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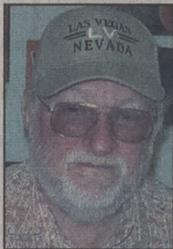
Brown files civil lawsuit against county

ELIZABETH STEWART
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A property dispute between developer Mike Brown and Cleveland County took another turn this week as Brown and his wife, Cynthia, filed a "trespass and inverse condemnation" civil suit against the county in Cleveland County Superior Court.

"I'm not going to back down, I am in the right," said Brown.

Meantime, Brown faces a charge of injury to personal property (trees) filed by Cleveland County Planning Director Bill McCarter Nov. 7, scheduled to be heard in Cleveland County District Court next Wednesday. That warrant alleges that Brown cut a row of trees that McCarter says belongs to the county along the gravel Gateway Trails that crosses the back side of Brown's property on Raven Drive and meanders through Chemetal Foote property all the way to I-85. Cleveland County maintains that Brown cut the trees inside the 50 foot



BROWN

See BROWN, 6A

King not to run for Senate seat

Wayne King, a Kings Mountain leader in the Republican Party, the NCGOP Vice chairman and most recent 10th Congressional District Chairman, said this week he does not want to be considered a candidate for the North Carolina Senate seat currently held by Senator Debbie Clary.

Clary will be leaving the post December 31 and there was a considerable amount of talk regarding King's future plans and as to whether or not he might be interested in the post.

"A number of Party folks have contacted me and asked me to consider seeking the post," King said today in a news release.

"While I am flattered to be asked by so many friends, I believe it is incumbent upon me to work as hard as I can for our Party in other ways across this state in my role as Vice Chairman to make sure that we have a path to victory and success in 2012," he said.

"We must defeat Barack Obama and Beverly Perdue in 2012. Anything that I do outside of accomplishing that goal would be a mistake on my part. We have a lot of work to do to make sure that this happens."

King admitted that were he to run, there were a number

WAYNE KING

See KING, 6A

New gun law takes aim at intruders

A new state law among the 35 mostly criminal pieces of legislation that went into effect Dec. 1 by the North Carolina General Assembly gives citizens more legal standing to fire their lawful weapons to protect themselves from people illegally entering their homes, cars, or businesses.

The old law said shooters inside homes had to justify firing a gun to protect themselves. The new law says that shooters would be presumed exempt because they feared they would be seriously harmed or killed by an intruder. Prosecutors could still attempt to persuade judges that shooters crossed the line.

Also among the new legislation effective Dec. 1 are two new laws inspired by the death of a Gaston County teenager and a nine-year-old from Hickory.

Laura's Law, championed by Rep. Tim Moore of Kings Mountain and named for 17-year-old Laura Fortenberry, requires repeat DWI offenders, whose cases have often aggravating factors, to receive one to three years in prison and face fines up to \$10,000. Judges may also require some offenders to wear alcohol-monitoring ankle bracelets for much longer than the current 60-day limit.

Fortenberry was killed last year when a motorist with multiple DWI offenses collided with another car.

Zahra's Law makes it illegal for someone to dismember a body and hide a possible crime or evidence of unnatural death. The law was in response to the death of nine-year-old Zahra Baker, a girl with disabilities who was dismembered. Her stepmother, Elisa Baker, pleaded guilty in September to second degree murder and was sentenced to prison.

See NEW LAWS, 6A

RUN, RUN RUDOLPH!



SANTA'S GOTTA MAKE IT TO THE FINISH LINE! Jeff Johnson, as "Rudolph" leads "Santa's sleigh" carrying Joseph Johnson, left, and Caleb Bundon. Santa was Jonathan Bundon in Saturday's Jingle Bell Rockin' Run. They finished in 30:25.

EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

KM runners take lead in largest ever Rockin' Run

EMILY WEAVER
Editor

A sparkling crown for Kings Mountain. The city's own David Brinkley was the first to cross the finish line in a 10k race on Saturday that attracted a crowd of nearly 1,000 to Patriot's Park and raised thousands

for the Y's We Build People Scholarship Fund.

Kings Mountain runners claimed top three finishes in both the 5k and 10k races of Saturday's 11th annual Jingle Bell Rockin' Run. A record 593 runners registered to compete in this year's fundraiser surpassing the

Y's goal of 500 and breaking last year's record by 165.

By 8:45 a.m. a long line had formed trailing out of the Y's 40' x 80' registration tent as more than 50 rushed to sign up and several more came for their race packets. Nearly a

See KM, 6A

In The Money

KM a high roller in downtown investments

EMILY WEAVER
Editor

In the money game, Kings Mountain emerged a "high roller" in Main Street investments last fiscal year, pulling in more than \$2.16 million. The total figure of public and private investments in downtown dwarfed all other first-year Main Street cities and the efforts of Shelby, who has been in the downtown development program since its inception more than 30 years ago.

It was a good year for Kings Mountain and a crowning achievement for

Mountaineer Partnership Inc. But as MPI Executive Director Adam Hines points out, this is just the beginning.

The figures show there's promise here. Of the \$211 million in new investments to downtowns across the state in the program, last year, more than \$2 million came from Kings Mountain.

"In just two years, our combined total investment in buildings and public infrastructure in downtown Kings Mountain has reached \$2.9 million!" Hines said.

Eleven facades were revamped, four

buildings were renovated, 30 jobs were gained, and although five businesses were shuttered, seven new ones opened their doors...in Kings Mountain last fiscal year. And one business, Home-town Hardware, doubled its space and expanded its inventory.

"It's also neat to note that private investment was three times the public investment last year," Hines said.

Private investments from business and property owners came in at \$1.6 million last year with an additional pub-

See INVESTMENTS, 6A

City prepares for luminaries



Luminaries will shine at city-owned Mountain Rest Cemetery from dark until midnight in the City of Kings Mountain-sponsored light show that is a Christmas Eve tradition in Kings Mountain.

"We need volunteers to come from 2-3 p.m. to help city crews light the candles on every grave in the cemetery," said Jackie Barnette, the city's Public Works director. He said that all candles must be lit by 5 p.m.

See CITY, 6A

New city council to be sworn in Monday

Kings Mountain City Council will say "so long" to At-large councilman Houston Corn and welcome his successor Keith Miller, as re-elected Mayor Rick Murphrey and four councilmen take the oath of office Monday.

Rep. Tim Moore (R-Cleveland) will also swear into office Ward I councilman Howard Shipp, Ward 4 councilman Rodney Gordon, and Ward V councilman Rick Moore, who were reelected by voters. Miller, who had served previously on council, topped a field of six candidates for the At-

large position.

Corn, a former Kings Mountain police chief who was promoted through the ranks, served two terms on council but decided not to run for re-election.

The mayor said the city will recognize Corn during the meeting and a reception will be held afterwards honoring the new administration.



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