

# Kings Mountain Herald

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## City ready to move on rezoning

After months of meetings with a developer and West End property owners the Kings Mountain Planning & Zoning Board is sending a recommendation to City Council Monday night to rezone for office use property of Faunce Properties at W. King and W. Mountain streets.

The vote by the planning board was split 4-2 - with Lamar Fletcher making the motion, seconded by Phil Dee, that the property be rezoned as requested with the stipulation that it would not be used for an "urgent care facility."

David Faunce agreed to the stipulation, saying he understood traffic concerns expressed by West End property owners whose homes lie in an historical district. Fletcher, Dee, Bobby Pearson and Ernest Rome voted in favor of the motion. Voting against were Jim Potter and Bill McMurrey, both of whom are West Mountain Street residents.

The new zone would mean that a medical or non-medical office building could be constructed at the site where a day care is now located. Faunce has also agreed to put up fencing and shrubbery on the Mountain Street side of his property.

The public hearing in the matter, continued by city council for several months, will be conducted at 6 p.m. in council chambers at city hall.

## Davey gets 21+ years in abuse case

A Superior Court jury found a Kings Mountain man guilty Monday of sexually abusing three children, beginning when the girls were about 5 years old.

Rex Reed Davey, 42, will spend 21 to 26 years in prison for the first degree sex offense and three years for 12 counts of indecent liberties.

After his prison sentences Davey will spend five years on probation, have to comply with sex offender conditions and register as a sex offender for 30 years.

Two women, now in their 20s, came forward during the trial, which began last week, and testified that Davey began abusing them as children. A third victim, a six year old, also

See DAVEY, 2A

## Bridges - more charges, lower bond

Superior Court Judge Eric Levinson, at a bond hearing Monday in Shelby, lowered a half-million dollar bond to \$100,000 for Charles Kevin Bridges, 55, 1768 Bethlehem Road, jailed last Thursday on 14 additional child porn charges.

The Kings Mountain man was originally arrested Feb. 14 and charged with six counts of sexual exploitation of a minor and was out of jail on \$500,000 bond.

Investigators confiscated multiple computers, iPads and iPhones from the Bridges home Feb. 14.

Last Thursday Bridges was arrested on 14 additional counts of third and second-degree child sex exploitation charges.

Bridges was not listed as an inmate at the Cleveland County Detention Center Monday

See BRIDGES, 2A



West Elementary parents and students with guidance counselor Beth Lloyd, principal Heather Pagan, and Jason Bridges, P.E. instructor, at Parent Bullying Prevention Training. (Photo by BETH BROCK)

## It's time to stop bullying

Parents, students work together on anti-bullying program

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Parents at a West Elementary School training session Thursday say school bullying has to stop.

As a part of a Cleveland County Schools initiative, West Elementary has imple-

mented the "Stop-Walk-Talk" Bully Prevention Program and parents got together at two sessions Thursday afternoon to discuss how children can respond to this aggressive behavior.

The Cleveland County School Board policy defines "bullying" as "intentional, aggressive, repeated behavior that involves a

real or perceived power imbalance between the victim and the perpetrator."

Bullying can be physical and/or emotional.

Several parents who have formed "Parents Against Bullying" attended the recent board of education meeting to air their concerns about bullying and child safety in the schools.

See ANTI-BULLYING, 6A

## City to host Smart Grid Showcase Friday

Electric smart meters are utilized in many utilities across America, but few utilities have applied smart meter technology to water and natural gas along with electric under one communications technology.

The City of Kings Mountain recently awarded a contract to Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) to assist city staff in delivering a smart grid infrastructure solution for electric, water, and natural gas to a selected pilot area. The pilot area consists of 1,200 meter applications.

"We are the first municipal utility in the Carolinas to utilize smart meter technology on natural gas, electric and water meters," said Kings Mountain Mayor, Rick Murphrey. "Smart meter technology will help us continue to maintain some of the lowest utility rates in the Carolinas. We are excited about our future and what this means to our customers."

Kings Mountain will be hosting a Smart Grid Showcase on Friday, March 22, at the

See SHOWCASE, 6A



Photo by ELLIS NOELL

Dennis Wells, Water/Sewer Director, Holly Black, Codes Director, Nick Hendricks, Energy Services Director, Matt Dull, IT Director, and Mayor Rick Murphrey, left to right, look at smart meters they will show off to representatives of other municipalities Thursday. The city is the first municipal utility in the Carolinas to begin the pilot program and is testing the meter in three areas of the city.

## Work continues on Memorial

The City of Kings Mountain is continuing progress on the completion of the Patriots Memorial honoring those soldiers who fell in battle during WWI, WWII and Korea.

"We are working with a number of veterans who are helping us determine which soldiers from Kings Mountain were killed in action during these three wars. We're now asking the citizens of Kings Mountain who they recall as having served and been killed in action during these wars. Now is the time to recognize all of these brave Kings Mountain soldiers who gave their lives to preserve our freedom," said Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey.

The public is asked to share any information so that the plaques can be engraved and placed on the monoliths that are part of the Patriots Memorial, located at Patriots Park in downtown Kings Mountain.

Names for WWII will include: John C. Bridges, James Gideon Darroccott, Jr., Robert Lee Falls, Roy E. Harmon, Sidney E. Lovelace, Lester P. Moss, and John C. Stewart.

No information has been received

See MEMORIAL, 6A

## There's still time to see 'Oklahoma!'

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The challenge for Kings Mountain Little Theatre director Jim Champion was finding the vocal talent to pull off the Broadway musical "Oklahoma!" at Joy Theatre in Kings Mountain.

Champion, longtime KMLT actor, director and former president, did just that with the cast he selected. Ten of the 19 cast members are newcomers and with tremendous singing voices you will appreciate.

Area Little Theatre-goers are in for a treat. Two nights - Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. - remain of the show which played to big crowds for its first three performances last weekend.

You will be thrilled with newcomer Jon Jones' lyric baritone voice in the title song and "Oh What a Beautiful Morning" and of soprano Jada McDaniel's "Out of My Dreams" and "The Surrey with the Fringe on Top" featuring Jones, Mc-



Jessica Pickens as Ado Annie and Trey Ross as Will Parker light up the stage in a scene from Oklahoma. Tickets are still available for the two remaining shows, Friday and Saturday at 7:30pm.

Photo by BRYAN HALLMAN

Daniel and Julie Marshall, as "Aunt Eller." Jessica Pickens the patriarch of the family

See OKLAHOMA, 6A



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