

Meth lab found in room at BC inn

Catherine Stacey and Mark Stacey, both of Kings Mountain, were arrested and charged March 19 with manufacturing methamphetamine.

According to Gaston County Police Captain C.J. Roselle, suspicious materials were initially discovered in room 210 of the America's Best Inn, 1207 Edgewood Road, Bessemer City, by Cleveland County Sheriff's Department investigators.

The investigators initially went to the inn to serve a warrant on Mrs. Stacey regarding meth charges from their county, Roselle said.

"When their survey of the scene revealed elements and precursors of methamphetamine production, they in turn notified Gaston County Po-

lice narcotics agents," Capt. Roselle said. "No one else was present, just the two of them. Thankfully, no children were there."

The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation responded and, in turn, a certified contractor was called in for the removal and disposal of the hazardous waste.

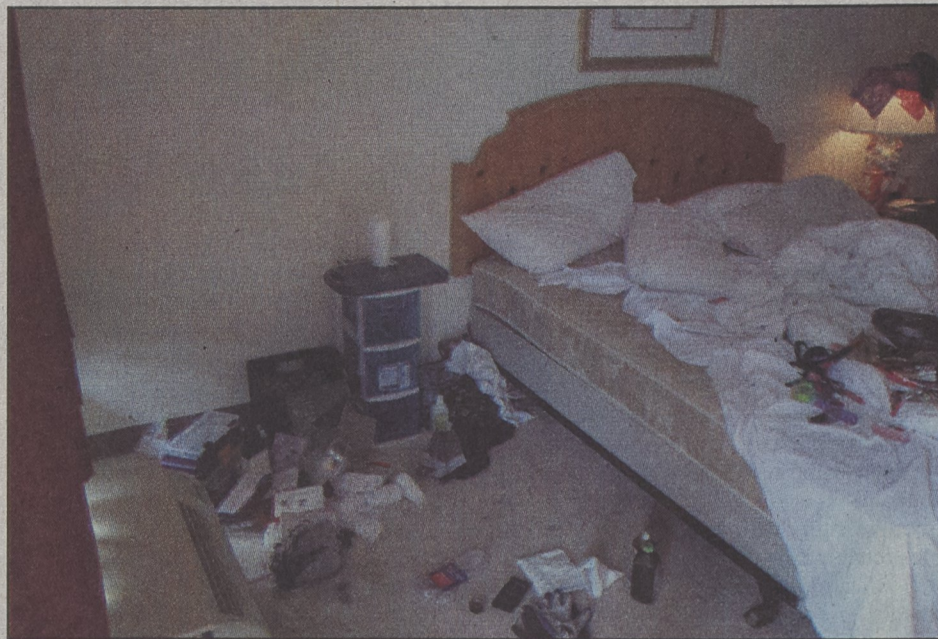
Catherine Michelle McAbee Stacey, 612 Charles St., Kings Mountain, and Mark Kevin Stacey, 638 Bell Rd., Kings Mountain, were charged with manufacturing methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine precursors, possession of drug paraphernalia, maintaining a dwelling/place for controlled substances, and felony conspiracy to manu-



MARK STACEY

facture methamphetamine.

Catherine Stacey is currently incarcerated in the Cleveland County Detention Center on unrelated methamphetamine charges. Her secured bond is \$8,000. Mark Stacey is currently in Gaston County Jail under a \$10,000 secured bond.



(photos submitted)

The Bessemer City motel room in which meth precursor materials were found.

Finding a home for baby Madison

Finding a home for three-month-old Baby Madison is the goal of a fundraiser Thursday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the fellowship hall of Cornerstone Church of God, 202 Margrace Road.

The baked spaghetti/lasagna lunch/dinner is sponsored by Burning Bush House of God. Choice of spaghetti or lasagna will be served with corn, garlic bread, and dessert.

Members of Burning Bush House of God are hoping to raise funds to help a local family hoping to adopt the little girl.

The public is invited. Call 704-739-3648 for more information.

County okays funding for CCS renovation

Cleveland County Commissioners last Tuesday okayed funding to begin renovations to the old Shelby Middle School in Shelby to house central staff members and the alternative school, the

Turning Point Academy. The action was the final step before work on the estimated \$8.9 million project can begin.

A petition with 149 signatures of people opposing the move was presented during the meeting and three people

signed up to speak, two of them addressing the board and asking for more time for evaluation of the school system's strategic plan.

Commission Chairman Johnny Hutchins told the large group present for the meeting that

"legally, we can't hold the money," explaining that school system funds include both local and state money and are held until the school system makes a request and if the funds are available, the expenditure is approved.

Schools adopt 2012 calendar

The first day of school for the Fall term 2012 will be August 27. The last day of the 180-day school term is June 10, 2013.

Cleveland County Board of Education last week adopted the school calendar.

The calendar:
Aug. 16 - annual leave day; planning days Aug. 17-24; first of 180 days Aug. 27; Labor Day holiday Sept. 3; HS/MS progress reports Sept. 18; Elementary/Intermediate progress reports

Sept. 27; HS/MS progress reports Oct. 9; Parent-Teacher conference and early dismissal Oct. 11; end of first quarter Oct. 26; planning day Oct. 29; K-12 report cards distributed Nov. 6; Veterans Day Holiday Nov. 12; Annual leave day Nov. 21; Thanksgiving holidays Nov. 22-23; HSMS progress reports Nov. 27; Elementary/Intermediate progress reports Dec. 6; HS/MS progress reports Dec. 18; planning day Dec. 21; Christmas holidays Dec. 24-26; annual leave day Dec. 27-31.

Also: Jan. 1 holiday; end of second quarter Jan. 18; Martin Luther King holiday Jan. 21; Panning day Jan. 22; K-12 report cards distributed Jan. 31; HS/MS progress reports Feb. 12; planning day Feb. 22; Elementary/Intermediate progress

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NC has similar self-defense law as Fla.

Citizens in Neighborhood Watch are encouraged to call 911 when they see something suspicious and let the police handle the rest

A wash of debate over self-defense laws has swept the nation. Waves of protests have headed south with cries of reform in the wake of the shooting death of an unarmed 17-year-old in Florida. The alleged triggerman, a neighborhood watch captain, said he fired in self defense...and was therefore covered under the law.

"Stand Your Ground" laws, which give people the right to defend themselves against attackers, are active in 21 states, including North Carolina.

The leeway in the Florida law may explain why no charges have been brought against 28-year-old George Zimmerman. He told police he had stopped chasing Trayvon Martin in his gated community and was headed back to his truck when the teen attacked him and he fired. Police on the scene decided not to press charges.

Under the Castle Doctrine, in North Carolina the use of deadly physical force was only justifiable for lawful residents protecting their homes and those within them against threatening intruders bent on committing a felony. But the law changed last December.

Now it covers those within a home, workplace, motor vehicle or anywhere

else they feel threatened. Lawful citizens are not burdened with the "duty to retreat" in North Carolina or in Florida and, in cases of self defense or the defense of others, residents are conditionally immune from prosecution for standing their ground.

But Martin's death, many have argued was senseless, unnecessary and unjust.

Florida's law allows a person to "stand his or her ground and meet force with force", "including deadly force" - anywhere there's a reasonable belief it's essential to "prevent death or great bodily harm", even if the situation could be avoided.

Police say Zimmerman was found with a bloody nose and a possible wound on the back of his head; Martin was pronounced dead on the scene. But other sides to the story have emerged in 911 records, a background check and witness statements.

Whether or not he broke the law, he reportedly broke some cardinal rules in the Neighborhood Watch handbook.

Law enforcement officials say that one of the first things Zimmerman did wrong was to approach a suspect. Citizens participating in the Neighborhood

Watch program are encouraged to call 911 when they see anything suspicious and let the police do the job of checking into it.

Although Zimmerman was licensed to carry a concealed weapon, those with the Neighborhood Watch organization never urge citizens to patrol their communities armed.

Florida police say Zimmerman was out running an errand when he spotted a suspicious figure in his neighborhood a little after 7 p.m. Martin was walking back to his father's fiance's home, where he was visiting. He had stopped at a convenience store and picked up a bag of Skittles and an iced tea. He had pulled the hood of his shirt over his head.

Zimmerman phoned 911 and reported the suspicious teen he was following. The dispatcher advised him not to engage the suspect. Martin was talking with his girlfriend on his cell phone when he reportedly told her he was being followed.

Martin was shot once in the chest with a 9 mm handgun. He reportedly died steps away from the home where he was staying. The FBI and the U.S. Department of Justice are investigating.

Voters have Constitutional decision to make in May

KYRA A. TURNER

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On May 8th not only will you be voting in the primary election for county representatives, county commissioners, President, ... but also for a state Constitutional amendment.

The proposed amendment is on defining marriage between one man and one woman.

The official explanation adopted by the Constitutional Amendments Publication Commission: a current North Carolina law enacted in 1996 says that marriage between individuals of the same sex are not valid in North Carolina.

The proposed amendment would add to Amendment 1, Article 14 of the North Carolina Constitution a new section called Section 6. It would read as follows: "Sec. 6. Marriage.

Marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union

that shall be valid or recognized in this State. This section does not prohibit a private party from entering into contracts with another private party; nor does this section prohibit courts from adjudicating the rights of private parties pursuant to such contracts."

The General Assembly approved the language voters will see on the ballot in May:

"[] For [] Against Constitutional amendment to provide that marriage between one man and one woman is the only do-

mestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State."

The amendment also states that private parties may still enter into contracts creating rights enforceable against each other. This means that unmarried people, businesses and other private parties may be able to enter into agreements establishing personal rights, responsibilities or benefits as to each other.

The courts will decide the extent to which such contracts can be enforced.

The term "domestic legal

union" used in the amendment is not defined in North Carolina law. There is debate among legal experts about how this proposed constitutional amendment may impact North Carolina law as it relates to unmarried couples of same or opposite sex and same sex couples legally married in another state, particularly in regard to employment-related benefits for domestic partners; domestic violence laws; child custody and visitation rights; and end-of-life arrangements. The courts will ultimately make those decisions.

North Carolina may have a law that prohibits same sex couples from marrying but it is the only state in the Southeast without such restrictions written into its constitution.

SurveyUSA polled over 1,000 likely voters across North Carolina and found that 58 percent support the proposed amendment. Thirty-six percent of voters opposed and six percent remained undecided.

According to the Secretary of State, Elaine F. Marshall, "In terms of this proposed constitutional amendment this is the one

and only time North Carolina voters will be able to vote in favor of or in opposition to it. So, if there are any voters out there who have been thinking they might not vote in the Primary, they should realize this is the 'general election' for this proposed amendment."

For 17 year olds and this being their first time voting, if you are going to be 18 by Nov. 6, you cannot vote on the constitutional amendment. You may however vote on everything else. The registration deadline is Fri-

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Kings Mountain Weekend Weather			
Thursday March 29 Partly Cloudy - 78' 20% Chance of precipitation Avg - Low: 42 Hi: 67	Friday March 30 Mostly Sunny - 73' 10% Chance of precipitation Avg - Low: 43 Hi: 68	Saturday March 31 Showers - 75' 40% Chance of precipitation Avg - Low: 43 Hi: 68	Sunday April 1 Scattered Storms - 76' 40% Chance of precipitation Avg - Low: 43 Hi: 68

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