

# SCHOOL NEWS



## 13 BCHS students inducted into NTHS

Thirteen Bessemer City High School students have been inducted as members of The National Technical Honor Society because of academic achievements in a Career Technical program. Membership in the society is the highest scholastic honor award for excellence in Career and Technical Education in America.

The National Technical Honor Society's designation is one of only three honor societies that are placed on the North Carolina transcript. Students who accepted the invitation were provided a tassel that may be worn at graduation ceremonies and a National Technical Honor Society award sticker for their diploma.

To be invited, students must be a senior with a current cumulative 3.0 grade-point average and have a 3.5 grade-point

average in all Career and Technical Education classes completed. Students must also be scheduled to complete, or have completed, a College Prep Course of study in the current school year. Students must be in attendance 94 percent of the school year and have no suspensions from school.

The honored students are Justin Cobb, Payden Dover, Sury Gama-Hernandez, Aubrey Hallman, Meghan Hilton, Destiny Huggins, Cameron Hunter, Noemi Jimenez, Megan Phillips, Somer Picklesimer, A.J. Stinnett, Megan Summey, and Regan Summey.

Advisor of The National Technical Honor Society is Wanda Huffstetler. Susie Parker is the Career Development Coordinator at Bessemer City High and Karen Gilbert is CTE Director for all Gaston County Schools.

## UNCC honors local students

Seven students of Kings Mountain were recently listed on UNC-Chapel Hill's Dean's List for the fall 2011 semester: Allison Cummings, Kelsey Harvey, Erica Hicks, Michael Homesley, Chelsea Ingram, Hannah McGill, and Davis Phantlax.

Garrett Hastings and Taylor Rippey, both of Grover, were also on the Dean's List.

Seven from Kings Mountain received degrees from UNC-Chapel Hill in the spring of 2011: Chad Pearson - Master of

Arts in Exercise and Sport Science; Jessica Yarbro - Bachelor of Science in Psychology; Amber Baxley - Bachelor of Arts in Psychology; Marvin Brice - Bachelor of Arts in Political Science; Lauren Suber - Bachelor of Arts in History; Adam Pasour - Bachelor of Arts in International Studies; and Emily Smith - Bachelor of Music in Performing.

Marcus Carpenter of Bessemer City earned his Juris Doctorate in Law from UNC-Chapel Hill in Spring 2011.

## Locke honored at Clemson

William Robert Locke Jr. of Kings Mountain has been named to the Dean's List at Clemson University for the fall 2011 semester. He is majoring in Civil Engineering.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student achieved a grade-point average between 3.50 and 3.99 on a 4.0 scale.

## Master Speller



Ozzy "Jeff" Toth, 11, of Kings Mountain recently won a Spelling Bee at Kings Mountain Intermediate School. Jeff is in the Academically Intellectually Gifted program at KMIS. He is an "A" Honor roll student who enjoys drawing and reading. His favorite subject is science. Nathan Michael Boone finished the Bee as runner-up.

## KM students honored for success at UNC-G

Two from Kings Mountain were listed among the recent graduates of UNC-Greensboro for the fall semester of 2011. Kelsey Michael Adams of Kings Mountain graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Lauren Kustra Goodson graduated with a Master of Science degree.

Elizabeth B. Anderson, Melvin L. Clark, Jr., Teal R. Curry, Jennifer M. Falls, Meagan V. Hawkins, and Tonya B. Overman, all of Kings Mountain, were listed on UNC-

Greensboro's Deans' List for the fall 2011 semester.

Students who earn a grade point average of 3.50 or better and who have no grade below B- for the semester will be placed on the Deans' List if they have completed at least 6 credit hours at UNCG.

Kings Mountain's Melvin L. Clark, Jr., Teal R. Curry and Cynthia J. VanZomeren were listed on the school's Chancellor's List for the fall 2011 semester.

## Herndon, Ruth on Meredith's Dean's List

Kathryn Pierce Herndon and Margaret Winter Ruth, both of Kings Mountain, made it onto the Dean's List for the 2011 spring semester

at Meredith College in Raleigh. The two were also listed on the college's Dean's List for the Fall 2010 semester.

# THE SAVVY SENIOR

By JIM MILLER  
Editor



## How to Help Elderly Drivers Limit or Stop Driving

Dear Savvy Senior,

I'm worried about my father's driving. At age 84, his driving skills have diminished significantly, but I know he's bound and determined to keep going as long as he's alive. What tips can you recommend that can help me help my dad stop driving?

Nervous Daughter

Dear Nervous,

For many families, telling an elderly parent it's time to give up the car keys is a very sensitive and difficult topic. While there's no one simple way to handle this issue, here are a number of tips and resources you can try to help ease your dad away from driving.

Take a Ride

To get a clear picture of your dad's driving abilities, the first thing you need to do is take a ride with him watching for problem areas. For example: Does he drive too slow or too fast? Does he tailgate or drift between lanes? Does he have difficulty seeing, backing up or changing lanes? Does he react slowly? Does he get distracted or confused easily? Also, has your dad had any fender benders or tickets lately, or have you

noticed any dents or scrapes on his vehicle? These, too, are red flags.

Start Talking

After your assessment, you need to have a talk with your dad about your concerns, but don't sound alarmed. If you begin with a dramatic outburst like "Dad, you're going to kill someone!" you're likely to trigger resistance. Start by gently expressing that you're worried about his safety.

For tips on how to talk to your dad about this touchy topic, the Hartford Financial Services Group and MIT AgeLab offers some guides titled "Family Conversations with Older Drivers" and "Family Conversations about Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia & Driving" that can help, along with an online seminar called "We Need to Talk" that was produced by AARP. To access these free resources, visit [safedrivingforalifetime.com](http://safedrivingforalifetime.com).

Like many elderly seniors, your dad may not even realize his driving skills have slipped. If this is the case, consider signing him up for an older driver refresher course through AARP

([aarp.org/drive](http://aarp.org/drive), 888-227-7669), your local AAA or a driving school.

By becoming aware of his driving limitations, your dad may be able to make some simple adjustments - like driving only in daylight or on familiar routes - that can help keep him safe and driving longer. Or, he may decide to hang up the keys on his own.

Refuses To Quit

If, however, you believe your dad has reached the point that he can no longer drive safely, but he refuses to quit, you have several options. One possible solution is to suggest a visit to his doctor who can give him a medical evaluation, and if warranted, "prescribe" that he stops driving. Older people will often listen to their doctor before they will listen to their own family.

If that doesn't do it, ask him to get a comprehensive driving evaluation done by a driver rehabilitation specialist - this can cost several hundred dollars. A driving evaluation will test your dad's cognition, vision and motor skills, as well as his on-road driving abilities. To locate a specialist in your area, contact

the Association of Driver Rehabilitation Specialists ([driver-ed.org](http://driver-ed.org), 866-672-9466) or the American Occupational Therapy Association ([aota.org/older-driver](http://aota.org/older-driver)).

If he still refuses to move to the passenger seat, call your local Department of Motor Vehicles to see if they can help. Or, call in an attorney to discuss with your dad the potential financial and legal consequences of a crash or injury. If all else fails, you may just have to take away his keys.

Arrange Transportation

Once your dad stops driving he's going to need other ways to get around, so help him create a list of names and phone numbers of family, friends and local transportation services that he can call on. To locate community transportation services call the Area Agency on Aging. Call 800-677-1116 for contact information.

Send your questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](http://SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

**Power Lift Chairs**  
starting at **Just 549.99**  
Large Selection!

Best of Cleveland County  
**Laughlin FURNITURE**  
Open: Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30 • Sat 8:30-5:00  
90 Days Same As Cash With Credit Approval Via Mastercard & Discover Accepted  
Thanking You For 20 Years In Business!

400 N. Lafayette St. • Shelby, NC • 704-484-3204

Get the care you need at home.

Learn how a long-term care insurance policy can help you live life your way.

Call:  
**Suzanne H. Amos**  
Agent, LTCP, MHA

704-739-3300/864-710-8575

Mutual of Omaha

Underwritten by Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company, Mutual of Omaha Plaza, Omaha, NE 68175-0001

LIFE IS Simply Refreshing  
AT SUMMIT PLACE

We've always provided exceptional assisted living and memory care, and now, our lifestyle is even more refreshing!

We recently became a part of the Five Star Senior Living family, one of the country's largest senior living providers, with over 200 communities in 30 states. Here at home, our residents can look forward to the same expert care, with even more ways to live healthy and simply enjoy life.

SEE WHAT MAKES SUMMIT PLACE THE PLACE FOR SENIOR LIVING!

Call 704-739-6772 to reserve your luncheon & tour. Be sure to ask about our Summer Move-in Special!

SUMMIT PLACE OF KINGS MOUNTAIN  
FIVESTAR SENIOR LIVING™  
1001 Phifer Road • Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
704-739-6772  
[www.SummitPlaceOfKingsMountain.com](http://www.SummitPlaceOfKingsMountain.com)