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Expansion named 'Dover Foundation Annex'

ELIZABETH STEWART

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Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey announced Friday that the planned 4,305 feet expansion of the Patrick Senior Life and Conference Center will be named the "Dover Foundation Annex" in

honor of the \$150,000 pledge by the foundation made to the Center's capital expansion campaign.

Dover Foundation officers Kathy Wilson, Vice President, Harvey Hamrick, Jr. Secretary and Amanda Scism, executive director, attended a lunch meeting and presented a check for \$37,500 to the

mayor, as its first installment of its 4-year pledge. Approximately 120 people attended the "contributor appreciation luncheon," held at 11:30 a.m. Friday in the Patrick Center dining room.

Campaign co-chairs include Alex Bell, Kings Mountain Hospital Administrator, long-time civic

leader Mary Neisler, and Jim Pridgen, president of Firestone Fibers and Textiles Co. Mrs. Neisler recognized members of the steering committee.

Carl Elliott, campaign coordinator, announced that the fundraising campaign had raised \$788,403 toward its campaign goal of

\$1,065,000, or 74%, which he expects will be completed in early 2014, after a 7-month drive, beginning in July.

Patrick Center Director Monty Thornburg outlined the goals and vision for the expansion project.

See EXPANSION, 7A

Harris named a Carrousel Princess

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Emily Lauren Harris, 17, Kings Mountain High School senior, is Kings Mountain Carrousel Princess chosen after interviews by a panel of judges headed by a member of Charlotte's Carolinas Carrousel parade committee.

Harris, daughter of Michael and Angela Harris, is an honor student at KMHS, active in the Beta Club, National Honor Society, French club, SAVE, SADD, math club, an AP scholar with honors, Renaissance Gold card holder four years, and was a junior marshal.

A Scholar Athlete, she runs track and field, was county champion in discus as a freshman and sophomore, captain her junior year, all conference and county champion in discus as a junior and county champion (4x400) this year; indoor track county champion, (300 meter) a cheerleader all four years and captain of the squad. She won the best in-



Emily Harris has been selected as a 2013 Carrousel Princess.

individual cheerleading award at EDGE Cheer Camp.

Active in the community, she took part in the Angel Christmas Tree project her junior and senior years, played Upwards soccer two years and attended KMMS cheerleading summer camp two years. A member of Patterson Grove Baptist Church, she is a nursery attendant and volunteers in numerous church activities.

She said her participation in the NC State Summer Textile Exploration program

See HARRIS, 7A

Pulsing light show debuts downtown Monday night

DAVE BLANTON

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After years of running a dazzling Christmas light show in the Oak Grove community where he lives, electronics wizard Donnie Beard is bringing the Beard Family Christmas Lights to downtown for the first time.

Beard has spent most of his professional life tinkering with computers and electronics. It was five years ago that he festooned his Gold Run home with tens of thousands of lights and amazed his neighbors with a light show set to music he broadcast himself over the radio.

Beard is spending this weekend testing his show and working out the kinks. It will go live Monday night, located between the Joy Performance Theater and Patriotic Park. The plan is to illuminate eight trees on Railroad Ave. and many of the block's buildings for the

pulsing light show.

"Our goal is to put smiles on kids' faces," said Beard, who said he looks forward each year to creating a whole new show from scratch.

The project, which city officials and Beard say they hope to continue for many years in the future, was helped along by a \$2,500 grant from the Kings Mountain Tourism Development Authority.

Beard says he normally uses about 60,000 individual lights for his annual Christmas show at home near Oak Grove. But this year's expansion to downtown means he'll be using double that number.

"I'm still working on the music," Beard said. It's going to be a little something for everyone, including some Christmas music, some songs from The Trans-Siberian Orchestra and other things."

Beard has spent many nights in the last week or so getting the show ready, including putting together a new number that he didn't want to give many details about.

Visitors to the light show should tune their radios to 101.5.

A Christmas parade, Santa's Fire Truck Express and a Jingle Bell Rockin' Run punctuate the holiday season in Kings Mountain.

DAVE BLANTON

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Children welcomed Santa Claus to town Monday night with songs and Christmas wish lists amid chilly weather and a flake or two of snow at Mauney Memorial's annual Christmas tree lighting.

"This is a special time of year for me," said Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey, who delivered the welcome

address. "It reminds me of what Christmas was like for me as a child, and for my own children."

Kids gathered around to hear the mayor give a dramatic reading of "The Night Before Christmas."

Later, ahead of Santa's arrival on a noisy fire truck, a group of West Elementary and Grover Elementary students entertained the crowd with upbeat renditions of "Rock and Roll Snow Man" and "Walking in a Winter Wonderland."

Not long after the man of the hour made his entrance, he was besieged with requests for presents: video games, puppies, bicycles and of course computers and other gadgets. But not before the visitor from the North Pole

See SANTA, 7A

'Alice's Adventures' opens Friday

Kings Mountain Little Theatre brings up the curtain Friday night at 7:30 p.m. for two weekend performances of "Alice's Adventures In Wonderland," an adaptation with a modern view to the Lewis Carroll children's classic.

The play dates are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m.

and next weekend, Dec. 6 and 7, at 7:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Dec. 8.

Nikki Wood, who directed last year's sell-out production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," is directing the play which appeals to all ages and features a cast of 8-17 year olds who bring a fun interpretation to the classic tale sure to entertain.

The show is co-sponsored by Sav-Way Foods. All seats are \$5 and reser-

vations are suggested and can be made by calling the Joy at 704-730-9408 and leaving a message.

"Alice Adventures in Wonderland" has all the familiar characters from the classic tale with some new characters that bring laughter and smiles to appeal to the young as well as the young at heart who get lost in

the fantastical world of wonderland.

Follow the rabbit to a delightful, entertaining world of childhood fantasies where nonsense makes quite good sense. Alice journeys into a world of talking animals, comic royalty and races where the contestants run in circles. There are also the Mad Hatter's frantic tea party, the watch-carrying White Rabbit and talking flowers. Along the way

See HOLIDAY PLAY, 7A



Dewi and Zoe Eagan portray Tweedledee and Tweedledum in the upcoming production of 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' opening at the Joy Friday.

Photo by Bryan Hallman

Christmas parades, tree lightings

CHERRYVILLE — This Christmas season the Cherryville Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the City of Cherryville, will have the Christmas Tree lighting and Sing-along Thursday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m., in the Mini-Park in downtown Cherryville. The Cherryville High School Marching Ironmen Band will lead the Sing-along.

The parade, which will be held Dec. 14 this year and starts at 10:30 a.m.

The Cherryville Chamber of Commerce and the City of Cherryville are looking for parade participants. Anyone wishing to participate can request an entry form at the Chamber office. Parade float entries deadline is Dec. 2.

"Christmas in the City," the 5th annual holiday celebration on the 100 block of West Pennsylvania Avenue, will begin after the 4:30 p.m. Christmas parade and continue until 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6.

BESSEMER CITY — The Jingle Bell parade, fun slide, Moon bounce, Little Blue Choo, live nativity scene,

See HOLIDAY EVENTS, 7A

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