

# Kings Mountain Herald

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**INSIDE**  
State of the Community?  
Excellent!  
3A

**SPORTS, 1B**  
MOUNTAINEERS on the  
road to Huss Friday



## Suspects held in double murder

ELIZABETH STEWART  
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The shocking murder of his son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Thelma King in the Dutch Caribbean nation of St. Maarten last Friday is almost unbearable for Kings Mountain's Jerry and Jane King.



Michael and Thelma King in front of their home in St. Maarten.

"I took Mike and Thelma to the Charlotte airport just a couple weeks ago," said Jerry.

The car they drove from Mount Pleasant, SC to Kings Mountain is still in the Kings' garage.

Jerry King answered the phone to hear the voice of another son who told him that Michael and Thelma King were found Friday in their beach front condominium brutally stabbed. Mrs. King, 57, was tied to a chair in their home in

See KINGS, 6A

## Victory Inn on the auction block

The Victory Inn, the 100-room hotel off York Road at I-85 on Holiday Inn Drive, is going on the auction block Wednesday, Oct. 3, at 11 a.m.

The 2012 tax assessment for the hotel, located on 3.104 acres, is \$1,187,137. The hotel's 2012 property tax is listed as \$13,229.46. The adjacent 3.84 acres has a 2012 tax assessment of \$303,475 and 2012 property tax of \$3,381.93. The land is zoned General Business.

The hotel was built in 1975 after several investors from the community got together and brought what was then called The Royal Villa to Kings Mountain.

In 2007 a total of 76 rooms were renovated. The facility includes 30 king

rooms and 38 double rooms, a modern laundry, large commercial kitchen, banquet and restaurant space.

Tranzon National Auctions will conduct the auction. A property preview was held Sept. 19 and Sept. 26.

"We are hopeful that buyers will look at this property and/or land for a hotel or to create a large development tract with exceptional interstate visibility," said Shirley Brutko, manager of the Cleveland Chamber office in Kings Mountain.

The property will be sold in "as is" condition, according to Bill Landrey of Tranzon.

The Kings Mountain area has extremely high hotel occupancy, reportedly ranging from 80-85%.

## Cyclists to visit KM

The North Carolina Amateur Sports will visit Patriots Park in downtown Kings Mountain as a rest stop during their trek across the state from Brevard College to Carolina Beach during their fall Cycle North Carolina on Tuesday, October 2nd. "I've been in contact with Randy Billings, with the Fall Ride Field Staff, to coordinate their arrival and he said they have 1000 riders already registered," said Ellis Noell, Special Events Director for the City. The City will be hosting a "meet & greet" during the riders break at

Patriots Park. Riders are expected to arrive around 8:30 a.m. -10 a.m.

"This is one of those great opportunities to show visitors the quality of life here in Kings Mountain, how bike friendly we are and share that we are the Gateway to all three area parks, which all are scenic ride alternatives for these riders, when they visit here again in the future," said Noell.

The City will provide information on all three area park, updates on next years' "Over the Mountain" triathlon and promotional information on next weeks' Gateway Festival.

For additional information contact Ellis Noell, 704-473-8727 or visit www.CityofKM.com or cnc.ncsports.org



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## Candidates share views with voters

ELIZABETH STEWART  
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Eight candidates for county and state public offices faced voters Monday night in a candidate forum hosted by the Kings Mountain Woman's Club. Each pledged, if elected, to serve to the best of his/her ability.

Of the eight, three are incumbent county commissioners and seek reelection - Mary Accor, Ronnie Hawkins, and Johnny Hutchins - and all three seats are up for grabs in November. Warren Daniel is running for a second term in the Senate representing the new 46th District of Cleveland-Burke Counties and opposed by Democrat, former Kings Mountain resident

and retired Burke County Sheriff John McDevitt; Rep. Tim Moore is unopposed for his sixth term in the NC House of Representatives; Meredith Shuford of Lincoln County is running for reelection as District Court Judge, a judgeship which includes Cleveland County; and Susan Allen of Shelby, a political newcomer active in six organizations in the county and retired businesswoman with United Parcel Service, is running for a seat on the board of county commissioners.

Accor, Hawkins and Hutchins said they are running on their records as did Daniel, Moore, and Shuford. McDevitt and Allen said

See CANDIDATES, 7A

## APPROVED! School Board approves KMHS field house, press box projects

GARY STEWART  
Sports Editor

The Cleveland County Board of Education Monday night approved two athletic facility projects for Kings Mountain High School.

The board signed an agreement with the Kings Mountain Touchdown Club, giving it the go-ahead to construct a 12,000 square foot field house behind John Gamble Stadium. (See the floor plan on page 5B.)

The board also approved a \$266,991 bid from T.C. Strickland to construct a press box, rest

rooms and concession stands to serve the KMHS/KMMS softball facility and the KMMS baseball field.

The latter project is the result of a Title IX visit two years ago which found the school system out of compliance with Title IX regulations covering female sports.

The new facility will be located between the softball and baseball fields, and allows viewing of both fields at one time. Very often, there are two games going on at the same time there.

See BOARD, 6A

## Gateway Festival

10th annual event set to take place Oct. 6

The City of Kings Mountain will host the 10th annual "Gateway Festival" on Saturday, Oct. 6 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. throughout the downtown area. This community event is a celebration of Kings Mountain music, art, history and culture.

Kings Mountain was designated in 2000 as "The Gateway City" by the Department of Interior and the National Park Service to all three area parks - Crowder's Mountain State Park, Kings Mountain State Park and Kings Mountain National Military Park.

The festival will highlight the history and anniversary of the nearby victorious battle site which Thomas Jefferson de-

clared, "... the turning point of the Revolutionary War." There will be British Regulars and Tories fighting Patriot militias in battle at Patriots Park. Revolutionary re-enactors with the South Fork Militia, the Charlestowne Artillery and other re-enactment groups will share the experience of battle along with an encampment and Colonial period living history demonstrations at the park.

The free Gateway Shuttle will run continuously during the festival between Patriots Park, the Kings Mountain Historical Museum and Commons, tour the Central School Historic District and with stops at the Kings Mountain

See GATEWAY FESTIVAL, 7A



**GATEWAY FESTIVAL**



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