



Class of 2010 Graduation 8A

Mark Latham to return as defensive coordinator at KMHS

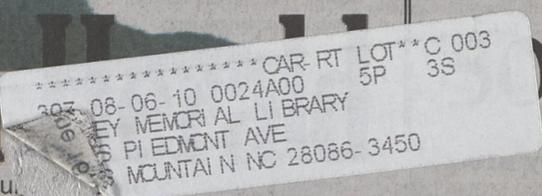


KM football great Calvin Stephens dies at 42
Sports 1B

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Update on fatality DA says 'Accident not a Crime'

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff writer

"The event was clearly a tragic accident, not a crime," says Cleveland County District Attorney Rick Shaffer of the 1:55 a.m. fatality on Barnette Drive May 21 in which Larry Bernard Smith Jr., 30, of 204-B West King St., died when, according to a completed State Highway Patrol probe, fell from the open bed of a moving pickup truck and was struck by a KMPD patrol car driven by Ptl. Thomas Bell, a part-time officer.

Shaffer said that the State of North Carolina will not be seeking criminal charges against either the driver of the truck, Julius Keith Pagan, 40, of 209 Waco Rd., or the Kings Mountain police officer who hit Mr. Smith after he fell from the vehicle.

"From the report it appears that Mr. Smith was riding on the back of a truck and fell off onto the roadway as the truck was turning on to another road at an intersection. The truck was being followed by the police officer for investigative purposes at the time Mr. Smith fell from the truck," said Shaffer.

Other passengers in the truck, two of whom were riding in the bed of the truck with Smith, were Sterling Bess, 33, of 204 W King St., Apt. B, Steve Bernard Hamrick, 20, of 1006 N. Cansler St., and Gerald Anthony Smith, 30, of 523 Cleveland Avenue.

See ACCIDENT, 3A

Creating a new vision for downtown

Community forum looks at strengths, weaknesses, economic drivers to form rallying cry for future

By EMILY WEAVER
Editor

Great schools, an active art scene, recreational opportunities, city events, historical ties, and "location, location, location" made several lists for "economic drivers" at last week's Economic Visioning forum hosted by Mountaineer Partnership and the North Carolina Main Street staff at The Woods End.

More than 50 people attended the forum that will, ultimately help shape the future of downtown Kings Mountain. Parceled off in seven groups of about six, community members of all ages and backgrounds went to work, jotting down the key elements that attract people to the city.

Whether it was industry or tourism or an active theatre or hometown banks, the city seemed to make the list with a lot to offer.

After noting economic drivers, participants were asked to make a list of downtown Kings Mountain's strengths: the markers that pay tribute to history, the available buildings/architecture, Patriot's Park, downtown events, murals, lighting and safety, museum, library, arts center, Joy theatre, central location in city, the railroad, the pedestrian-friendly nature of downtown, etc.

But some of those pluses were echoed on the weaknesses list for down-

See FORUM, 7A



Mountaineer Partnership President Mitch Johnson discusses some of the ideas his group came up with at the forum.



Teams work on lists at the forum. E. WEAVER/HERALD

INSIDE

KMHS seniors get big awards...5A Splash into Summer Reading...8B

Tragedy on 74

Stowe death marks second pedestrian fatality in a week

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff writer

Richard Clark Stowe Jr., 31, of 161 Range Road, walking home after a Saturday evening shooting pool, became the second straight weekend fatality on the US 74 bypass Sunday, the third Kings Mountain man to die on the major highway during the past year and the second victim at the Oak Grove exit.

The accident remains under investigation by Kings Mountain Police.

Kings Mountain Police responded around 3:20 a.m. Sunday to a 'pedestrian struck call' on Highway 74 West near the Oak Grove exit. Upon officers arrival they found a man



CLARK STOWE

See TRAGEDY, 3A

A costly lesson

Five Kings Mountain youths learned a hard lesson this week - that crime doesn't pay. They will be spending time behind bars.

In Cleveland County Superior Court this week Judge Forrest Bridges sentenced Drayshawn Raymond Banner and Samuel Aleko Jenkins, both 16, to prison for the October 2009 robbery of Scott's Jewelry on N. Piedmont Avenue and the assault on the 77-year-old jewelry store owner. The judge also

sentenced Brandon Mills, 22, Kylie Ann Dorman, 22, and Stephen Edward Mills, 24, for the February 2010 robbery of Movie Gallery on E. King Street.

Brandon Scott Mills will serve six to eight years in prison, Dorman an active five month split sentence and Stephen Mills, who pled guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, will also serve time in prison for his role in

See LESSON, 3A



Rotarian Suzanne Amos shakes the hand of WWII veteran Connie Allison, while veteran Dave Saunders, right, looks on.

A Day of Honor

Rotary Club honors WWII heroes, man behind Flights of Honor

By EMILY WEAVER
Editor

Last week's meeting of the Kings Mountain Rotary Club was all about honor. The club honored veterans of World War II with a special ceremony. They honored the man, who inspired them to send those veterans on Flights of Honor to see their memorial in Washington, D.C. And the Rotarians were honored to have a new special flag to pledge allegiance to each week.

Special guests of the meeting were, WWII veterans Connie Allison, Glee Bridges, George Plonk, Sidney Dixon, Wilson Griffin, Dave Saunders, Paul Ham, Jr., Ed Campbell, G.L. McDaniel, Sam Adams, Thea Engle, Billy Benton, Bill Alexander; and, Honor Flight Network's Jeff Miller and wife



Jeff Miller of Honor Flight.

Tamara Miller.

In 2005, Jeff Miller, of Miller's Dry Cleaners in Hendersonville, said that his wife brought him an article in a newspaper that talked about a guy named Earl Morse of Ohio, who started the Honor Flight Network. Earl

See HONOR, 5A

City seeks more grants

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff writer

Editor's Note: The application for the 229 Battleground Ave. project was withdrawn late Tuesday. The Herald learned of this late development at press time and could not obtain further information.

Kings Mountain City Council took steps Tuesday night to aid economic development by formally filing applications for Rural Center grants totaling \$406,000 to help three new business enterprises and after a second public hearing also applied for a Community Development Block Grant from the state for \$276,945, a water and sewer infrastructure project to help a new industry looking at the Grover area.

The CDBG grant, if approved, could help land Boca Biofuels Inc.

The three building reuse and restoration grants would assist Bells Line, LLC, Nick LaVecchia, and SG6 Enterprises, LLC in their economic development plans.

Steve Killian, the city's director of planning and economic development, outlined the three grant project applications at Tuesday's meeting and the board approved resolutions authorizing Mayor Rick Murphy to submit the applications by June 28.

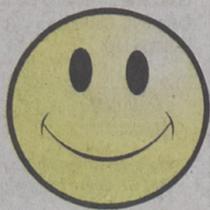
The grant to Bells Line would assist in the rehabilitating of a vacant building, the old Carolina Western facility on Charles Street and limited to one half of the cost or \$12,000 for each of the 10 jobs projected in the vacant building within a 24 month period. The city would have a 3% match. However the in-kind services would be provided by the city's planning department and/or the use of planner Steve Austin for administrative services and would count towards the projected \$3,600 match. Over the course of time, it is projected the number of permanent full time jobs would exceed 50.

An amended building reuse and restoration grant application will be submitted by the city for Nick LaVecchia for \$154,000

See GRANTS, 3A



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