



PATRIOT DAY – The Patriot Day observance will be held on the plaza in front of Kings Mountain City Hall, 101 W. Gold Street, at 12 noon on Wednesday, September 11. Mayor Rick Murphrey is pictured above honoring firemen at the 2012 observance. Photo by Ellis Noel

Bolin takes the field



Kings Mountain's Carsyn Bolin joins the UNCC dance team at the school's inaugural football game on Saturday. Bolin, who is majoring in math education, was one of only three freshmen dancing at the big game. She's a 2013 graduate of KMHS, where she was on the cheerleading squad throughout her varsity years. The 49ers whipped the Campbell Camels 52-7.

Shelby woman pleads guilty in HUD scheme

CHARLOTTE – A former Shelby realtor pleaded guilty last Monday to selling household appliances she unlawfully removed from vacant homes owned by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, according to the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina.

Sember Lynn Smathers, 49, formerly of Shelby, pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge David S. Cayer to one count of conspiracy to steal government property.

The announcement comes from Anne M. Tompkins, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina, Lester Fernandez, Special Agent in Charge, Office of the Inspector General, and the Office of Investiga-

tion of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

According to the criminal indictment and plea agreement, Smathers was a real estate agent and in that capacity had access to listings of vacant HUD real estate owned properties in Charlotte and surrounding communities in North and South Carolina, including Shelby.

According to court records, from September 2008 to July 2009, Smathers used a master key to enter the vacant HUD homes and unlawfully remove appliances – such as refrigerators, stoves, washers and dryers – and other items from the homes. Smathers and her co-conspirators usually conducted these “clean outs” one or two times per week.

Court records indicate that Smathers then sold these items from her home in Shelby.

In February 2009, Smathers and a co-conspirator leased a building in Shelby and set up a business called “Cheap Stuff,” from which they sold the household appliances as well as clothes and lawn maintenance equipment stolen from the HUD properties. According to filed documents, Smathers and another co-conspirator also maintained a storage unit in Shelby to store the stolen appliances, and used Craig's List, the Shelby Shopper and the Shelby Star to advertise and sell these appliances. Court records indicate that in one instance, Smathers and another person were conducting a “clean

out” while subcontractors were working at the same vacant HUD property.

When the subcontractors questioned Smathers about the removal of the appliances from the home, Smathers falsely represented that she and her co-conspirator also worked for the same subcontractors and had been directed to remove the appliances from the home. Court records show that Smathers stole over \$13,678 worth of appliances from the vacant homes.

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DAVIS: continues to battle against rare disease

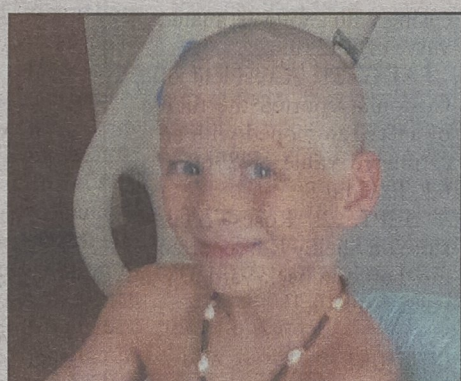
From page 1A

said. Davis has been under extensive care since winter and has spent much of that time in the hospital. It was necessary for him to undergo a round of chemotherapy before the late August surgery.

The young fighter, though, has had a lot of company and support. His mother has been by his bedside for months as he and doctors battle to beat the rare disease that has made him so sick. His cousin and best friend Cameron Petti, 9, has also spent many hours by his bedside, and family members say that has gone a long way toward cheering up the ailing boy. Travis' younger sister Trinity, 7, has also been visiting as much as she can.

Davis' aunt Tasha Locklear described her nephew and his mother as “amazing” for holding up as well as they have.

“He's one strong kid. (Ashley) has taken Travis to every doctor's appointment, which was three to four times a week, gave him weekly meds through an IV,” Locklear said



Travis 'Pig' Davis continues his brave battle against a rare immune system disorder.

in an email. “She's stayed with him at the hospital every day and night, never leaving his side, patiently waiting for good news and for her son to get better.”

Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church held a fundraising barbecue called “Pigging out for the Pig” in June to help raise money for the family's medical bills. Davis' nickname is “Pig.”

Mauney Library events

LIBRARY CARD SIGN UP – It's September and time to get the Smartest Card in your wallet - your library card. Special sign up planned at the Patrick Senior Center. Thursday & Friday, Sept 19 & 20; 10:00 am - noon; Patrick Senior Center Kings Mountain

GENEALOGY PROGRAM – Sasha Mitchell will teach techniques for researching family history using Ancestry Library Edition. Learn how to find records and official information.

Saturday, Sept 14; 11:00

am until 1:00 pm; Community Room.

Call 704-739-2371 option 3 to reserve your place.

AFTERNOON ADVENTURES – Join the library

staff to create a time capsule and journal. Capture your family history and memories.

For ages 6-11 years old; Wednesday, Sept 18; 4-5 pm; Community Room.



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If you would like information on how to increase your business, like John has, call us today at

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