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# Kings Mountain Herald

50¢

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## "He'll always be my baby"

*Remains found in quarry identified as young man  
who went missing over a year ago from KM home*

By EMILY WEAVER

Editor

"I don't know yet how I feel...I feel numb," said Betty Miller, sitting inside her Chesterfield Apartment home Friday evening. "I feel like half of me has been torn out of me...it just feels like something's missing."

Her son, 22-year-old Dustin Ray Miller went missing from their home on August 12, 2009. On Thursday evening, it was confirmed that the remains found at an abandoned Kings Mountain lithium quarry on Sept. 22 belonged to Dustin.

"There was no foul play, which I'm glad to know on account of those guys," Miller said.

On the day of his disappearance, Dustin returned home out of breath and visibly shaken after a walk to a nearby convenience

store, where he picked up some groceries.

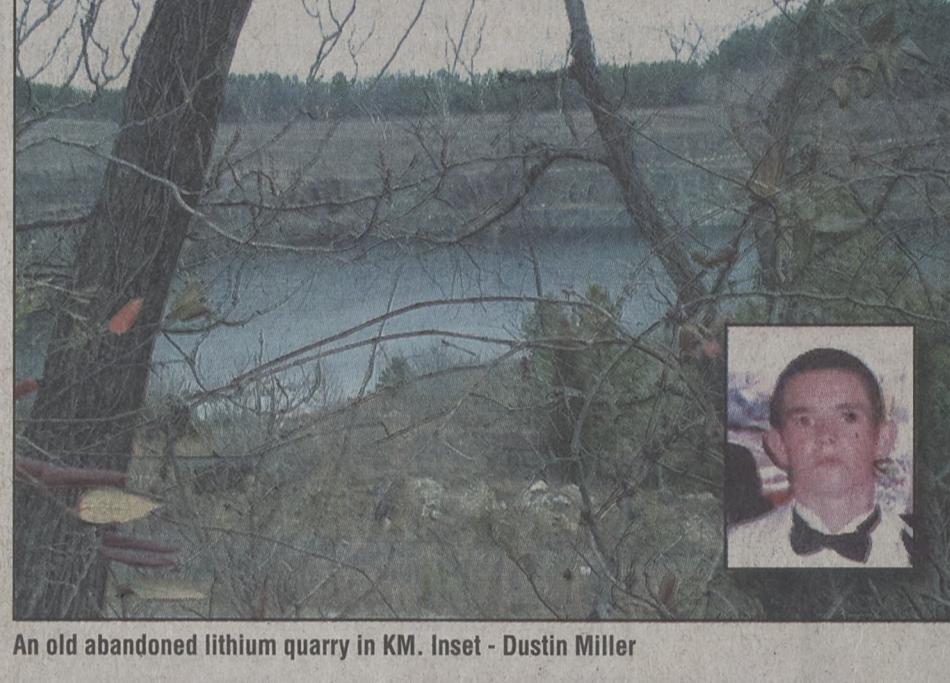
He told his mother that on his way home he was stopped by a car filled with men. One of the guys, he said, pulled a gun on him and threatened to kill him and his mother. The threat allegedly came courtesy of another man, who on the day of the incident was still serving time in prison for attempting to break into the Millers' home several months before.

When Dustin told his mother of his harrowing encounter Aug. 12, 2009, she said that he was wanting to get some "protection" and "go back out looking for them."

She tried to calm him and told him to lie down while she finished cooking and that she would call the police. But when she went to rouse him for dinner, Dustin was gone.

His wallet and identification were still sitting on the dresser where he left it next to a

See DUSTIN, 7A



An old abandoned lithium quarry in KM. Inset - Dustin Miller

## New route to the future

*Cleveland County will be leader in fiber optics*

By EMILY WEAVER

Editor

A web is being spun underground in Kings Mountain and Cleveland County — a fiber optic spider web that will make the area the envy of the state, and possibly nation, when it comes to broadband capabilities.

RST Communications started laying its fiber optic network in February. First workers energized the "brains" — the network headend or central station which will receive and transmit all information — at a location on Magnus Rd. in Shelby.

Then they laid the all-fiber lines, 10 feet underground, and started a trail to Moss Lake. From there, workers entrenched their networks toward Kings Mountain.

Lines have already been set down

Stoney Point Road, inching ever closer to main outlets at the Cleveland County Industrial Park and, especially — the new data center farm being cultivated across the street on Shelby Road.

Dan Limerick, owner of RST Communications, estimates that 16 miles of fiber optics has been laid so far in the county.

"Hopefully, we should be at the industrial park within the next 30-60 days," he said.

But what will a fiber line do for the county?

It will one day provide ultimate broadcast services for cable television and internet with ultra high-speed connectivity. It will offer telemedicine through which patients will be able to visit a remote doctor without leaving their homes. With features

like Voice Over the Internet Protocol (VOIP), it will be able to convert the human voice into a digital sound that can travel over the Internet. But, first, this network will help energize a 260-plus-acre farm in Kings Mountain that may sprout five or six data centers in the near future.

See FIBER OPTICS, 7A

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See FIBER OPTICS, 7A

## Mauney KM distillery third in state

By ELIZABETH STEWART

Staff writer

This ain't moonshine in Mason jars. This Kings Mountain "still" in the back portion of the old Mauney Hosiery Mills is "high-tech."

Twin brothers Charlie and Alex Mauney, 29, are making and marketing small batch Cardinal Gin, a new generation product reviving, they say, the lost art of craft distillation at Southern Artisan Spirits.

The new business is all legal and the ingredients are all organic.

The young entrepreneurs researched and experimented with recipes for nearly two years before their product went on the market this summer. The new business is local and state licensed to sell wholesale and is available in ABC stores.

Southern Artisans is currently in the development

See MAUNEY, 7A



LIB STEWART photo  
Alex Mauney, left, and Charlie Mauney are twin brothers in business at Southern Artisan Spirits.



Tim Moore in his office.

## Moore running for 5th term in House

By ELIZABETH STEWART

Staff writer

Kings Mountain lawyer Tim Moore, 40, (R Cleveland) is running on his record for a 5th term in the N.C. House of Representatives 111th District.

He faces opposition from veteran Kings Mountain educator and longtime member of the county board of commissioners Mary Accor (D) on Nov. 2. Both are mounting aggressive campaigns with heavy volunteer turnout.

Moore believes his accessibility to voters — his open door policy at his office on E. King St. in Kings Mountain and at his office in Raleigh via his website on the Internet and his popular Facebook pages, lend personal touch with con-

See MOORE, 4A

## CRIME WATCH

### Trio charged in drug bust

Three women — a mother and two daughters — were jailed on felony drug charges in a second drug bust in the Kings Mountain area in the last week.

Deputies with the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department and Gaston County Police on Wednesday arrested Peggy Strickland Jones, 71, Lisa Jones, 43, and Penny Jones Perry, 49, at their home on Oak Grove Road. They seized more than 300 pills of Xanax, as well as opium, pill crushers and hand scales.

The investigation has been ongoing since last year, authorities said.

A drug bust at 213 Thornburg Drive in the Kings Mountain city limits Oct. 1 resulted in arrest of three people on multiple drug charges.

Peggy Strickland Jones, 1104 Oak Grove Rd., faces two counts of trafficking opium or heroin, possession with intent to manufacture, sell and deliver a schedule IV controlled substance/sell and deliver a schedule IV controlled substance, two counts. She was jailed under \$100,000 bond.

Penny Jones Perry, 49, 1104 Oak Grove Rd., faces charges of trafficking opium or heroin and was jailed under \$100,000 bond.

Lisa Jones, 43, 1104 Oak Grove Rd., faces charges of possession with intent to manufacture, sell and deliver a schedule II controlled substance/sell and deliver a schedule II controlled substance, simple possession of a schedule II controlled substance; and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was jailed under \$10,000 bond.

## ELECTION 2010

### Early voting starts Thursday

Voters don't have to wait until Nov. 2 to make their choices for local, state and national offices. Early voting starts Thursday and you can also register and vote on the same day at the Cleveland County Board of Elections, 215 Patton Drive in Shelby.

In Kings Mountain, a satellite office will open Oct. 25 and ends on the Saturday before election day at Family Worship Center, 1818 Shelby Road. The hours are 9-5 p.m. on weekdays and on Oct. 30 from 9-1 p.m.

A person must have a

valid ID to verify residence in Cleveland County, be a US citizen and 18 years old by election day.

Interest locally is centered in the N.C. House 111 race between Tim Moore and Mary Accor; the county commission race where four

people are running for two seats — Jason Falls and Phillip Brafford Jr. (both Republicans)

are challenging the Democratic incumbents Eddie Holbrook and Jo Boggs; the Cleveland

See VOTE, 4A

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