

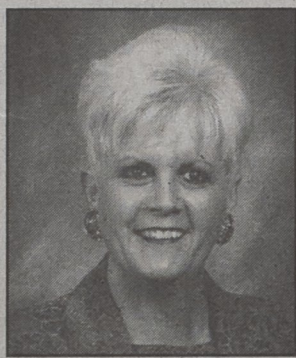
# Hicks honored for 45 years in banking industry

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Vickie T. Hicks of Kings Mountain was recently recognized by the North Carolina Bankers Association for completion of 45 years' experience in banking.

Hicks is a Senior Vice President and Branch Manager at the Shelby branch of Mountain 1st Bank & Trust and was recognized by the bank at a dinner in her honor. Hicks began her banking career as a teller at First Citizens Bank in Kings Mountain and has held numerous banking positions. Her current role at Mountain 1st Bank includes lending and business development.

Hicks has increased deposits from \$20 million to \$52 million at the Shelby branch since joining Mountain 1st Bank in June 2006.

Hicks was an honor graduate of Bessemer City High School and has completed AIB Banking and Management Skills



Vickie Hicks

courses. She and husband, Glenn M. Hicks, live in Kings Mountain and are very active in the community and their church. Hicks has three daughters, Carmen Parker, Edie Bunch and Gwen Branch, and six grandchildren.

The Hicks donated an acre of their land and support this year to the Cleveland County Potato Project, growing thousands of pounds of white potatoes to help feed the local hungry.

## Fall Fest founder reaps recognition



Ryan Causby, left, who founded the annual Grover Fall Festival, receives a plaque of appreciation from the town from Grover Mayor J.D. Ledford.

photo by TRICIA WILLIS

## 'Take Me Out to the Ballgame' exhibit in its '7th inning stretch'

The Kings Mountain Historical Museum is open with its summer exhibit, "Take

Me Out to the Ballgame: Baseball in Cleveland County". The exhibit features items from the early mill teams as well as local legends.

Guests are invited to stand at home base with the new John Henry Moss Stadium as the backdrop for a

great photo opportunity. The exhibit will run through Aug. 13, just in time for the American Legion World Series at the Keeter Stadium in Shelby.

If anyone has baseball memorabilia that they would like to share with the museum visitors this summer,

call 704-739-1019 or bring it by the museum at 100 E. Mountain St., Kings Mountain, NC 28086. The Kings Mountain Historical Museum is open Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, visit [www.kingsmountainmuseum.org](http://www.kingsmountainmuseum.org)

## OBITUARIES

### Ida Cromer Dickson



GASTONIA - Ida Cromer Dickson, 73, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Thursday, July 14, 2011, surrounded by her family. Born in Whitmire, SC, she was the daughter of the late Robert Stogner and Frances Louise Cromer. Mrs. Dickson was retired from the textile industry and was a member of Fraley Memorial Baptist Church.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, Harold Eugene Bingham.

Survivors include her husband of 27 years, Dan Dickson; daughters and sons-in-law Rhonda and Daniel Helms of Gastonia, Gina and David Holbrooks

of Kings Mountain and Talena Kay Bingham of Gastonia; step-daughters, Scotti Scholz of California and Jenny Dickson of Gastonia; brother and sister-in-law, Billy Ray and Dorothy Cromer of Kings Mountain; grandchildren, Chad, Misty, Matthew, Megan, Nathan, Sabrina, Jennifer, Whitney, Emily, Kevin, Katie and Sarah; great-grandchildren, Zachary, Dilon and Seth; special friends, Jane Robbins, Judy Lewis, Diane Harris and Billie Fay Holbrooks.

The funeral service was conducted by the Revs. Dr. Warner Doles and Cliff Kinlaw at 3 p.m. Sunday, July 17, at Fraley Memorial Baptist Church. Burial followed in the Olney Presbyterian Church Cemetery. The family received friends on Saturday evening at McLean Funeral Directors of Gastonia.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Gaston Hospice,

P.O. Box 3984, Gastonia, NC 28054. Condolences may be made online at [www.mcleanfuneral.com](http://www.mcleanfuneral.com)

McLean Funeral Directors of Gastonia is serving the family of Mrs. Dickson.



### Martha H. Morton

GROVER - Martha Hudson Morton, 94, died July 18, 2011 at White Oak Manor in Kings Mountain.

The funeral service will be conducted Thursday, July 21, 2011 at 2 p.m. at Clearwater Baptist Church in Grover, interment following in Grover cemetery.

The family will receive friends Thursday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. prior to the service at Clearwater Baptist Church sanctuary.

## Share your culture, host an international student

Foreign high school students are scheduled to arrive soon for academic semester and year homestay programs, and the sponsoring organization, Pacific Intercultural Exchange, needs a few more local host families. The students are anxiously awaiting news of their new families. These young ambassadors are looking forward to fulfilling their life-long dreams.

According to Pacific Intercultural Exchange (P.I.E.) President, John Doty, the students are all between the ages of 15 and 18 years, are English-speaking, have their own spending money, carry accident and health insurance, and want to share their cultural experiences with their new American families. P.I.E. currently has programs to match almost every family's needs, ranging in length from one semester to a full academic year, where the students attend local public and private high schools.

"At this critical time in our country's history, host-

ing an international teen is the best and purest form of public diplomacy the United States has," said Doty.

P.I.E. area representatives match students with host families by finding common interests and lifestyles through an in-home meeting. Prospective host families are able to review student applications and select the perfect match. As there are no "typical" host families, P.I.E. can fit a student into just about any situation, whether it is a single parent, a childless couple, a retired couple or a large family.

Families who host for P.I.E. are also eligible to claim a monthly charitable contribution deduction on their itemized tax returns for each month they host a sponsored student.

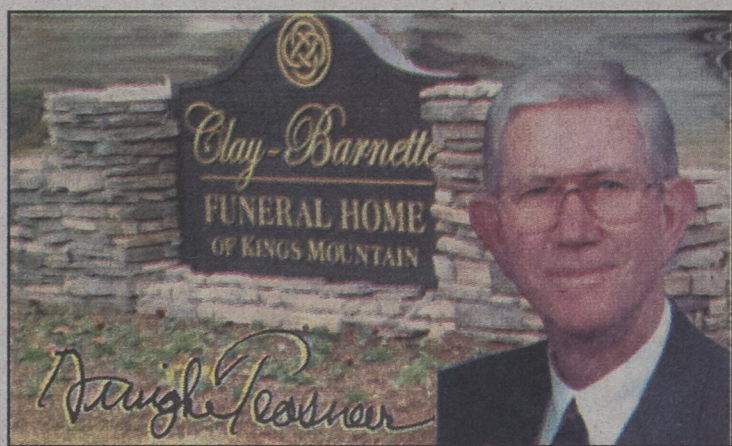
For the upcoming programs, P.I.E. has students from Germany, the former Soviet Union, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Hungary, Croatia, Korea, Mexico, Slovakia, China, and many other countries. P.I.E. is also

participating in a special government-funded program to bring scholarship students from the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union to live in American communities.

P.I.E. is a non-profit educational organization that has sponsored more than 25,000 students from 45 countries since its founding in 1975. The organization is designated by the United States Department of State and is listed by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET), certifying that the organization complies with the standards set forth in CSIET's Standards for International Educational Travel Programs.

Doty encourages families to contact the program immediately, as it will allow the proper time for the students and hosts to get to know one another before they actually meet for the first time.

Families interested in learning more about student exchange or arranging for a meeting with a community representative may call P.I.E., toll-free, at 1-866-546-1402. The agency also has travel/study program opportunities available for American high school students as well as possibilities for community volunteers to assist and work with area host families, students and schools.



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Kings Mountain Weekend Weather			
Thursday July 21	Friday July 22	Saturday July 23	Sunday July 24
Mostly Sunny - 94°	Mostly Sunny - 95°	PMT-Storms - 96°	PMT-Storms - 95°
20% Chance of precipitation	20% Chance of precipitation	60% Chance of precipitation	30% Chance of precipitation
Avg - Low: 69 Hi: 90	Avg - Low: 69 Hi: 90	Avg - Low: 70 Hi: 90	Avg - Low: 70 Hi: 90

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