

# LIFESTYLES

# OPINION

## Woman's Club hears about Living with Alzheimers



Gail Herndon, left, program chairman for the Home Life Community Service department of the Kings Mountain Woman's Club, introduces Edie McCurry, RN, who led the program topic, "Living with Alzheimers" at the May 28 meeting of the Woman's Club.

## Girl Scouts win highest honor

Brittany Dimmitt of Bessemer City, Kaitlynn Rose Krieger of Grover and Maia Frances Black of Kings Mountain were named among the 173 Girl Scouts to recently win the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award.

Girl Scouts Carolinas Peaks to Piedmont, a United Way agency, has awarded 173 Gold Awards — the highest girl award in Girl Scouting. Nationally, approximately 5-6% of eligible

Girl Scouts earn the award. Locally, GSCP2P exceeded the national average and awarded nearly 11% of its girls throughout central and western North Carolina with the Gold Award.

After the prerequisites are completed, the Girl Scout Gold Award project is the culmination of a girl's demonstration of self-discipline, leadership ability, time management, creativity, initiative and a significant

mastery of skills. Achieving the Gold Award takes true commitment and dedication with a minimum of 65 hours of service per girl. Locally and regionally, Girl Scouts collectively contributed a minimum of 11,245 hours, which the council credits with a monetary value of \$211,406 based on the Independent Sector's estimated value of volunteer time for 2010 at \$18.80 per hour for North Carolina.

## Beauties crowned in Miss Down Home Festival Pageant

Nine girls won crowns during the Miss Down Home Festival Pageant held Saturday, May 12 in Bessemer City. The Miss Gastonia Scholarship Association hosted the pageant, which was an official event of the annual Down Home Festival sponsored by the City of Bessemer City.

The winners were Bitsy Miss Zoey Rudisill, Baby Doll Miss Cheyanne Walker, Miniature Miss Kendall Lyles, Tiny Miss Alyssa Hallman, Little Miss Jersey Beattie, Junior Miss Erica Carpenter of Kings Mountain, Teen Miss Masha Hamby and Majestic Miss Ava Bryant.

The runners-up were Bentley Towery, Ava Rudisill, Aubrey Pruett, Sarah Greer, Carey Reali, Ashlynn King, Ashtyn Lane, Lucy McDaniel, Davanee Duncan, Addison Bryant, Kylee Perry and Lillian Wensil.

The signatures award winners were Bentley Towery, Ava Rudisill, Zoey Rudisill, Ava Bryant, Addison Bryant, Alyssa Hallman, Masha Hamby and Erica Carpenter. The overall signa-



DOWN HOME FESTIVAL PAGEANT WINNERS 2012 - The Miss Down Home Festival Pageant winners were Kendall Lyles, Kylee Perry, Alyssa Hallman, Jersey Beattie (front row) and Zoey Rudisill, Ava Bryant, Masha Hamby, Cheyanne Walker, Erica Carpenter (back row). Photo submitted by TODD HAGANS

tures award winner was Kylee Perry and the first application award winner was Lillian Wensil.

The pageant was a fundraiser for this year's Miss Gastonia Scholarship Pageant, which is planned

for July 22 at Gaston College. The next youth pageant for girls 0-19 years is Miss Fourth of July on Tuesday,

July 3 in Cherryville. For more information, visit [www.missgastoniapageant.com](http://www.missgastoniapageant.com).

## You're on your way, graduates! (Don't trip!)

Graduation is a moment to remember. I find it hard not to remember the two I've had.

In high school, we were the first class of the new millennium, dressed in purple caps and gowns. It wasn't too hot. It wasn't too cold. But heavy clouds moved in over our heads and before the speakers really started talking, the Class of 2000 was drenched. All washed up. The white dress under my robe, however, turned a violet color that would never wash out.

The ceremony went by quickly and the rain had stopped by the end of it. But I'll never forget the rainbow that appeared when our principal said, "I give you the Class of 2000."

It wasn't so much the words of speakers that I remember from that day, although I'm sure they were great, but the rainbow I remember most. To me, it was a sign of greater things to come.

Then, on a cold December day in 2004, I was set to graduate from Western Carolina University. The stage was indoors and for that I was grateful.

My grandmother had passed away a couple of months earlier. I know she would have wanted to see me graduate so I wore her jade necklace that day in a symbolic way to carry her with me. There weren't quite as many graduates in December so our rows of seats were spread a good distance apart. As I sat in my seat waiting for the ceremony to begin I felt a hand on my shoulder. I quickly turned back to see who it was, but found no one. I knew right away that my grandmother was there.

On my way to the stage, I kept coaching myself not to trip. I usually don't wear heels, but I had that day for some reason. I remember, in practice, we were told to wait before we came down with our diploma because at the end of the stage each graduate would pause to have a picture taken. In all my silent self-coaching, I had forgotten that part.

I came straight down and bumped into the poor guy



EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

ahead of me just as his photo was being taken. My Mom still laughs about it to this day. But that poor guy probably wasn't laughing when he got the proof of this memento of his great accomplishment with a startle-faced me bumping into him.

That's what I remember. And I hope Friday will be a day full of great memories for the 335 graduates of Kings Mountain High's Class of 2012. You've earned it.

Don't be afraid of a little rain. You can't have a rainbow without it. You're on your way. Don't trip! And keep your eyes on the horizon. You never know who you'll bump into... or the impact you'll have on someone else.

And remember to carry your loved ones with you. They want to see you succeed.

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