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Sheppard killed in welding explosion

An explosion at Sheppard Welding in the Love Valley community on Bethlehem Road Monday morning claimed the life of 69-year-old Gerald Randall (Randy) Sheppard.



Randy Sheppard

Sheppard was repairing a diesel tank inside his welding plant, according to Cleveland County Coroner Dwight Tessner. The coroner has ruled the death accidental.

Cleveland County Fire Marshal Perry Davis said a cap on the tank, which alleviates pressure built inside, wasn't taken off as Sheppard worked to fix the tank.

"Randy was a good man, he will be missed," said Tessner.

The client, who waited outside the building while Sheppard worked on the tank, heard the explosion that rocked the plant and

called for help. Firefighters from Bethlehem and Oak Grove Fire Departments put out the small fire quickly.

Sheppard died at 10:43 a.m.

He was the son of Edith Randall and J.D. Sheppard and attended Freewill Baptist Church of Shelby. He had owned and operated Sheppard Welding over 40

See SHEPPARD, 6A

Lipscomb attends Inauguration

ELIZABETH STEWART
 lib.kmherald@gmail.com

GROVER – The inauguration Tuesday of President Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States was exciting for Brenda Lipscomb.

A staunch Democrat, it was her first inauguration and she was excited to be in the crowds. Lipscomb has been chief judge of the Grover precinct seven years and is on the state Democratic committee. She is active in Cleveland County Democratic Women.

Lipscomb moved back to Cleveland County 10 years ago, retiring after 30 years as a research specialist with the Security and Exchange Commission for the federal government in Washington, DC.

Lipscomb flew to Washington Thursday night and is visiting her son and daughter-in-law, Dwayne and Shirly Ross, in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. In Washington, DC, she worked with the treasury department and several other agencies over the years.

"I always like to go back to D. C. and sometimes I visit old friends in the treasury department," she said. She doubted she would have the opportunity to visit them on this trip. "Washington will be a beehive of activity," she added.



Photo by LIB STEWART
 Brenda Lipscomb stands in the law library of Yelton, Farfour and Fite in Shelby where she is receptionist. The Grover woman is in the nation's capital until Wednesday. She attended Presidential inauguration festivities and is visiting relatives.



President Barack Obama takes the oath of office during the 57th Presidential Inauguration on Jan. 21, 2013. The President touched on climate change, partisan bickering, and the protection of rights in his second inaugural address delivered before 800,000 standing on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Photo/AP

Lipscomb's grandparents, the late Boyd and Mary Beasley, raised her in Grover. She returned to her native Cleveland County to help her uncle, Joe Easley, 86, now a resident of White Oak Manor in Kings Mountain. Long-time friends with Democratic leaders in the county, she quickly became active in the Grover precinct.

A number of other Clevelanders are

See LIPSCOMB, 6A

County asked for \$300K

County commissioners postponed action Tuesday night on a request to help fund a major expansion project by Kings Mountain's H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life & Conference Center.

A request is being made for a \$300,000 contribution from the county for the project. Carl Elliott and Senior Center Director Monty Thornburg said the expected cost could total up to \$1.2 million.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said that residents from all over the county are active in programs at the Kings Mountain Senior Center.

"We have seen a 25% increase in participation at our Patrick Center and we need to expand to take care of people and programs," he added.

Although council did not take official action they indicated the ball is in Kings Mountain's court at this point, saying that they needed further information.

"Kings Mountain City Council has not voted on the fundraising project," Elliott said.

Astronomers to meet at GWU Jan. 26

The Cleveland County Astronomical Society (CCAS) will host the 21st annual Regional Meeting of Amateur Astronomers on Saturday, Jan. 26, at the Tucker Student Center at Gardner-Webb university. This free event opens at 8 a.m. with the program beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 5 p.m.

The event will feature speakers,

See CCAS, 6A



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Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King

Devenny sweeps MLK Day photo contest

Kings Mountain artist Ellen Devenny won three of the top prizes in the photography contest on Dr. Martin Luther King Day, Monday, in Kings Mountain.

Devenny won first place for "In the Hands of Children" and second place for "Faith and Hope in the Future." She also took the mayor's special award for "Faith to Finish the Race." Third place award in the adult competition went to Starr Dove's "To sit down together at the table of brotherhood." In the youth award classification, Kendra Thompson won the first place award for "School Bus" and Xavier Johnson won the second place award for "Free at Last." Cash prizes, \$150 for first place, \$100 for second place, and \$50 for third place will be presented at the Jan. 29 city council meeting at 6 p.m. at city hall.

Ben Earp's "Hands of Strength" and

See PHOTO CONTEST, 6A



Photo by LIB STEWART
 Ellen Devenny is pictured with her 2nd place photo entitled 'Faith and Hope for the Future'.

See more winning photos on page 6A.

Breakfast attendees inspired by King's example

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a man whose life and death broke down centuries-old barriers for African-Americans, was honored Monday at the 16th annual breakfast celebration on Martin Luther King Day by members of Bynum Chapel AME Zion Church.

Singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and "Reach Out and Touch," the large crowd clapped their hands as speakers remembered the slain Civil Rights leader who died at age 39 on April 4, 1968 and who likely prevented much bloodshed during the 1960s when he told his followers not to pick up guns to protect him.

"He inspired us all by his example, keep alive his dream," said Rev. Dr. George H. McNeely, Presiding Elder of the Lincolnton District of Western North Carolina, and the principal speaker.

McNeely said that many sacrifices had been made by people "all around us, black and white, present and past" and read scripture from Deuteronomy 6: 10-20 in which God said, "do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord."

"We may not have a story like Dr. King but each of us has a story," he said, pointing out that, "we take for granted what we have

today." He added, "Love God, love your neighbor and love yourself." McNeely called King "one of God's true prophets sent to unify his

people and lead them to God's promise of love and equality." He called it appropriate that "the

See BREAKFAST, 6A



CONNECT OUR FUTURE – Connie Savell, left, a retired KM teacher gives her input at a planning and growth meeting at the Patrick Senior Center. Nadine Bennett of Centralina Council of Governments looks on.



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