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# Kings Mountain Herald

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## Top of the Class



photo by EMILY WEAVER  
Bryan Vincent Moffitt, valedictorian, and Sarah Elizabeth Smith, salutatorian, are the top scholars among the 256 graduates receiving diplomas at KMHS commencement exercises Wednesday (tonight) at 8 p.m. in John Gamble Football Stadium.

## Moffitt, Smith to lead address

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Staff writer

Thirteen years of school prepared them for a future Bryan Moffitt and Sarah Elizabeth Smith look forward to as they and the KMHS Class of 2010 receive their diplomas tonight (Wednesday) at John Gamble Football Stadium.

Moffitt, in his valedictory address, will talk about how the people in his life made graduation important and Smith, in her salutatory address, will emphasize that prepared young people become successful adults.

This fall Bryan Moffitt will enroll as a freshman at N.C. State University where his older brother, Bradley, receives his degree in December. Bryan plans to double major in Human Biology and Anthropology. Two days after high school graduation he will leave for Canada on a mission trip with other youth from First Baptist Church of Shelby, where he is an active member. They plan to minister to refugees, lead Bible studies and classes in English as a second language, among other activities.

Sarah Smith plans to enroll this fall at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tenn. For the next two weeks she will be busy with her family packing and moving to Dickson, Tenn., an hour away from the school she plans to attend.

"It's with mixed emotions," she says, about the family's plans to move after 14 years in Kings Mountain. Her dad, Dr. Jeff Smith, has practiced medicine at Caromont Family Medicine on Cleveland Avenue in Kings Mountain and her mother, Lisa Huffman Smith, has worked at Fesenius Metrolina Kidney Center as a social worker. Sarah has a 14-year-old sister, Anna. The family has been active in Kings Mountain First Church of the Nazarene.

Moffitt's father, Steve, is a retired KMHS teacher, coach and assistant principal at Kings Mountain High and his mother, Beverly Lynch Moffitt, is a 7th grade teacher

See ADDRESS, 3A

## BUDGET

## Public hearing set for Tuesday

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Staff writer

Public hearing on the city's \$32,476,709 budget for 2010-2011 will be conducted by Kings Mountain City Council Tuesday night at 6 p.m. at city hall.

The proposed budget is available for public review at city hall and includes no property tax increase and no major increases other than the water/sewer hike - 15% for water and 35% for sewer - approved by council effective May 1.

City Manager Marilyn Sellers is proposing a budget down nearly a half million dollars (\$32,967,966) from 2009-2011.

By law the budget must be adopted by June 30.

A second public hearing to receive input on development of a Community Development Block grant

See HEARING, 3A

## READY TO MARCH

## 256 to graduate tonight

Diplomas will be presented to 256 Kings Mountain High School graduating seniors Wednesday (tonight) at 8 p.m. in John Gamble Football Stadium.

The KMHS 9th Grade Band will play "Pomp and Circumstance" as the seniors march into the stadium.

Officers of the KMHS Senior class will take part in the finals exercises.

The pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States will be led by Vina Sananikone, class vice president; Student Participation Organization president Diana Phanthalack will give the welcome.

The Symphonic Chorale, under the direction of Sarah Fulton, will sing "Maybe Someday" and Senior Class president Ashley Lauren Ray will introduce the class. Sofia Ariana Lopez, class secretary, will recognize honor graduates.

Bryan Vincent Moffitt will present the valedictory address after which Principal Ronny Funderburke will make remarks



Just like these KMHS graduates who took the field in 2005, the Class of 2010 will march out tonight to accept diplomas - 13 years in the making.

FILE PHOTO/J. BRYMER

and class treasurer Akosua Nyarko Boakye, class treasurer, will present the class gift to the school.

Sarah Elizabeth Smith, salutatorian, will speak before presentation of the diplomas by Funderburke, assisted by Mrs. Kathy Falls, member of the Cleveland County Board of Education. Commencement will end with a final presentation of the graduating class by Funderburke.

## Back from Iraq

## Ruff has 'no complaints'



SP4 Daniel Ruff driving a truck in Iraq.

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Staff writer

"Hey, it's a job and we can do it. I can't complain," says an upbeat SP4 Daniel Ruff. He served the past year with Heavy Weapons Squad C Company Airborne Infantry in Baghdad and Salmon Pak, Iraq.

The 23-year-old Kings Mountain Gunner patterns his upbeat attitude after his grandfather, Abe Ruff, a retired Green Beret who always says, "I'm fantastic" - whatever his situation in life.

Ruff currently trains in the field - a tough assignment day and night - with his Unit at Fort Bragg ready at an 18 hour notice for another deployment possibly to Afghanistan.

The 6'4" Kings Mountain soldier lost 10 pounds during his 12 months in Iraq and said he aged about 10 years. Training Iraqi soldiers to defend the country's new democratic system - still foreign to some - can be stressful.

"The Iraqis believe Allah will guide their bullet and so they don't aim," he said of the soldiers his unit helped train.

The Iraqi military respect American soldiers, says Ruff. But "the civilians are tired of us," he added.

A car hit a wall at the Charlotte Motor Speedway during a NASCAR race Ruff attended recently and it was so loud that Ruff, who was in the stands, said it sounded just like an IED (Improvised Explosive Device). His thoughts traveled back to the Middle East.

"Iraq is an entirely different culture, you just can't believe it until you see it," he said last weekend. He came home from Fayetteville to at

See RUFF, 4A

## Never missed a day

## Llewellyn has 13 years of perfect attendance

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Staff writer

Chasity Llewellyn's record of school attendance is perfect. She never missed a day in 13 years in the classroom.

Was she ever tardy? Did she ever want to play hooky and sleep late? "No" to both questions.

"I love school," says Llewellyn, a KMHS graduating senior who plans to enroll in the fall at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee and pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. In the meantime, she has put her love of mathematics to work at Ingles of Bessemer City where she has been employed for the past year as bookkeeper.

Daughter of Samantha and Jerry Llewellyn of Kings Mountain, Chasity has played alto saxophone since 7th grade in the Kings Mountain School Bands. She has also been active in the National Honor Society, the

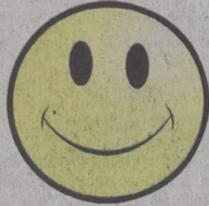


CHASITY LLEWELLYN

See PERFECT, 4A



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