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# Beware!

## Hackers active nationwide

ELIZABETH STEWART

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Monitor your financial accounts daily. Hacking is nothing to take lightly.

That's the warning from Det. Cpl. Todd McDougal of the Kings Mountain Police Department who says he's finding out from fraud investigators that the recent hacking of bank cards isn't only happening in Kings Mountain but it's nationwide.

McDougal was also a victim.

When his bank account was compromised he called his bank, signed an affidavit and the money "went right back into my account."

But he added, "banks have different policies and they may require you to file a police report."

Many of the people who left comments on Facebook last week said a common link seemed to be 238 Cherokee Street Tavern in Kings Mountain. Cherokee Street Tavern isn't the only business in town affected; other victims say they used their debit cards at grocery stores and service stations, say police.

"Rob Bolin and his business have been getting a black eye and don't deserve it," McDougal was quick to say. He said Cherokee Street Tavern and its employees "have done nothing wrong," adding that Bolin has been working with federal agents and with local police trying to track down what is happening.

McDougal says that no local business "is to blame, it isn't anything any of them have done wrong."

He said that proof of how often fraud cases occur is that one bank in town notified a customer that his account was compromised, cancelled the account, reopened an account and the next day it happened again.

"What we have found out is that an unknown outside entity, possibly one as far distant as overseas, is hacking computer systems everywhere," said McDougal.

He was told a computer system is being used to "mine" into people's accounts and gather personal information. The thief then

See HACKERS, 7A



## Playing Santa



Photo by LIB STEWART

Meranda Hamrick, Sgt. Ken Bachman, Kim Reel and Maricara Montgomery, left to right, are pictured with Christmas gifts for 47 children from Ultra Machine Company. The Kings Mountain industry responded to an angel tree at East Elementary School and bought clothes, toys and shoes.

Caring Kings Mountain area people are playing Santa this season for the less fortunate.

East Elementary School's angel tree for 153 kids is lighter today, thanks to the coats,

toys and shoes provided for 47 of those "angels" by Ultra Machine Company of Kings Mountain.

Sgt. Ken Bachman of the Kings

See PLAYING SANTA, 7A

## Lawing votes with Brown breaking 4-4 tie over zoning

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Kings Mountain Planning Board Chairman Doug Lawing broke a 4-4 tie Monday night, siding with developer Mike Brown who challenged the board on 100 feet setbacks for recreational facilities proposed in a new, text amendment that regulates multiple uses of recreation city wide.

Currently there is no provision for multiple recreation in city ordinances.

Brown is developing Hounds Campground on S. Battleground (old Grover Road) which will feature a variety of recreation.

Vice-chairman Jim Potter's motion to "leave as written 100 feet from a property line" was seconded by Christy McCleary. Voting for the motion were Potter, Phil

Dee, Bobby Pearson and McCleary. Voting against were Ernest Rome, Lamar Fletcher, Bill McMurrey, and Wayne Paul.

Lawing, in breaking the tie, agreed with Rome, Fletcher, McMurrey and Paul with "100 feet buffers along residential property only" in the zoning ordinance text amendment.

City Council, which has the final say on zoning matters, was voting on the amendment at The Herald's press time Tuesday.

Said Brown's attorney Doug Arthurs, "All that we want to address tonight is the 100 feet setbacks for recreational uses. If you agree with how it is written this will mean eight acres of my client's campground will be taken up in setbacks and can't be developed."

Brown said he had never questioned the 100 feet buffers along residential property. "Why put more restrictions on me?" he asked the board.

"I am struggling with this setback issue because what

we recommend to the city council will apply to every public commercial, multiple recreational and entertainment uses facility in the city," said Lawing, adding, "We need to come up with a solution."

Lamar Fletcher questioned "100 feet setbacks applying to all uses," adding, "I don't want to cause anyone's property not to be developed."

"Our goal is to protect all property owners," said McCleary.

In other business of the meeting:

•Lawing was re-elected chairman of the Planning & Zoning Board and Jim Potter was elected vice-chairman. Planning Director Steve Killian was elected secretary.

•The board continued until January 29, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. a request by Faunce Properties, Inc. for rezoning from Residential S8 to Conditional Use Office his property at 813 W. King St., formerly 814 W. Mountain St.

## City, STEAG get \$480k grant

Mayor Rick Murphrey announced this week that the North Carolina Rural Center has funded the city's application for \$480,000 for its Vacant Building Reuse Program.

The funds will be used by STEAG Energy Services, a provider of environmental consulting and manufacturing services, to expand its facility at the former Anvil Knitwear site in Kings Mountain.

The project will create 40 jobs and STEAG will invest approximately \$6 million in developing an advanced technological service to the power producing companies in America.

"The City continues to

support a pro-business climate for our region and North Carolina," said the mayor. "Working with companies like STEAG, an excellent corporate citizen and one of our top five utility customers, benefits both our businesses and our local economy." Congratulating STEAG on the expansion plans, the mayor thanked them for commitment to the community.

STEAG has been an industrial citizen of Kings Mountain since 2006.

In April, Hans-Ulrich Hartenstein and his wife, Brigitte, announced an expansion of 15 full time jobs and an investment of \$3 million.

The Rural Center grant will enable the Hartensteins to add a third and fourth production line and hire more employees.

The STEAG facility cleans honeycomb-like structures called catalysts which help power plants control the emission of nitrogen oxides. The mayor terms the process as "refurbishing smokestacks of power plants."

In 2013 the Hartensteins will offer an apprenticeship program with area schools and colleges where students interested in chemistry and engineering can work, earn a salary and go to school, graduating with an associate degree.



photo by ELLIS NOEL

An employee works in STEAG Energy Services in Kings Mountain. The City of Kings Mountain's application for \$480,000 to the N.C. Rural Service for STEAG expansion was approved this week.

## "Fire Truck Express" coming to town

Santa Claus will be in Kings Mountain on his "Fire Truck Express" for a couple of last minute stops to see the children before Christmas and to get an update on their Christmas lists.

On Thursday morning, Dec. 13, Santa will visit local daycare centers.

On Saturday, Dec. 15, Santa and his helpers will arrive on his "Fire Truck Express" for a visit to the Kings Mountain Historical Museum, during the Toys, Games & Trains Exhibit, from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Children are encouraged to stop by to visit with Santa. During his visit, the annual model train display will be traveling around the tracks for the children and adults to enjoy. This

highly popular and interactive display was built and is maintained by the Piedmont "S" Gaugers, a group of model train enthusiasts.

The event is free and open to the public. All donations go toward supporting the Museum's mission of informing the public of the his-

tory of Kings Mountain, and surrounding areas, by preserving and exhibiting the 19th and early 20th century collection.

The Gift Shop at the Main Exhibit Hall will also be open and a perfect place for those last minute ideas for unique Christmas gifts.

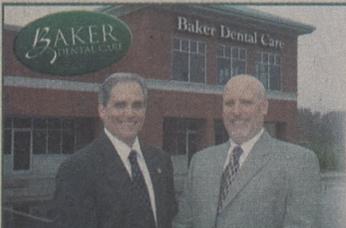
## Toys still needed

Wanted: more toys for the Kings Mountain Police Department's annual Toys for Tots program.

The pinch in the economy is very real, say police, who are seeing the big toy collection room at the police department only about 1/4 full.

Det. Cpl. Todd McDougal and Det. Sgt. Lisa Proctor, heading up the drive again this year, are worried they won't be able to supply the need.

Christmas Eve is only 11 days away and police want to see every needy child with a toy for Christmas.



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