Cleveland County Board of Elections.

Alan Norman of Lawndale, one of three hopefuls for the sheriff's seat, was the first to arrive at 7:10 a.m. and he brought along a contingent of supporters in one of the biggest turnouts.

Elections Director Debra Blanton said she had seen a sign she said that citizens are getting excited about the May primary and the race for sheriff which is highlighting this election year contests.

Chief deputy Danny Gordon of Lawndale and retired State Highway patrolman Michael Chapman of Shelby, also Democrats, who like Norman announced for sheriff early in the fall, filed Monday morning.

Filing for re-election on Monday were N.C. Rep. Tim Moore (R) of Kings Mountain for House District 111 and N.C. Senator Debbie Clary (R) of Cherryville for Senate District 46.

See RACE, 3A



ALAN NORMAN



DANNY GORDON



MIKE CHAPMAN

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

International tubing company to make first U.S. home in KM

By ELIZABETH STEWART
 Staff Writer

Solaris Industries Inc., an international manufacturer of steel tubing, will bring a potential of 40 jobs to Kings Mountain in the next three years and taxable investment of up to \$3.2 million.

"Project Bonjour"—the name given to the recruiting plan by city and county officials to land the new Canadian industry—was lauded Thursday as the French Connection to future development.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said the company will locate here at 133 Industrial Drive and is expected to serve an expanding U.S. market. The new industry will occupy the 100,000 square foot building previously home to Tube Enterprises and Commonwealth Aluminum, off Highway 161 South near I-85. While salaries will vary by function, the new positions will pay an average annual wage of \$32,080, not including benefits, which is higher than the Cleveland County annual wage of \$31,200.

Solaris Industries Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Delhi Solac Inc. of Canada and produces steel tubing for use in furniture, greenhouses, fencing, store displays, scaffolding, recreational equipment, garage doors, restaurant and hospital equipment, mechanical applications and the automotive industry.

The mayor said he is anxious for Canadian officials to come to Kings Mountain in

the next several months to hear more about their opening plans.

"We are excited," said city manager Marilyn Sellers. Given the county's 15.1 percent unemployment, she joined the mayor in being optimistic about more jobs for local people.

The new company will be a water, sewer and natural gas customer of the city.

Governor Beverly Purdue made the industrial announcement from Raleigh Thursday in connection with her announcement of a One North Carolina Fund Grant to aid the project.

Last week county commissioners approved an incentive grant and city council is expected to follow suit Feb. 23.

In a press release issued from the governor's office Cleveland County officials joined city officials in welcoming the new industry.

"We have been working to recruit this viable company to Cleveland County since May 2009, its first United States subsidiary," said Kristin Fletcher, VP of Economic Development for the county's Economic Development Partnership. She added that because of the



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD
 Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey and City Manager Marilyn Sellers stand in front of the future home of Solaris Industries on Industrial Drive in Kings Mountain. Canadian officials are expected to come to Kings Mountain soon to announce opening plans.

available workforce and close proximity to Charlotte, one of the other major draws

for Solaris was that the facility in Kings Mountain con-

See COMPANY, 3A

'Drug heads' BEWARE

By ELIZABETH STEWART
 Staff Writer

KMPD Sgt Lisa Proctor is sending a message to "drug heads."

"Stay out of Kings Mountain, 'doctor shopping' won't pay off, we'll get you with the help of local pharmacists."

Kings Mountain Police made a total of 252 drug arrests last year, the majority of those charges prescription fraud and controlled substance fraud.

Proctor, who joined KMPD 18 years ago, is credited with 115 drug arrests last year.

Mayor Rick Murphrey commended Proctor Friday for her "commitment and passion in fighting crime."

"Lisa is an excellent Christian role model for young people to follow, not only through her police work but also her commitment to traditional family values and community service. Lisa has served the community with distinction demonstrating always her willingness to place her concern for the public good ahead of her personal interests."

Acknowledging the surprise commendation, Proctor took the occasion to commend local pharmacists and their employees for working closely with police in apprehending suspects.

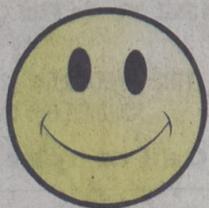
"Drug heads" use several means to obtain prescription drugs illegally. They say they are calling a pharmacy from a doctor's office. Alert and suspicious pharmacists call the doctor's office to verify, then run a check by tapping into a central data base and call police. Other 'patients' travel I-85 and doctor shop. One person may go to a doctor and a pharmacy with an insurance card, then go to another doctor and pharmacy and pay cash and/or copy a doctor's prescription pad or a computer facsimile and take it to a pharmacy. "They try all kinds of ways to get drugs," says Proctor.

One woman was arrested recently on one felony count of prescription fraud. Police followed up and booked her on 41 additional felony counts of obtaining a controlled substance by fraud.

Why the increase of prescription fraud in Kings Mountain?

Narcotics obtained illegally sell on the street for \$5 to \$10

See DRUGS, 4A



Happy Customers are Our Business!

209 S. Battleground Ave., Kings Mountain • 704.739.5411
 www.alliancebankandtrust.com • MEMBER FDIC

