

## Keyboards at Christmas returns to First Baptist bigger, better than ever

The annual Keyboards at Christmas is returning to First Baptist Church of Kings Mountain at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11.

A yearly tradition that started in 2006, the church's Christmas Minister of Music Jonathan Bundon says that it continues to grow. The first event featured five keyboards. This year's Keyboards at Christmas will feature six pianos mixing with pipe organ accompaniment played by Traci Aderholdt, Ruth Bell, Heather Bundon, Claire McCoy, Mike Sisk and Sherri Young.

"I wanted to do something that this area had never experienced in music," Bundon said. "We started by performing back-to-back years and now have gone to every other year because of the major work involved in putting something like this together. (Moving and tuning grand pianos isn't a small task)."

This event is free to the public but Bundon suggests getting there early for a good seat. "We usually pack the place out."

### Cantata Sunday at St. Paul Methodist

The 13th annual Christmas Cantata will be presented at Saint Paul United Methodist Church, 220 N. Cansler St., on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 5 p.m. Pastor Carol Davis will direct the cantata. BeLena Bell is cantata organizer. The public is invited.

### Emmanuel Church Christmas programs

Emmanuel Baptist Church, 602 Canterbury Rd., will present the Christmas musical, "Promised One," by James Koerts on Saturday and Sunday evenings at 6 p.m. A Children's Christmas musical, "While Shepherds Watched," will be presented at the 10 a.m. worship hour on Sunday, Dec. 11. The public is invited.

## INVESTMENTS: for downtown a good start in redevelopment

FROM Page 1

lic investment of \$525,179 primarily from state grants.

After getting Main Street status in 2009, Mountaineer Partnership hit the ground running with the excitement. Partnering with the city, they went after grants and were rewarded close to \$700,000: \$185,000 Main Street Solutions Fund grant, more than \$250,000 in three Rural Center grants, \$250,000 CDBG Small Business & Entrepreneurial Assistance Program grant.

"To get all of those grants in an 18-month period is almost unheard of. I don't believe any other NC community got funds from all three grant programs in that same time period. That's been huge in helping us leverage that private dollar investment," Hines said.

Kings Mountain's total investments last year in downtown improvements doubled or tripled those of Forest City, Shelby, Lincolnton, Lenoir, Statesville and Hendersonville. But why? Hines suspects it's a combination of things.

He said that Kings Mountain, in its first year in the program, had a lot more vacancies downtown affording the "us more business investment and more grant opportunities."

"The City of Kings Mountain has one of the best downtown incentive grant facade packages anywhere in the state. The city gives up to \$6,000 in matching funds for facade improvements per building," Hines said, citing other towns haven't been so generous.

But he also thinks a lot of Kings Mountain's uptick in downtown improvements and investments stem from people who have a "willingness to step out and do something good for their community".

See a complete list of communities and how they did in the NC Main Street Statistical Survey online at [kmherald.net](http://kmherald.net)

"It's God's hand on this community," he added. And this city is unique. "A lot of Main Street communities would kill to have a hardware store. We have two and both are expanding and improving. Hardware stores are significant foot-traffic generators for downtowns and in the world of big box improvement stores, we are fortunate to have two strong hardware vendors in our downtown," Hines said.

"Kings Mountain is doing great. I think one of the big differences in the investment numbers is Adam was pretty aggressive about going after some of that grant money that was used to spur some of those investments," said Liz Parham, director of Urban Development with the NC Department of Commerce that leads the Main Street program.

She agreed that the city is on the right track. "Main Street is really an evolutionary process, you keep evolving into the next project," she said.

This year's total public and private investments at \$2,161,263 is expected to exceed \$4 million next year with investments being made in Bridges True Value Hardware, the renovation of the First National Bank building on Battleground Ave., an antique mall looking at a location on Battleground Ave., and several other yet to be discussed business projects, Hines said.



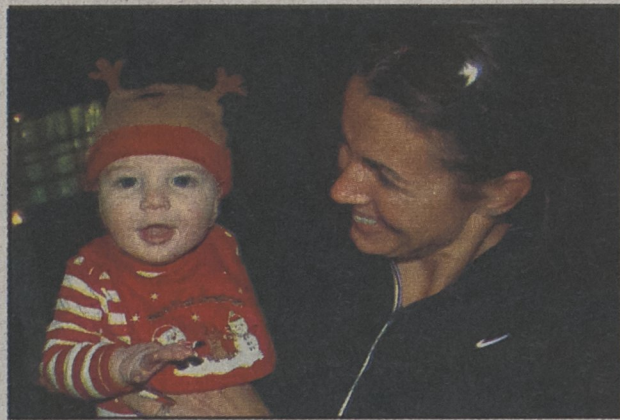
George Patterson finishing third.



Kings Mountain's Cassie Morton, 14, was the first among ladies to cross the finish line in Saturday's 5k.



Nine-year-old Gunner Hogston of Boiling Springs powers past Kings Mountain's Craig Langston in a last sprint to the Rockin' Run finish line.



Melissa Phillips, who finished second among women in Saturday's 10k, holds her son Brock Phillips, who won the costume contest for babies, in his reindeer outfit.



Trey Crawford sprints to the lead followed closely by Tristan Stenger and Christian Gonzales in Saturday's 2-mile dash. Stenger finished first, followed by Crawford and Gonzales.

## KM: runners in top three finishers of Jingle Bell race

FROM Page 1

dozen runners and attendees, sporting antlers, Santa hats, snowman and other Christmas attire signed up for the costume contest, judged by Santa and two of his helpers.

After a slight delay in the race to get everyone registered, the runners lined up along Gold Street and waited for a countdown. "...Three, two, one." They're off!

In the 5k race (overall), 16-year-old Alex Cannon of Charlotte was first to cross the finish line with a time of 18:56 (minutes:seconds). Jimmy Glover, 55, of Gastonia crossed second in 19:15 and Kings Mountain's George Patterson, 48, finished third in 19:31.

Forteen-year-old Cassie Morton of Kings Mountain was the first among all ladies to cross the finish line in the 5k race with a time of 21:23. Trailing a

minute behind was Shelby's Ryanne Corder, 17, with a time of 22:24. Shelby's Holli Goforth, 38, came in third with 22:29.

In the 10k race, 26-year-old David Brinkley, Jr., son of David and Marie Brinkley of Kings Mountain, finished first in 36:05. Christopher Taylor, 29, of Concord finished second in 36:54 and 45-year-old Allen Alfaro of Lincolnton finished third in 38:45.

Second among all women in the 10k race was Kings Mountain's Melissa Phillips, 33, who finished in 46:30. Fifteen-year-old Amelia Martin of Blacksburg finished first in 41:20. Fort Mill's Kelly Blankston, 39, finished third in 48:43.

In the children's 2-mile dash, Tristan Stenger finished first, followed by Trey Crawford and Christian Gonzales.

Although overwhelmed at times by the turnout, event organizers seemed pleased to have so many participants.

"God blessed us and we do all things through Him," said KM YMCA Director Kevin Osborne. "We learned a few things (to improve on) and we'll make it bigger and better for next year."

He added that this annual event is not "just a race anymore". An inflatable bouncy house, games of cornhole, free hot chocolate and coffee, and live performances by Southern Experience rocked Patriot's Park during the event.

"God blessed us with great weather and it was a wonderful day for the Kings Mountain community," Osborne said.

He added that they were also blessed with sponsorships from Patriot Jack's, 238 Cherokee Street Tavern, The Printin' Press, Friends of Stacy Stallings, Peak Resources, Parker Hanifin, Prescriptions Plus Pharmacy, Flooring America, Foot Zen, Oak Grove Auto Sales, and Adventures in Advertising, to name a few.

## BROWN: files civil suit against county for 'trespassing'

FROM Page 1

ease that the county signed in an exclusive conservation and trail agreement with the Kings Mountain Consortium for Progress Feb. 19, 2008. Chemetal Foote gave the county a 50-foot easement right-of-way along its property Nov. 23, 2010 and Cleveland County started work on the trail Feb. 24, 2011. Brown bought the 57,522 acres (the former Park Yarn/Raven Mills properties) from KM Consortium for Progress May 20, 2011.

"The Trail is not on the Chemetal Foote property line, it's on my property," says Brown. "The trail is in the wrong place and landlocks 3.93 acres of my property and I have told the county to move it," he added. The Trail agreement gives Brown foot traffic access only to his landlocked acreage.

Both Brown and McCarter confirm the county offered to buy the 3.93 acres

of landlocked land but Brown turned down the offer because he said the county offered cost-per-acre that he paid for the land. The entire acreage is valued on the county taxbooks at more than \$600,000.

Friday, Dec. 2, Browns' attorneys Arthurs & Foltz of Gastonia filed for the Browns four claims for relief against Cleveland County.

Specifically, the suit seeks a mandatory injunction requiring the county to remove the greenway/trailway from Brown property, restore the property to its natural condition and prohibit the county from authorizing others to trespass, the alternative to a mandatory injunction being that the court award the Browns just compensation for the property taken by and/or diminished in value by the county for the public use or benefit by inverse condemnation. The plaintiffs (Browns) are seeking damages totaling more than \$20,000

plus and costs of this action, including reasonable attorney fees

In the claims for relief against the county, Brown says that the "county entered onto his property to grade, remove trees, dump gravel and dirt and constructed a greenway or trailway on 3.26 acres of his property as shown on a map or survey by F. M. Trammell June 15, 2011; that in addition to the 3.26 acres contained within the greenway or trailway located on his property that the county constructed the trail in such a way as to render an additional 3.96 acres inaccessible and unusable constituting repeated trespass and continuing trespass, authorizing hundreds of individuals to trespass on his property and significantly reducing the value of the plaintiff's property, rendering a portion of the property useless in direct violation and in total disregard of the plaintiff's property rights."

## KING: decides to focus on getting Democrats out of office

FROM Page 1

of issues that he would like to take up and hopes that whoever Cleveland and Rutherford counties select would see to it that they were accomplished.

"I was disappointed that the Senate adjourned before taking up the cap on the gas tax. This tax hurts working people, the unemployed and the underemployed the most. We really need leadership on this issue and I was glad that the GOP House had the courage to move forward," he said.

King also indicated that Voter I.D. was another issue that he hopes will get looked at in the coming months.

"We need a Senator who will push for a local bill for voter identification if there are not enough votes to overturn the Governor's veto," he said.

## CITY: prepares for luminaries

FROM Page 1

Motorists enter the cemetery on Christmas Eve at the West King Street entrance where the twin angel statues grace the gate and proceed through the cemetery following directional signs.

Cemetery workers have been busy this week removing faded flowers from graves in preparation for the luminary service and families are placing Christmas flowers in memory of loved ones.

"We invite and expect crowds to take the time on Christmas Eve to ride through the cemetery, enjoy the music from the bell tower, and remember those who have passed our way," said Barnette.

## NEW LAW: inspired by deaths

FROM Page 1

State lawmakers also this year allowed property owners to block an annexation if 60 percent or more in the area sign a petition against. However, according to the Raleigh News & Observer, five Eastern North Carolina cities are asking a Wake County judge to temporarily block official confirmation of petition drives that appear to stop annexations planned for years.

NOW OPEN!

Located at: 5124 E. Dixon Blvd.  
Kings Mountain, NC  
(Inside Shapes by Jodi)

Health - Nutrition - Wellness

**Life**

&

**Power nutrition cup**

~TOGETHER~  
Taking nutrition to our community, one shake at a time!

Happy 10th Birthday!

Brandon Lee Dover

November 25th

Love, Mom, Dad, Colt, Sheena, Natalie, and Caleb

4-Some plays for price of 3 • 18 Holes!  
\$10 for 9 Holes after 12 • Mon-Fri Only

Large Bucket of Balls

ONLY \$2.00

\* Must present this ad for specials. Offer expires 12/31/11

Woodbridge Golf Club

Pro-Shop 704.482.0353

1007 New Camp Creek Church Rd., Kings Mountain