

# Day of goodbyes for Ellis Eng reels in 90-pounder

Thursday was a day for goodbyes for Ellis Noell, the city's Special Events Coordinator and Public Relations chief who announced his retirement in March. Family members, fellow city workers and other associates came together at City

Hall for an afternoon reception stocked with wings, sandwiches and fresh fruit. Noell is pictured here with his two grand-daughters at Thursday's reception. Noell joined the city in 2000. He has hinted that he will continue to work in travel and

tourism in the area. Noell was also feted in April at a surprise party at Grapes in a Glass. Haley Wilson, a former intern with the city's office of Special Events and Public Relations, has been hired to fill Noell's position.

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Robert Eng didn't set out to break records and wow his friends with mammoth-sized catches when he picked up fishing about a year ago. The novice fisherman was simply exploring a new hobby at the urging of some of the parishioners at the church he leads on Oak Grove Rd. when on a trip to Tennessee last year he pulled 28-pound, 6-oz. hybrid striper out of the lake water.

The previous world record? 25 lbs.

A few weeks ago, he pulled off another feat that surprised him and the friends he made on the trip to South Carolina's Lake Monticello with.

This time it was a 90-pound Arkansas Blue Catfish, far larger than average for that species.

"I really don't know that much about (fishing)," said Eng, noting that his fishing trips are mostly about getting out in the fresh air and Christian fellowship. "Some local fishermen have kind of adopted me and I've been pretty lucky at it."

Before Eng took up the ministerial life two decades ago, he made a name for himself as a talented martial arts instructor. Specializing in karate and kick-boxing, he trained a generation of martial artists in the Kings Mountain area, including David Humphries, whom he describes as "one of the toughest" people he's ever met.

Humphries joined Eng's academy at the tender age of 16 in the 1970s. Within a few years, Humphries, who is a member of Eng's New



**Pastor Robert Eng hoists a 90-pound Arkansas Blue Catfish he fished out of Lake Monticello in South Carolina in April. The big fish is on ice now, but Eng said he plans to use it feed his congregation at New Life Family Worship Center.**

Life Family Worship Center, would be crowned the first undisputed world champion in kick-boxing.

Eng also started the Tough Man Contest in the 1980s and watched it spread in popularity throughout the Southeast. He later became the first martial artist to enter the venerable Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame.

But for years now Eng's focus has been on his small ministry.

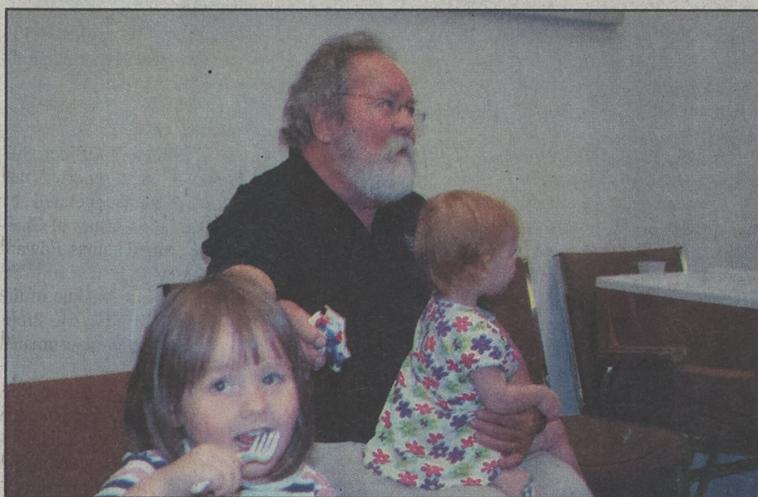
"The ministry is my true calling," he said last week, adding that the fish he catch goes to feed church members at church functions.

"I've learned that fishermen don't share information," he said with a laugh. "You

have to figure out what the good techniques are, and you have to figure out where the good places to go are," adding that he's taken to fishing the brim out of Bolin's Carp Lake between Kings Mountain and Shelby.

For Eng, taking up hunting and fishing relatively late in life is kind of ironic.

"When I was in the Special Forces, I dealt with guns and the outdoors a lot and I suppose that fits in with it, but I had just never really had the opportunity to hunt or fish," said Eng, who rises at 3 a.m. every day. "Some of my parishioners have taken me pheasant hunting - and I killed a bobcat."



Ellis Noell with his two grandchildren.



Ellis Noell pictured with former Mayor, Scott Neisler and KMPD Captain Jerry Tesseneer.

## Council denies rezoning for veterinary clinic

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In an unusual move, city council Tuesday ignored the recommendation by its planning and zoning board and by 5-2 denied a rezoning request by Faunce Properties that would have brought a new veterinary clinic to Kings Mountain.

Councilman Rick Moore made the motion, seconded by Councilman Tommy Hawkins and supported by Councilmen Howard Shipp, Rodney Gordon and Keith Miller. Mayor pro tem Mike Butler and councilman Curtis Pressley voted in favor of the rezoning.

During a public hearing David Faunce and veterinarian Matt Bryant spoke for the rezoning. Bryant said he had been looking at the Watterson Street property (formerly McGill Clinic) for a new veterinary

business. Responding to question of Councilman Miller, Bryant said there would be no outdoor pens for animals on the site, 101 and 103 S. Watterson Streets.

Faunce said the site would use existing driveway on Watterson and a new NCDOT approved driveway system on King Street. Landscaping would exceed the minimum requirements, he added. There would be little impact on the neighborhood located near the West Mountain Street residential community.

The Planning and Zoning Board, which voted 9-1 to recommend rezoning, acknowledged that the Land Development Plan shows commercial in the area of the subject property and that the existing commercial structure is in an area that transitions from

commercial to residential development but due to its past use history, its potential to be an historic structure, and the conditions proposed, that continuing as a commercial use was appropriate.

The Planning board reviewed the application including a design and the conditions that the applicant requested. City planner Steve Killians said that Faunce eliminated uses that he stated were not appropriate for the area and the site plan included performance standards to mitigate impacts of redevelopment. Both lots would be eventually recombined into one lot.

Faunce confirmed there would be no pets outside the clinic and no outdoor pens for animals.

The traffic would move from and to King Street without going through the edge of the West End Historic District.

Veterinary clinics are one of the eligible uses in a conditional use general business district.

The Watterson Street property is currently zoned neighborhood business and is eligible, under that zoning, for placement of numerous "uses" (businesses) and without the property owner coming before the planning board again.

City Council has the final say on all zoning requests. The planning board makes recommendations.



**Mary Poppins is a kind of Super Nanny who flies in with her umbrella in response to the Banks children and proceeds to put things right with the aid of her extraordinary magical powers.**  
Photo by LIB STEWART

## MARY POPPIN'S: Two evenings left

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Nanny to put things right with the family. Cale McDaniel, Jada's husband, plays George Banks and Banks' stage wife Winifred is played by Suzie Shelter.

The character of Bert, played by Nick Howell, also flies across the stage, somersaulting during a rooftop scene when chimney sweeps perform "Step In Time." Howell and Jada sing together "Jolly Holiday" and the entire Banks family sings as well as many other cast members. It is a delightful show you won't soon forget.

There's singing and dancing you can't help but join in once in a while or tap your feet. "A spoon full of sugar" and "Let's go fly a kite" are favorite songs. And of course there's "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious."

Betsy Wells, the director of the 46-member cast and a former teacher, would score an Aplus for her pick of the characters in a very technical performance with numerous scene changes and period costumes and hairstyles that set the English theme and are outstanding.

There are a lot of young people in the performance, some who dance and are in crowd scenes, all dressed to the nines.

Everyone, from the little ones to the older more experienced actors, sing and dance their hearts out in the 3 1/2 hour show. Volunteers behind the curtain make the many changes of scenery and help with costume changes, and the volunteer list goes on.

Kimberla Burrows choreographed the show and Libby Putnam is music director with Michael Sisk, also

on keyboard; Andy Neisler on drums; and Jerre Snow, bass.

"Miss Andrew" played by Erica Carpenter is the nanny that everyone loves to hate and tries to take over the Banks household when Mary Poppins flies off in one scene and then rescues the two Banks children who hate the new nanny so much that they run away from home.

Janie Ollis, as Mrs. Brill the housekeeper, and Eric Wright as Robertson Ay, the English Butler will keep you laughing.

Harris Funeral Home is the spring musical sponsor and Patrick Yarns is presenting sponsor. The performer flying effects were created by Hall Associates, a division of Nunally Enterprises. The lead actress Jada McDaniel and the show producer/stage manager Jane Alexander mounted a fundraiser to raise \$4300 to bring in the Chicago-based company to make the flying action possible. Donations came from Bobby Childers, Mickey and Betty Corry, Jackie and Tyler Falls, Food Lion, Kiser Harris, Horne Heating & Air Conditioning, Rockwood Lithium, and Dr. and Mrs. Martin Stallings.



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**Kings Mountain Weekend Weather**

Thursday May 7	Friday May 8	Saturday May 9	Sunday May 10
			
Partly Cloudy - 81° 20% Chance of precipitation Night time Low 60°	PM T'storms - 81° 40% Chance of precipitation Night time Low 61°	PM T'storms - 82° 60% Chance of precipitation Night time Low 62°	Partly Cloudy - 86° 20% Chance of precipitation Night time Low 64°

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