

# Smiths come home to KM for the holidays

Two families in Kings Mountain got a special Christmas present when they learned that their children and grandchildren were coming home for the holidays from Schweinfurt, Germany.

Dana and Greg Smith have been home for Christmas only twice in the 11 years they have worked in Germany where both are licensed ministers. Greg, son of Joann Smith and the late Odus Smith, ministers to the military, and Dana is a special education teacher at a school attended by children from military families.

"We love what we do," says Mrs. Smith. For them, she says it has been a calling.

The family came back to the States for a special occasion on Saturday at Lee University in

Cleveland, Tennessee. Their son, Jonathan, 20, received his degree in business education and all his family were in attendance, including his younger brother, Gregory, who is a student at Lee University, and their sister, Heather, who is a first year student at a college in Alabama.

Dana and Greg Smith will be visiting his mother and her parents, Raymond and Brenda Couch, until Jan. 5 (Dana's birthday) when they fly home to Schweinfurt.

Dana and Greg Smith were high school sweethearts at Kings Mountain High School where he graduated in 1980 and she graduated in 1982.

Greg's church is an "international congregation" of 85-90

members who speak 14 different languages. His sermons are in English but a German translator is also required for all services. There are few Americans in the congregation since the Army base closed in that location, about a 40 minute ride from the Smith home. Their church members are Germans, Africans, Asians, and Russians. Dana currently teaches 16 special education students but she fears the school will probably close next year. She formerly taught children of military families at a school in Kitzintzen, Germany.

"My husband and I love Germany and the work we are able to do there," said Dana.

But she adds, "we always like to come home too."



Greg, Jonathan, Heather, Gregory and Dana Smith, left to right, are home for Christmas in Kings Mountain for only the second time in 11 years that Greg and Dana Smith have lived in Germany.



TOYS FOR TOTS - Pictured, from left, Cpl. Todd McDougal, Cpl. Doug Shockley, Capt. Derek Johnson, Chief Melvin Proctor, Sgt. Chris Moore, Ptl. Chris Graham, and CID Secretary Toni Mode with Santa Claus. The big conference room at Kings Mountain Police Department is filled with toys to be presented to needy children on Christmas Eve. This is the 8th Christmas that KMPD has collected toys for a merrier Christmas for children, in a project led by Sgt. Lisa Proctor, not pictured, and members of the detective division.

Photo by ELLIS NOELL

## Chief says 'Be watchful'

Kings Mountain police say hackers are still stealing personal information on credit and debit cards in this area. "Be watchful, says Chief Melvin Proctor.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said his card was hacked at a gas station this week and the perpetrator used it to buy merchandise at a store in Gaffney, SC.

Proctor suggests that residents use checks or cash if possible. Target areas for the hackers appear to be grocery stores and gas stations.

One incident of financial card fraud was reported by a local bank this week.

The chief and Det. Todd McDougal are both victims of hackers. They have found out from the Secret Service and other investigators that the recent hacking of bank cards isn't only happening in Kings Mountain but nationwide.

McDougal says that no local business "is to blame, it isn't anything any of them have done wrong." He said police have found out that an unknown entity, possibly one as far distant as overseas, is hacking computer systems everywhere.

said that Tharon Alexander of Shelby, operating a 2007 Chevy, reached to the floor board to pick up a soda bottle and his vehicle rear-ended a 2007 Ford operated by Marybeth Bell Back, 758 Bell Road. The accident happened at the traffic light at US 74 West and Kings Mountain Blvd. Property damages were estimated at \$4500.

## Moore reappointed

Rep. Tim Moore, (R-Cleveland), Kings Mountain lawyer, has been reappointed as Chairman of the House Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

The appointment was announced by House Speaker Thom Tillis, R-Mecklenburg.

Moore will continue his role as one of the most influential members of the House, overseeing the schedule and flow of legislation and interpreting the rules of the chamber.

Moore is beginning his

6th term in the North Carolina House of Representatives.

"The leaders of the major House committees will work hard to protect the interests of their constituents and all North Carolinians," Speaker Tillis said. "I am eager to work with them this session to make North Carolina a better place to live, work, and raise a family."



Rep. Tim Moore

## POLICE

From page 2A

Piedrahita, 21, Gastonia, speeding.

DEC. 14: Ashley Melton, 24, Lincolnton, speeding.

DEC. 14: Naykevius Woods, 22, Gastonia, speeding, expired tag.

DEC. 14: Thomas Todd, 42, 116 Cloninger St., expired tag.

DEC. 14: Brooklyn Cierra Davis, 21, Gastonia, red light violation, revoked license.

DEC. 16: A 17-year-old male was cited for running a red light.

DEC. 16: Dang Elise Long, 40, 111 High Ridge Ct, revoked license.

INCIDENTS  
DEC. 10: A resident of W. Mountain St. reported that someone tried to use his check for \$4,764.97 to make a bank payment.

DEC. 10: Ingles Market, 2111 Shelby Rd., reported shoplifting of energy drinks.

DEC. 11: A resident of Temple Street reported a break-in and theft of a Playstation Three, Xbox 360, and Ipod.

DEC. 11: A resident of S. Sims St. reported theft of a pickup truck.

## FOOD INSPECTIONS

Facility Inspections  
Dec. 10-14

Cleveland County Health Department facilities' inspections included the following in Kings Mountain Dec. 10-14.

Linwood Restaurant, Cleveland Ave., 90.0; 238 Cherokee Street Tavern, 99; Food Lion Deli, Shelby Rd., 97; and Food Lion Meat Market, Shelby Rd., 96.5.

## City posts holiday hours

The City of Kings Mountain - will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 24 and 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Garbage service for the week will be as follows: Monday and Tuesday garbage will be picked up on Wednesday, Dec. 26. Wednesday garbage will be picked up on Thursday, Dec. 27 and Thursday garbage will be picked up on Friday, Dec. 28.

Recycling service will be changed as follows: route 6 and 7 will be picked up on Wednesday, Dec. 26, route 8 and 9 will be picked up on Thursday, Dec. 27, and route 10 will be picked up on Friday, Dec. 28.

### GRAY

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Professional Land Surveyor

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Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
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Kings Mountain Weekend Weather			
Thursday December 20	Friday December 21	Saturday December 22	Sunday December 23
T-Showers - 58'	Partly Cloudy - 50'	Sunny - 56'	Partly Cloudy - 55'
70% Chance of precipitation	0% Chance of precipitation	0% Chance of precipitation	10% Chance of precipitation
Night time Low 32'	Night time Low 30'	Night time Low 31'	Night time Low 31'

## Candlelight Christmas Eve Communion Service

December 24th • 6pm  
KM YMCA

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