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'This is North Carolina's Holocaust' State seeks victims of its Eugenics program

State opens dark chapter on eugenics program that led to the sterilization of 72 in Cleveland County, thousands in state

EMILY WEAVER
 Editor

Adolf Hitler incited a world war over his attempts to create a superior human race with the elimination of millions deemed unfit. But before—and long after—his tyranny ended, North Carolina continued a similar program with little, if any, resistance.

From 1929 through 1974, nearly 7,600 males and females, some as young as 10 years old, were sterilized under North Carolina's 1929 eugenics law and under the state Eugenics Board that followed it. They were robbed of the chance of ever having children. It was state-funded and supported.

In the years after World War II, while other states abolished their eugenics programs, North Carolina's efforts in the field of selective breeding soared.

See VICTIMS, 7A

Did this happen to you or someone you know?

It is estimated that at least 1,500 women and men who were sterilized under state law between 1929-1974 are still alive today. Only 34 state records have been matched so far with living survivors or families of victims.

The Governor's Eugenics Compensation Task Force, which is currently looking at restitution for the state's sterilization victims, hopes more will come forward. Sterilization survivors are encouraged to call the North Carolina Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation at 877-550-6013 (toll-free) or 919-807-4270, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

Could Eugenics program in America have inspired Adolf Hitler?

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Could a 45-year-long practice in America, that interrupted the bloodlines of 72 Cleveland County residents, have inspired Adolf Hitler?

Hitler and his Nazi cohorts victimized an entire continent and exterminated millions in their pursuit of a so-called "master race". But this concept of a white, blonde-haired, blue-eyed master Nordic race didn't seem to originate with Hitler. The idea first came from Sir Francis Galton of England before it was introduced to the United States and cultivated in California, decades before Hitler came to power.

The victims of eugenics were labeled unfit, promiscuous or simply feeble-minded before being sent by the thousands to surgeons who ensured they would never have babies again or at all.

See LONG HISTORY, 6A

Brown changes gears over RV park

EMILY WEAVER
 Editor

Mike Brown, who came before the city with plans to build a campground on the site of a dilapidated mill, withdrew his application for rezoning on Friday.

The issue still came before city council, Tuesday night, of whether or not to accept Brown's withdrawal, which would give him more time to change his site plans without putting a time-lock of six months on any new proposals.

In a motion by Councilman Rick Moore that was seconded by Councilman Tommy Hawkins, the withdrawal was approved by unanimous vote.

Perhaps planning the withdrawal would be accepted, Brown submitted another rezoning request to add to the city's agenda Tuesday night. The new goal is to rezone a portion of the property that is currently Residential-10 to Light Industrial, which Planning Director Steve Killian says would rule out plans for a campground.

The city will take up the new request in a public hearing scheduled for September 27, after the issue is first heard by the Planning and Zoning Board.

Brown's original request for the 114 Raven Cir. property (former home of the Park Yarn Mill/Glen Raven site) was to get a conditional use permit and rezone the R-10 property to R-20 for a campground that would border the Gateway Trails.

In two public hearings, his plans for the property seemed to unravel before questions from the planning and zoning board, which recommended by a vote of 7-1 the city deny Brown's request due to "deficiencies in the design and enforceability of the proposal."

See BROWN, 6A



KYRA TURNER/HERALD

A candidate seeks employment with Ultra Armoring at the job fair Tuesday. The fair continues through Thursday at the Y.

T5 seeks rezoning to grow server farm

EMILY WEAVER
 Editor

T5@Kings Mountain, a division of Atlanta-based T5 Partners, sought city approval Tuesday night to cultivate a nearly 5-acre parcel of land in its data center farm sprouting off of Countryside Road.

The company asked that the city rezone the property, voluntarily annexed by the city a few months ago, from Residential to Light Industrial. City council unanimously approved the rezoning. The 4.645 acres, adjoining the property of T5's first data center tenant Wipro's Infocrossing, is located at approximately 229 Countryside Road.

With a Light Industrial zoning, the property could be ripe for future data center development in the park.

In May, The Herald confirmed that Disney Worldwide Services, Inc., a Florida corporation, was to be T5's newest "sharecropper" on the data center farm. The company, like its neighbor Wipro's Infocrossing, located in the former Chris*Craft boat manufacturing facility, will share water

pipled to the site from Kings Mountain and Cleveland County. The city will also provide police, fire, natural gas and sewer services to businesses in the park.

In July, a building permit for the estimated \$70 million Disney data center (at 161 Technology Way) was filed with the city. The permit for the Whiting-Turner Contracting Co., was issued on July 29.

The center will be housed in a 150,000-square-foot powered shell building currently under construction at the Riverside Court park, off of Countryside Rd. The Disney data center is set to bring 45 new jobs, thousands of dollars to the city's piggy bank (through a 3.09 percent franchise tax), and a \$200 million tax investment over 10 years to the county.

Kings Mountain City Councilmen and Cleveland County Commissioners met in a joint session at Cleveland Community College in March to approve an incentives package for Disney, codenamed "Project Roosevelt".

See DATA PARK, 6A

I-85 wrecks bring traffic to KM

Eighteen vehicle collisions caused a major backup for hours for anyone traveling south on I-85 Monday afternoon.

The first wreck reportedly included four cars and two tractor-trailers near exit 8. Also involved were five campers attached to pickup trucks traveling back to Georgia from helping with the Hurricane Irene Disaster Relief.

According to police, ambulances transported five people to Cleveland Regional

Medical Center in Shelby. No life-threatening injuries were reported.

The wrecks occurred around 4:15 p.m. Monday afternoon and had rush hour traffic backed up for hours in the southbound lane of the highway. Reports say that at 8:15 p.m. officers were still directing traffic through a detour in downtown Kings Mountain.

• Officials say the wrecks stretched out at least 1,500 feet on the highway.

Ultra job fair on through Thursday

A job fair from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. will be held at the Kings Mountain Family YMCA, 211 Cleveland Ave., today (Wednesday) and Thursday to fill 125-150 positions at Ultra Armoring with facilities in Kings Mountain and in Shelby.

Candidates should bring a resume and must be able to pass a drug test.

"They're an excellent corporate citizen and we're so glad they continue to operate in Kings Mountain," Mayor Rick Murphrey said of the company. He added that the new contract the company has to hire more workers is great news.

"We're excited about that. We need jobs," he said. "We're proud to be associated with Ultra."

Ultra Armoring LLC, a division of Ultra, recently received a \$44.7 million contract with the U.S. Special Operations Command to produce non-standard commercial vehicles.

"Since Ultra's beginning, the company has grown into a thriving precision sheet metal business specializing in armor plate," according to Ultra's website (umfl.com). The company has "over three decades of combined fabrication and machining experience and has gained a reputation for quality manufacturing with on-time delivery

See JOB FAIR, 7A

CRIME WATCH

Police seek suspect in early morning assault and robbery

Police are looking for more information regarding a robbery and assault that took place in the early morning hours of Saturday, Aug. 27, at 111 Brayton Lane.

Fifty-six-year-old Bobby Wayne McCleary was reportedly assaulted with a motorcycle helmet and had his hands bound together with an extension cord at his Kings Mountain home before 5:25 a.m. Saturday.

Police say the assailant then absconded with his yellow moped.

After Kings Mountain Police arrived, officers notified emergency medical services and McCleary was transported to the Cleveland Regional Medical Center for treatment.

The case is still under investigation. Anyone with information concerning the incident is asked to contact Det. J.T. McDougal of the Kings Mountain Police Department Criminal Investigations Division.



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