

Kings Mountain Herald

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Bridges faces child sex charges, exploitation of a minor

Computers were seized Thursday at the home of a Kings Mountain man and Cleveland County deputies charged Charles Kevin Bridges, 54, 1768 Bethlehem Road, with child sex charges.

Captain Joel Shores said Bridges faces three counts of sec-



ond-degree
exploitation
of a minor
and three
counts of
third-degree
exploitation

Kevin Bridges

of a minor. He was arrested Thursday, Feb. 14, jailed at the Cleveland County Detention Center, and released on a half-million dollar bond.

Multiple computers, iPads and iPhones were seized from Bridges' home by deputies.

"We got involved in the inves-

tigation, which originated with Gaston police who called in the FBI, when we found Mr. Bridges lived in Cleveland County," said Shores. He said county officers assisted with the search warrants.

The equipment confiscated by officers allegedly contained pornographic videos of girls be-

tween the ages of 5-14 years old engaged in sexual activity with adults or exposing body parts to web cams, according to the warrants. In some videos, according to the warrants, the girls had duct tape covering their mouths.

The investigation is ongoing, said Shores.

Last chance to see 'Beauty and the Beast'

"Beauty and the Beast" by the Kings Mountain High School Performing Arts Department returns to Barnes Auditorium for shows on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 22 and 23, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 24, at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for senior citizens and Cleveland County Renaissance Blue Black and Silver card holders. Renaissance Gold Card holders and children 5 and under get in for free.

New trails ready for Gateway 10K

Two trails – the steep Cardio Trail straight up the mountain behind Timms Furniture and the new graded trail to I-85, will be ready for the Gateway Trail 10K Run and 5K Run-Walk March 2 at 8 a.m. on South Battleground Avenue.

Workmen will be putting the finishes touches, scraping and adding gravel for the 5K run which will feature two loops, the Cardio and Platinum, and for the 10K run on the new graveled trail which leads to I-85.

A kid's fun run will also be held and medals will be given to each Fun Run participant. Southern Arts Society will add to the trophy presentations with unique pottery oak leaves with the Gateway Trail logo.

Registration is underway and the fees of \$20 for 5K, \$30 for 10K can be mailed to PO Box 859, Kings Mountain, NC 28086. Registration

See TRAILS, 5A

Students to fight hunger Feb. 23

Fight global hunger by fasting. That's the plan of 38 middle and high school students at Grace Christian Academy this weekend.

The youth will drink water and juice, eat no food, for 30 hours beginning at 12:30 Friday and ending at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23. They will gather at Christian Freedom Baptist Church youth building.

Local resident Mike Reynolds, a volunteer in the Cleveland County Potato Project to help feed the hungry, will talk about local hunger and how the potato project and other efforts by the community help families.

The students want to learn more about global hunger and said this was a project that would be an eye opener, according to Susan Clary who is heading up the project.



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The Southern Arts Society set up this beautiful display at the annual CC Chamber Business Showcase. You can stop in and view all the displays at the Kings Mountain City Hall through March 15. Photo by LIB STEWART



City councilmen Dean Spears, Rick Moore, Tommy Hawkins and Keith Miller talk and enjoy coffee before the start of the Chamber-sponsored legislative breakfast Friday morning. Photo by LIB STEWART

Legislators, business leaders address state, local concerns

If Voter ID is approved it would not be implemented before 2014, Rep. Tim Moore (R-Cleveland 111th district NC House) said Friday morning at a Cleveland Chamber-sponsored breakfast at LeGrand Center in Shelby attended by local and county leaders.

Moore joined Rep. Kelly Hastings (R-Cleveland/Gaston 110th district) and N.C. Senator Warren Daniel, R-Cleveland/Burke 46 district in addressing some local and state concerns of area government and business leaders.

Attending the breakfast were KM Mayor Rick Murphy and councilmen Dean Spears, Rick Moore, Tommy Hawkins, and Keith Miller.

Highway funding was one of the major concerns that Shelby Mayor Stan Anthony brought to the table. "We have 120 miles of highway to maintain in Shelby," said Anthony. He noted the recent economic-development industrial announcement by KSM Castings, saying the visitors from Germany noticed needed road repairs as they traveled in the county recently.

Responding to a question about the progress on the US 74 Bypass of Shelby, Hastings said the Shelby bypass will be completed in 2030 and the bypass is being constructed in phases.

Moore, rules chairman and also co-chairman of the elections committee in the N.C. House, responded to questions of Debra Blanton, Director of the County Board of Elections. He said because of low turnout a second primary is extremely expensive and his committee is looking at shortening early voting and also to remedy the problem of military ballots coming in after deadline. Reforming their state's tax system is also a priority of the N.C. House, he said. He added that legislation is aimed at reducing the tax burden on businesses in the hope they will create jobs.

"We have asked the Secretary of the Department of Human Relations to streamline the agency spending but the ball is now in the Senate for discussion," said Moore, also responding to health care funding which he said the House had passed a bill on regulations.

Sen. Daniel noted that some of the questions being asked are issues that must be answered by the federal government. He said the current gas tax system won't meet the needs of the transportation system and said the legislature is looking at fracking to supplement dollars.

Johnny Hutchins, chairman of the

See LEGISLATORS, 5A

The Art of Business

Robert Bolin named KM Businessman of the Year

ELIZABETH STEWART

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Entrepreneur Robert Bolin is the Cleveland Chamber's Kings Mountain Businessman of the Year.

The Kings Mountain businessman, 51, was recognized for his leadership and success in the business community and characterized in the presentation as "an energizer who is always going." The award was made at the opening of the 15th annual Business Showcase at Kings Mountain City Hall Tuesday night.

Thirty-five businesses are showcasing exhibits on the theme "Art in Business." Ribbons were presented to exhibitors Tuesday night. The showcase remains open until March 15 in the lobby area of city hall during business hours 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Bolin, who was surprised



KM Businessman of the Year, Robert Bolin.

by the presentation, had been invited to the event to talk about the Feb. 1 opening of the former Battleground Steak House, now 238 Cherokee Grill. Bolin recently purchased the property on Railroad Avenue (across the railroad tracks from downtown Kings Mountain) and appropriately is using

See BOLIN, 5A

KM blanketed by snow!



Snowflakes the size of quarters fell across the region Saturday. Some areas saw up to 1 to 2 inches before it ended as seen in this photo of Christ the King Catholic Church in Kings Mountain.

Photo by JIM ZYBLE

Servpro scores in Top 10

Servpro, Kings Mountain area restoration specialists, have been named No. 1 in the cleanup and restoration industry for the 10th consecutive year.

The company also placed in the Top 10 overall of the Entrepreneur Franchise 500 rankings for the third year in a row.

"Everyone at SERVPRO is proud to be associated with a brand that consistently tops the rankings in our industry," said Rick Isaacson, Executive-Vice President of Servpro Industries Inc. "Our local teams know they are part of a larger team of Franchise professionals who consistently and professionally – across the board – deliver world class service to our customers."

In addition to providing fire and water cleanup, restoration and repair services, Servpro restoration professionals also offer large loss, national storm response, mold remediation and other property maintenance and restoration service to both home and business owners in the Kings Mountain area.

Servpro professionals in this area include Ken Morris, representing Lincoln and North Gaston counties, and Michael Harris, representing Southern Gaston County.

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