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The Patriots Memorial at Patriots Park, seen here, will be the scene of Memorial Day services Monday at 10 a.m. and dedication of granite markers honoring 39 area servicemen killed in action during World War II and Korea.

Photo by ELLIS NOELL

Remembering those who served Memorial Day Services set for Monday in KM

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Memorial Day services Monday at 10 a.m. in Patriots Park in Kings Mountain will be a time of remembrance of men and women who gave their all for their country.

The City of Kings Mountain-sponsored service will pay honor to 39 local men – 31 who were killed in action during World War II and eight who died in battle in Korea - their names imprinted on two beautiful markers erected in the center section of the memorial wall which was dedicated initially

on Veterans Day last November.

"We encourage families of these brave soldiers, sailors and Marines to attend the ceremony and place a white rose at the monument," said Ellis Noell, the city's Director of Special Events.

Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Karnes, 878th Engineering Company, North Carolina National Guard, will make the keynote address.

Mayor Rick Murphrey and WWII veteran Sidney Dixon will unveil and dedicate the World War II and Korean War Memorials and family members will place white roses at the markers. Special

See MEMORIAL DAY, 6A

King's killers sentenced



Thelma and Michael King

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How does one react to a brutal murder or the disappearance of a loved one on a Caribbean Island far from Kings Mountain?

Jerry King says that some days are better, other days it's just like the horrific murder of his son and daughter-in-law just happened.

Jerry and Jane King didn't return to St. Maarten Island for the trial of the three men charged in the brutal killing Sept. 11, 2012 but family was there May 8 when a judge imposed a life prison term on a 29-year-old man who fatally stabbed Michael and Thelma King during a robbery at the Mount Pleasant, SC's couple's island villa. His co-defendants received lesser jail sentences because they were believed to have played a lesser role in the actual killings.

"My whole family was impressed with the hard work of the prosecutors and the judge on the case and our kids have been there for Mike and Thelma and we hope that the outcome of the case can bring us all some closure," said King.

Hilbert Haar, Editor-in-Chief of The Today Newspaper in St. Maarten, said "We expected anger, bitterness, frustration and outrage. Instead, the Kings showed a profound connection with the loved ones they lost in such a gruesome and senseless manner." He continued, in a newspaper article, "They did not blame St. Maarten. The Island did not do this, they said. It was just three guys and they are liars, thieves and murderers. People get killed in America too, but we don't hate America. We don't hate St. Maarten."

Haar continued in his story "Relatives put on another display of unparalleled greatness when they decided to honor all promises Michael had made in a rum factory venture and also set up the Michael and Thelma King Foundation to help St. Maarteners and Americans who end up in a similar situation.

The legacy of the couple that was so brutally robbed of their lives will live on

See page 4A for more information on the sentencing of the King's convicted killers.

Rain doesn't dampen triathlete's spirits!

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Over 350 racers swam, biked and ran through the area Saturday in damp, rainy conditions for the 14th annual Over The Mountain Triathlon.

Elite athletes and fitness junkies from nine states lined up to compete in the Olympic-length event, which has participants traverse a one-mile segment of John H. Moss Lake, then pedal from the lake through the countryside to the Kings Mountain National Military Park in S.C. and back north into town. The last leg of the race is a 10-mile run through downtown and Phifer Rd.

This year's race was marked by persistent rain and drizzle.

"It wasn't too bad - I took it easy on the corners," said 6th place finisher Donny Forsyth, referring to the wet and slippery roadways he encountered on the biking segment. Forsyth, 46, is no stranger to the Over The Mountain Triathlon. The Charlotte running store owner also competed in 2009.

"I've got 21 years of racing under my belt."



John Allen, 54, of Charlotte, is just steps from the finish line Saturday morning. With a time of 2 hours and 28 minutes, Allen finished 17th overall. He finished 10th overall in 2010's Over the Mountain triathlon.

photo by DAVE BLANTON

The overall winner, 24-year-old Charlottean Tyler Jordan, seemed unfazed by the exertion and yet excited by his accomplishment.

"I feel good," he said, minutes after coming to rest for the first time in 2 hours and eight minutes. "The rain ...

actually cooled it down. It wasn't so hot out there today."

It was Jordan's first stab at the grueling Over the Mountain contest, but he, like most racers at the event, trains year-round and participates in as many triathlons and

See TRIATHLON, 3B

Arrests not related to school events

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An off-campus brawl involving at least seven students at Kings Mountain High School that resulted in arrests days later at the school sparked a tense week for students and school officials as police beefed up its presence at the school following the arrests.

Although the altercation and arrests in the week before the senior prom set some students and parents on edge, police and school officials say there has been no violence at the school.

And police reported no incidences at Saturday evening's prom, which was held at Cleveland Community College's LeGrand Center in Shelby.

"(Friday) was much better," said Donna Carpenter, the director of public information

See ARRESTS, 7A

'Pigging Out' BBQ to benefit Davis

By all accounts young Travis Davis, 8, is a real trooper.

He hates needles, he loves Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church and school but he's missing special events now because he's fighting a very rare inherited immunodeficiency disorder diagnosed Jan. 8.

His Mom, Ashley Melton, says about two in one million boys have X-linked Hyper IgM Syndrome which happens when the body fails to produce certain types of antibodies causing frequent and severe infections.

Travis, nicknamed 'Pig,' will undergo a bone marrow transplant in late June at Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte where he will also be taking chemotherapy prior to the transplant and hospitalized for 6-8 weeks after the transplant.

He says he doesn't look forward to a two-hour transfusion every Friday, called SQIG, which his mother administers at home or the six doctor appointments every month but he laughs and says he doesn't freak out.

"We will be isolated about 6-8 weeks after the transplant and it will be 2-3 years before we know if everything works," said his upbeat Mom. She compares the disease to "bubble boy disease."

Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church is "pigging out for Pig" on June 8 and barbecue with all the trimmings will be sold at \$5 a plate to help the family with expenses. A yard sale will begin at 7 a.m. and the benefit will continue until 4 p.m. at the church. A bank account has also been opened at Wells Fargo Bank in Kings Mountain where donations can be deposited to help the



A benefit dinner will be held June 8 for eight year old Travis Davis who is battling a rare immunodeficiency disorder.

family.

Travis has a 7-year old sister, Trinity Davis who did not inherit the disease but her mother says that the genetic disease could be passed in future years to a son born to Trinity.

Grover facing revenue cuts

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GROVER - With the departure of sweepstakes the town will see a \$15,000 shortfall in business licenses, a sharp cut-back in revenue in the proposed 2013-2014 budget.

Town commissioners took a first look at the proposed budget Monday night for which public hearing and formal adoption is set June 24 at 6 p.m.

Mayor J. D. Ledford said the cut back in revenue is due to loss of business licenses from sweepstakes operations. Last year a total of \$24,300 was derived from licenses paid to the town by sweepstakes owners and the year prior was almost double, \$41,240.

No sweepstakes operations are in town now. "For rent" signs are posted on all the now empty former businesses on Main Street.

Good news for citizens is that the 38 cents per \$100 property tax valuation will remain - 29 cents for the general fund and .09 cents for utilities. The rate has been the same for a number of years.

The highest chunk of the budget expenses will be for water and sewer improvements, upgrades to the former Grover Industries Wastewater treatment plant - a total of \$350,510.

The budget estimated revenue is \$651,765, which includes \$276,505 for the general fund; \$2600 for the cemetery fund; \$22,150 for Powell Fund; and \$350,510, water and sewer.



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