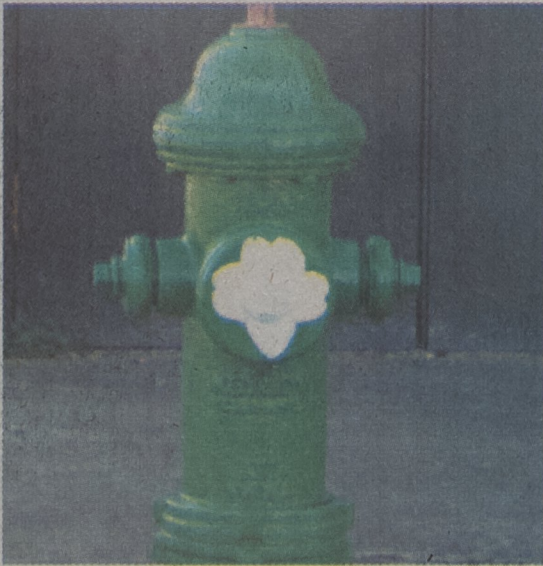


Have you seen this hydrant?



This recently painted hydrant, on the corner of West Mountain St. and South Battleground Ave (out beside the Kings Mountain Joy Performance Center), shows the luck of the Irish with a neatly painted clover on a fully green hydrant.

CC Fair brings home first ever Media Award

The Cleveland County Fair brought home its first ever Media Award during the annual North Carolina Association of Agriculture Fairs Convention in Raleigh.

The media award, accepted by Fair Manager Calvin Hastings, is given to the fair with the best media plan including advertising and promotion consisting of billboard, radio, tv, cable, print and internet also in-

cludes activities throughout the year including the fair's Spring Into the Fair and Christmas at the Fair. The premium book and brochure schedules are also considered in the presentation of this award.

The 2012 Cleveland County Fair, the 88th annual event, has been extended to 11 days and will be held September 27th thru October 7th.

Rabid racoon in Lawndale

On Feb. 8, Cleveland County Animal Control received a complaint at 127 Elam Rd., Lawndale, in reference to a raccoon on the property displaying abnormal behavior. The Cleveland County Health Department was notified on Feb. 10, that the raccoon tested positive for rabies. This marks the first official rabies case reported this year in Cleveland County.

Residents should make sure their animals are under their direct control, not allowed to run free and are current with their rabies vaccinations. Animals who are exposed to a rabid creature and not vaccinated, will have to be euthanized or quarantined for six months.

Anyone that sees an animal demonstrating unusual behavior needs to call the Cleveland County Animal Control Department at 704-481-9884.



LIB STEWART photo
Vietnam veterans, left to right, at breakfast table Johnny Melton, Barry Rikard, Carl Morrow, Ralph Grindstaff, Paul Gaffney, Wayne Dellinger, Terry Bowen, Boyce Tesenair, Bobby Tumbleson, Jim Medlin, Abraham Ruff and Edward Lovelace.

Vietnam veterans form breakfast club

The 12 men around the breakfast table at Mountain View Restaurant Monday morning share a common experience.

All veterans of the Vietnam War, they meet second Mondays in each month at 9 a.m. and their lively conversations don't dwell on war experiences.

"We're all retired," says Ralph Grindstaff, who says the welcome mat is out for all Vietnam veterans to come in for just coffee.

There's no formal program or agenda, just fun.

Former Green Beret Abe Ruff says breakfast is always good but what's really special is getting together with other veterans of all branches of the military represented at the long table. Last month 16 veterans attended.

"The more the merrier," says Johnny Melton.

Of one accord, each man said he was grateful to come home from Vietnam.

They always say a prayer for Ruff's grandson, Daniel Ruff, who is serving in harm's way in Afghanistan. Young Ruff hopes to come home for the birth of his baby in August.

Former Marine Boyce Tesenair made a request at the recent city council meeting that the city designate Sunday, March 25, as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans."

To a man, they're looking forward to that day and

are hopeful that the city administration will honor the six Kings Mountain men killed in Vietnam with an appropriate plaque possibly at city hall.

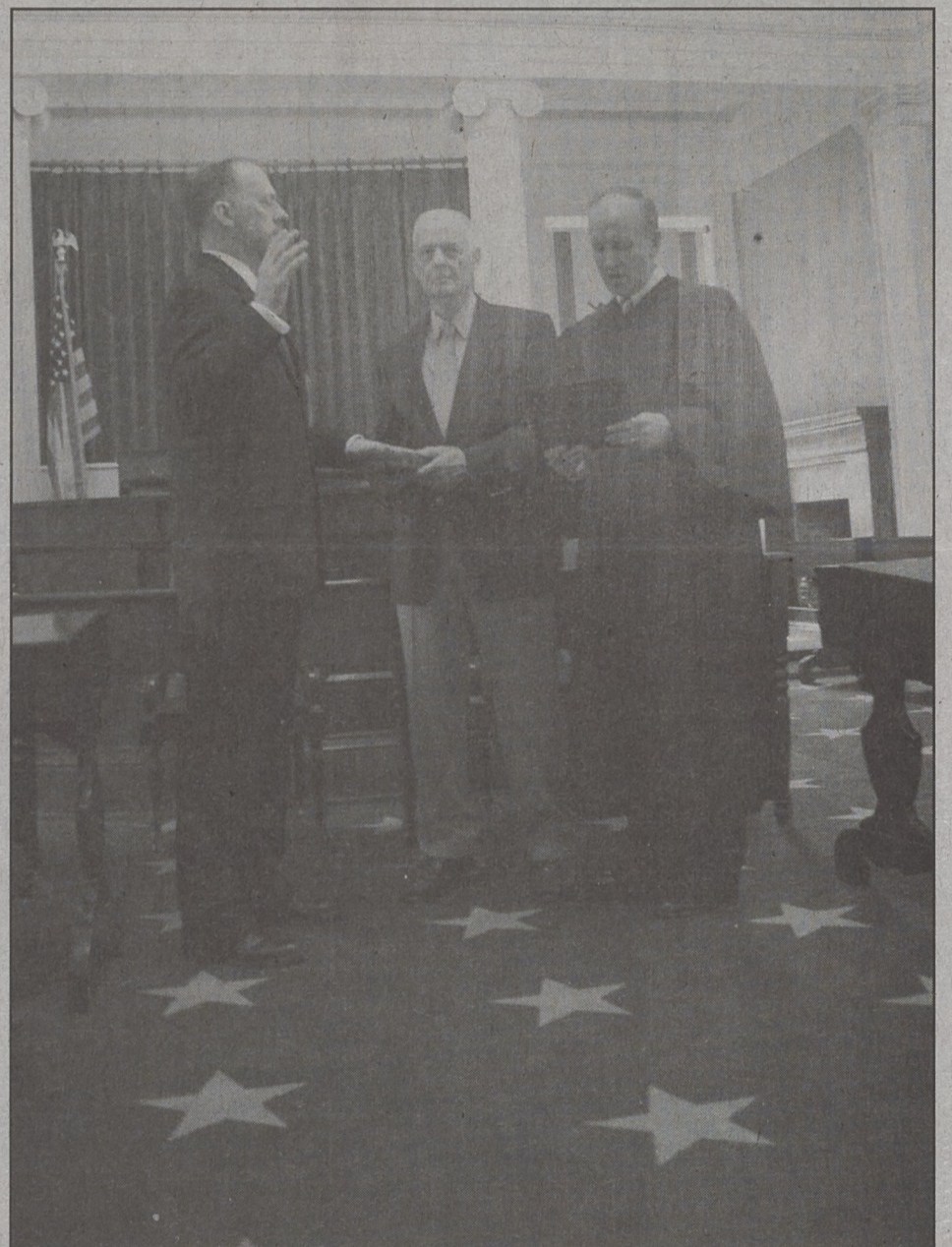
Veterans who are currently members of the breakfast club are Johnny Melton, Barry Rikard, Carl Morrow, Ralph Grindstaff, Paul Gaffney, Wayne Dellinger, Edward Lovelace, Abe Ruff, Jim Medlin, Bobby Tumbleson, Boyce Tesenair and Terry Bowen.

Auction set for March 9

Plans are underway for the annual Relay for Life auction to be held March 9 at 6 p.m. at H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Center.

Team captains and teams are invited to call Fire Chief Frank Burns at 704-734-0555 for tables they will need for the benefit and assistance in securing auction items. Last year over 175 people turned out for the auction which raised hundreds of dollars for Relay for Life.

Zolten Thornburg will serve as auctioneer.



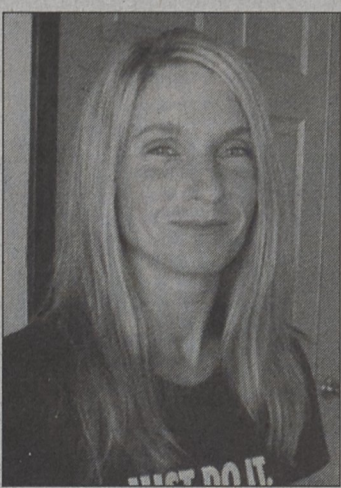
Westmoreland sworn in

Newly-installed District 46 Senator Wes Westmoreland is sworn in by Associate Justice Paul Newby, right, as Westmoreland's father, Dr. T.G. Westmoreland, looks on.

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Thursday Night:
Mauney Memorial Library hosts
Live Trivia! from 7-9pm



Friday Night:
Honey Dijon Glazed Salmon
with wild rice and corn succotash.

Saturday Night:
Braised Beef Short Rib
with roasted red potatoes and vegetables.

Sunday: Fried Chicken
or Fried Flounder
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