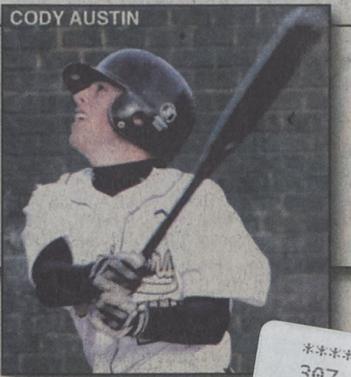


**Southern Arts Society opens new exhibit Sunday with featured artist Brenda Beard-Bostian B4**

**SPORTS 1B Austin's 3-run homer lifts KMHS over W. Lincoln**



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# Kings Mountain Herald

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## PIZZA DELIVERYMAN ROBBED AT GUNPOINT Police on look out for robber

Kings Mountain Police need the public's help in apprehending a suspect who robbed a Pizza Hut employee Thursday, March 4, at 9:45 p.m. Det. Cpl. S. D. Shockley said that the Pizza Hut employee was making a delivery on North Cansler Street when he was robbed at gunpoint by a man who walked from underneath a carport and demanded his wallet "and all the money." The victim handed over his wallet and the suspect told him to get into his car and leave. Police said the victim was not hurt and the suspect left the scene on foot. Police say the suspect is described as a black male 5'8" to 5'9" tall of medium build wearing a dark blue or black jacket or hoodie dark pants and dark bandana. Anyone with information may contact Cpl. S. D. Shockley at the Kings Mountain Police Department at 704-734-4581 or Crime Stoppers at 704-481-8477.

## City's \$82K grant to be used for QT plant renovation

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
 Staff writer

The City of Kings Mountain is the recipient of an \$82,678 grant from the N.C. Rural Development Center to renovate a former manufacturing building for reuse by the new Qual-Tech Industries, Inc. This company will create initially five new jobs for skilled workers. Mayor Rick Murphrey said that Pennsylvania businessman Jeff Latchaw is investing over \$2 million in state-of-the-art equipment and additions to the former Sterling Equipment building, located at the end of Quality Lane off NC 161 (York Road) to house the new industry. Qual-Tech produces machine parts for use in water treatment, food processing, airplane construction and other applications. Because of the downturn in the economy, the company will hire only five people initially but hopes to add 25 or 30 employees in the next 12-18 months. Latchaw has purchased a 60,000 pound (30 ton) state-of-the-art piece of high-tech, highly efficient machining equipment that will be moved to Kings Mountain. The employees will

See GRANT, 3A

## Could new city zoning law banish sweepstakes?

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
 Staff writer

An emergence of gaming establishments has city officials mapping out a strategy about how to regulate them, as lawmakers and state courts debate whether the businesses are legal. Kings Mountain City Council will get its first look at a proposed new zoning amendment for amusement video game arcades, including Internet cafes and businesses (including retail) with sweepstakes-gaming machines and the like, at public hearing at the 6 p.m. meeting April 27.

After reviewing a draft text amendment that has been in the works since City Council announced last December a six month's moratorium on new sweepstakes operations, the Kings Mountain Planning & Zoning Board Tuesday night recommended City Council call for a public hearing at its March 30 meeting for a vote on April 27. Planning Director Steve Killian said the board looked at differences between sweepstakes gaming/gambling and legitimate cyber and internet cafes. The board also looked at the impact of these businesses on

other businesses, churches, schools and residential areas and their impact on other matters of public safety. The recommended text amendment to the city ordinance implements stringent local regulations on new sweepstakes operations. These include a maximum of three machines per business allowed within the city limits, and their location including 200 feet from a residential zone, 200 feet from a church, 300 feet from a school and 300 feet from other similar businesses. No sweepstakes gaming/gambling businesses are allowed in downtown nor in

the overlay districts which protect the main corridors into the city. The amendment also spells out the definitions and distinguishes between an internet cafe and sweepstakes operations. Killian said that a conditional use permit would be required of non-conforming existing and new businesses. The amended zoning means that those non-conforming businesses affected must comply with all the requirements of city ordinances, including the conditional use permit, or shut down by October /November 2010.



County unites to save youth  
 Worship Pastor Jeff Renn, right, talks to business leaders and ministers about the upcoming Nicky Cruz Outreach.

## Local pastors seek help to reach teens

Former warlord Nicky Cruz coming to speak May 1 at fairgrounds

EMILY WEAVER/HERALD  
 Editor

"Run Baby Run" – Nicky Cruz is coming and the time is right. Ten out of 53 students in a recent random and voluntary survey in Kings Mountain said that the gang lifestyle is attractive to them. What does this mean for Kings Mountain and what can we do about it? According to Kings Mountain police, who conducted the survey in Sept. 2007, the number one reason why students said they steer away from the gang lifestyle is "religion". That same word was mentioned again as the second top answer when asked what

See TEENS, 3A

## CRIME WATCH Police check out new scam

Fraudulent money orders, employment ad looked genuine

By EMILY WEAVER  
 Editor

White collar crimes, including identity thefts, are on the rise and, each year, the criminals seem to employ new tactics to swindle and rob the citizenry. A few years ago, the Kings Mountain Police remember investigating a case or two of "Nigerian scams" that conned people through emails or letters which claimed they had inherited money or won a lottery. The "inheritance" was from a person the victim had never met. The lottery jackpots were from games never played and usually from countries the victim had never visited. But the enticement came in a check that looked genuine. The scammer would often tell the victim, "Keep your portion of the check and wire us back the amount shown for handling fees". By the time the check was determined to be "no good" some victims had already spent some of the money. The banks held them responsible. But the crime that sat on Det. Sgt. Lisa

See SCAM, 4A

### CARD-CARRYING SAFETY TIPS

## Police: protect yourself from identity theft

By EMILY WEAVER  
 Editor

A new kind of card fraud called "debit-card skimming" has put financial institutions and law enforcement around the country on edge. With specialized equipment thieves are able to capture the magnetic stripe and keypad information, which leads to PIN numbers, when a debit card is used at an ATM machine, gas pump or other retailer. KM Police Det. Sgt. Chris Moore said that he has not heard of anything like this happening in the city and no cases involving debit-card skimming have been reported to the department. But identity theft is a serious crime.

Although there are several tricks a thief can use to steal that identity, there are also several safety tips a person can use to reduce the risk of theft. Sgt. Moore advised that if you are worried about debit-card skimming, use the ATM at your bank. Watch what you are doing and who is around, he added. Det. Sgt. Lisa Proctor added that if you use the ATM at your bank and the machine keeps your card or you notice anything suspicious you will be able to go inside and report it to the bank. Proctor and Moore also advise folks to monitor bank statements con-

See SAFETY, 5A

## Keller sets off for 2nd tour of Iraq

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
 staff writer

There were a lot of hugs and "best wishes" for Kings Mountain serviceman SSG John Vincent Keller, 25, last Thursday as he left home for Iraq. Keller said his second deployment by the NC National Guard to Iraq will be "different but a challenge." Keller, a medic, will be "responsible," he said, for 22 other soldiers working with him during the next year but he's optimistic, he said, at a family 'bon voyage' party in the Community Room at Kings Mountain Hospital. The military is no stranger to the Keller family. Vincent follows in the footsteps of both his father and uncle, both career soldiers in the North Carolina National Guard.



SSG Vincent Keller with his grandmother, Patricia Brown, seated, and his mother, Deana Hamrick.

His father, Jimmy Poovey, now lives in Gastonia but his uncle, Wade Poovey, is still a member of the Guard and it was during young Keller's first assignment in Iraq that he "ran into Uncle Wade." After graduating from Kings Mountain High School at age 17, Vincent joined the

See KELLER, 4A

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