

Local photographer makes house out of hobby

By KYRA ALEXANDER
Staff writer

Stephen Torrence cannot tell a lie, he has cut down his father's trees. Eighteen trees in fact and there are six more to go. These trees will not disappear. Torrence's friends and family will be seeing them in the form of furniture, bathroom vanities, trim, molding, doors, cabinets, and the entire hardwood flooring for his new house.

Torrence is not an amateur at this. He has been playing in the workshop since he was three. His father was an engineer and Torrence knew that he would probably do something with his hands. When he was 15

years old, Torrence won first place in the state in carpentry. This is also the sixth or seventh house he has helped build and the first he will live in.

Through the antique pine of his sister-in-law's 150-year-old historical peach packaging plant (that he will dismantle himself), the oak of his parent's land and friends' land, and some 100-year-old bricks, Torrence is bringing nostalgia and creativity into his home.

"It is very sentimental and important to incorporate something from my parents house and having my dad contribute in such a special project," Torrence said. "I will remember that forever, every time I take a step in

our house."

Torrence commented that pine does not always work well with oak so the pine from the packaging plant will be used for the posts and beams for the front porch or be painted to be used somewhere else.

Torrence and his wife C. J. want their house to have the feel of an old, late 1800's early 1900's, farmhouse with horizontal paneling and a big front porch.

The exterior door of the house will be made from black walnut and the interior doors will be made out of pine and based on a 1940's door Torrence bought from the Salvation Army.

Torrence's new house will be around 1700 square feet and there will be a basement to hold his workshop where he can build the furniture for the house, that is not being upholstered.

When building the floors and porch of a house himself, Torrence discovered he would need a licensed general contractor to supervise him according to policies. Torrence is building all the interior needs and the builders will build all of the structure.

Torrence is trying to be as resourceful as possible with his findings and his acquired wood.

"This way I am saving money and I am bringing in sentimental value and can be as creative and add as much character to my house as I can," Torrence explained.

When asked what kind of advice he would give to other people trying to accomplish this task, Torrence replied "Keep your eyes peeled for design ideas, visit



Photos by Kyra Alexander/Herald
Torrence, a photographer from Kings Mountain, stands with wood from oak trees that he cut down.



Torrence builds kitchen cabinet for his new home.

houses, do research and find out what you like; imagination is your limit."

While trying to finish this long process, some would ask is it worth it?

"Not only am I saving money but doing it this way is more than worth it."



Fascade work for the new Battleground Steakhouse is complete. The restaurant is set to open for supper March, 23.



Battleground Steakhouse employees Kari Barnes and Chris Owsy are busy preparing the restaurant for its opening Wednesday, March 23rd.

Legion to celebrate birthday with spaghetti supper

The welcome mat is out at American Legion Post 155 for a free spaghetti supper Thursday at 6:30 p.m. to all veterans, including members of the Post, guests, and members of the Auxiliary.

The occasion is the 92nd birthday of The Legion and also a time for talk of future plans and ideas to increase participation and membership in the Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion.

Commander Howard Kieser invites everyone to 'meet and greet' beginning at 5 p.m. with a brief introduction/comment period from 6 to 6:30 and supper at 6:30 p.m. Kieser is chef for the spaghetti supper with all the trimmings.

Mayor and Mrs. Rick Murphy and all seven city councilmen and their wives are invited as special guests.

The American Legion Post 155 has been struggling in a tough economy but officers say the Post is bouncing back and will always be strong in Kings Mountain, committed to veterans and their families. The Post officers are working diligently to reopen and serve the community as it has done for years.

OBITUARY

Eddie Watts
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Edward "Eddie" Watts, 52, 917 Linwood Rd., died Tuesday, March 15, 2011, at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

The funeral service will be conducted at 3 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel, interment following in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, March 16, from 6-8 p.m. at Harris Funeral Home and other times at the home of the sister, Kim W. Bullock, 524 Cleveland Ave., Kings Mountain, NC.

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Harold's Weekly Health Tip...
Surviving a heart attack

Heart attack symptoms may include pain or pressure in the chest; shortness of breath; pain or discomfort in one or both arms, one's back or the jaw; sudden cold sweats; nausea; or lightheadedness. Symptoms vary from men to women! If you think you are having a heart attack, call 911 immediately. American Red Cross guidelines also suggest you chew and swallow an adult aspirin (325mg). aspirin helps to keep blood platelets from sticking together, assisting blood flow and reducing clots. If you have only low-dose aspirin (75mg) on hand, chew two to four of them. However, do not take aspirin if you are allergic to it or have had recent bleeding or a stroke.

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