

# Teens drivers get sobering message

by ELIZABETH STEWART  
staff writer

Cars and alcohol don't mix. Speed kills. Teens die every day in teen-driven vehicles.

This was the message by State Trooper P. W. Glover and other speakers at a Safe Teens program sponsored by the Cleveland County Safe Kids Thinkfirst Coalition at Kings Mountain High School recently.

"If you're under 21 and stopped by a law enforcement officer and suspected of alcohol use you could be charged with DWI but also lost your provisional license. And, if someone in your car has a beer you are responsible for the vehicle under your control. The laws are tough," said Glover to members of the KMHS Driver's Education Class.

"Impaired driving means zero alcohol in your system, slow down, you don't have to drive the speed limit. Most wrecks are caused because drivers are not paying attention and rear end collisions and fatalities happen," he added.

Students wanted to know if one beer affects driving ability. It depends on the person and how much food has been consumed.

Another student asked if an underage person could go to an ABC store with someone to purchase alcohol. You are underage and it's a violation.

"We hear about DWI and drugs and that's bad but the No. 1 cause of wrecks is

speed," said Glover. A crash occurs every 5 seconds. A crash related injury occurs every 12 seconds. A crash related fatality occurs every 12 minutes.

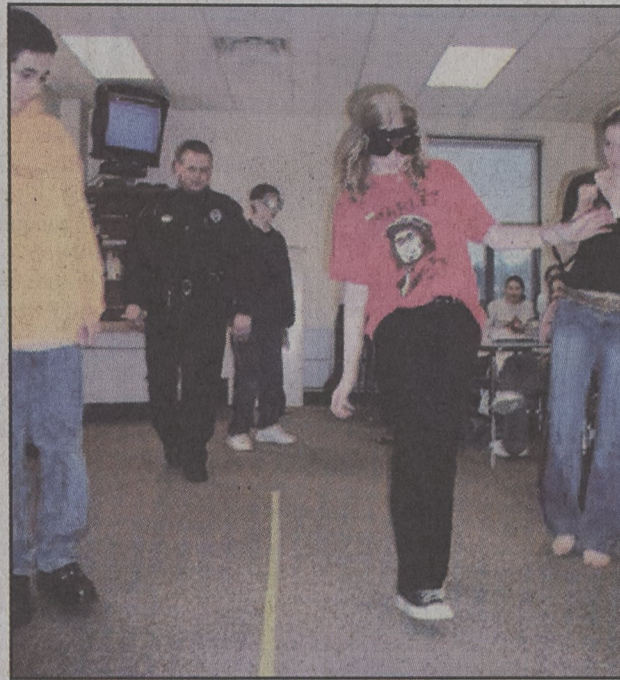
Police report that crashes involving 15-20 year old drivers costs over \$40 billion a year and North Carolina averages 4 crash fatalities every day.

Since 2005 students in driver's education in the county's four high schools participate in a three hour class for Safe Kids. Emergency room nurses talk for an hour about destructive decisions that teens make while driving (drinking and drugs-prescription and non-prescription) drowsy driving, distracted driving, inattention, inexperience) and the medical consequences of their actions.

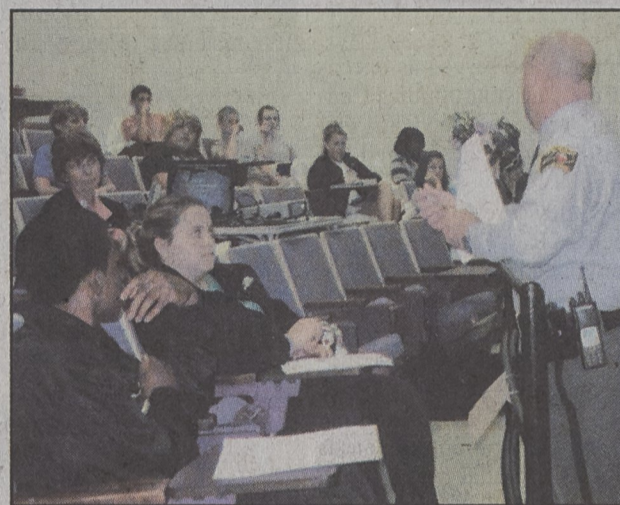
EMS talks for an hour and sets up a mock crash scene. This shows what happens before, during and after a crash. Then, law enforcement talks for an hour about the legal consequences of their actions. They arrest the driver of the mock crash vehicle and talk about his/her journey through the legal system.

This interactive program piques the teen's interest as they also hear from a trauma surgeon and about what it's like to take care of crash victims and the sadness of having to tell a parent they have lost a child to a crash that did not have to happen.

A wrecked vehicle involved in the fatal crash of a



Simulation of drunk driving by a student wearing Fatal Vision goggles in a Safe Kids Class.



Trooper P. W. Glover lectures in a Safe Kids program to the KMHS Driver's Education Class at Kings Mountain High School.

teenager and parked outside Barnes Auditorium got the class attention because it hit close to home when they learned the student who died in the crash was a Cleveland County student. They also read class scenarios that happened in Cleveland County. At one point during the session 10

students represented teen victims of crashes, wore morgue tags and sat in an area of the classroom called the "dead zone."

Other hands-on activities included exercises with the Fatal Vision goggles that simulate drunk driving.

SAFETEens Thinkfirst is brought to the county's high

schools by Safe Kids Cleveland County led by Cleveland HealthCare Foundation. Dr. Jon Brownlee is chairman of the coalition and Dr. Mike Barringer is past chair. Safe Kids coordinators are Joan Mabry and Judy Hawkins. Beginning teen drivers in North Carolina must complete 30 hours of class-

room instruction in drivers' education and six hours behind-the-wheel instruction with a certified driving instructor before obtaining a limited learner permit under the Graduated Licensing Program. Six of the 30 hours of classroom instruction must cover alcohol and drug use prevention.

## KMHS musicians invited to perform at Carnegie Hall

Kings Mountain High School's Symphonic Chorale and Men's Select, under the direction of Sarah Fulton, have been invited to perform at Festival at Carnegie Hall in New York City, one of the premier music festivals in the world.

Only select choirs, bands and orchestras are invited to perform in this world-renowned venue.

The KMHS ensemble won a Gold rating for superior performance during the

Nashville 2010 Heritage Festival, earning them an invitation to perform at Carnegie Hall in 2011 or 2012.

Over the past year, thousands of students from hundreds of schools have competed for the opportunity to perform at the Festival at Carnegie Hall and Festival of Gold. This elite performance showcases only the best music ensembles from around the country.

## KMHS band at Disney

The Kings Mountain High School Symphonic Band performed at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida April 30.

They are among millions of performers including dance groups, chorus, ensembles and marching bands from around the

world who have performed each year as part of Disney Performing Arts at both the Disney World and Walt Disney World Resorts. The local group performed at Waterside Stage for an international audience of theme park guests.

## Band concert May 20

The Kings Mountain High School 9th Grade band and Blazer Band will present their annual spring concert on Thursday, May 20, at 7:30 p.m. The concert will feature contemporary band literature, as well as pop and show selections and classical transcriptions. The concert will also honor the senior members of the band for their service to the

organization over the last six years.

The Kings Mountain Middle School 7th Grade and 8th Grade bands will present their concert on Thursday, June 3.

Each concert is free and open to the public and will be held in B.N. Barnes Auditorium on the KMHS campus.

# Specialized surgical care that's close to home.

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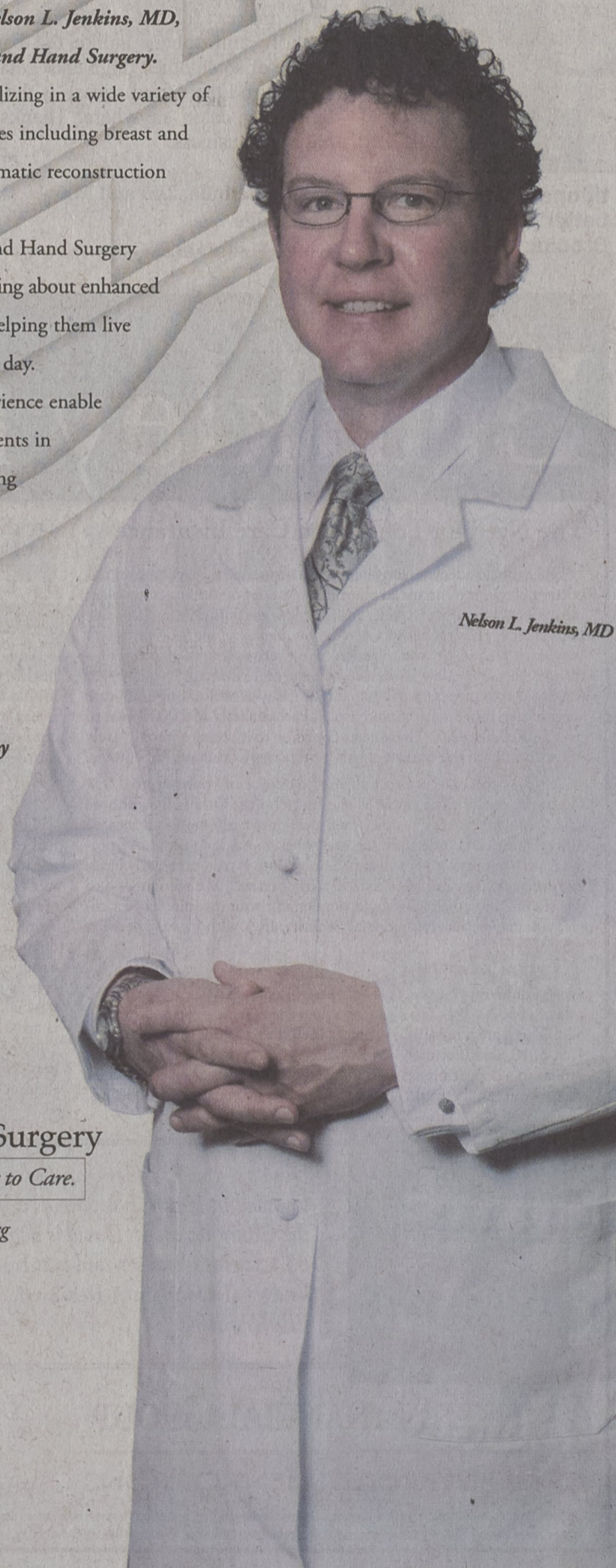


photo by LIB STEWART

MISS POPPY - Abigail Wray, 9, daughter of Nickie and Rodney Paulson of Kings Mountain, receives a donation for veterans from Mayor Rick Murphy as Myrtle Christenson, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 155 poppy chairman looks on. Abbey, a fourth grade AIG student and A student at West School, hopes to raise more funds in the upcoming Memorial Day weekend fund drive than her sister, Alley, a 6th grader, raised as Miss Poppy 2008. Auxiliary members will be in front of Food Lion on E. King Street asking citizens to wear a poppy beginning May 27. The crepe paper poppies are handmade by hospitalized veterans.

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