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Katy Biser and Caleb Sigmon give technical notes to the production staff.

# Kings Mountain HERALD

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## Relay for Life Friday at KMHS

Organizers are gearing up for a big Relay for Life fundraiser at John Gamble Stadium Friday evening, where survivor walks, games and live music is planned on the theme, "Plant the town purple."



Opening ceremonies are set for 6 p.m. Friday. Look for a high-energy kick off to celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer.

"We are very excited with the amount of community involvement we are getting this year and look to have one of the biggest Relay for Life Events in Kings Mountain that we've had in many years," said Colby Brown, a chief organizer for this year's fundraiser.

Not long after Relay 2015 gets under way, fans will be delighted with a performance by the band "True Praise." Later, the young Kings Mountain singer Jaiden Huffman will give a solo performance.

The Luminaria Ceremony will take place at 9 p.m. There will be a silent walk as the luminaries are lit. Glow in the dark purple balloon release is also being planned during this time.

## Back to school at 45, Oates graduates CCC



BETTINA OATES

**ELIZABETH STEWART**  
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Overcoming barriers is challenging for Bettina Oates, who returned to college at age 45, a single parent of a teenager.

child's life," said the Kings Mountain woman who was among more than 500 students graduating this month from Cleveland Community College.

Now by faith she plans to enroll for two more years of college at Gardner-Webb University and get her degree to teach elementary education.

"I was so happy when I walked across that stage," said Oates, who was named the Outstanding Graduate in the Associate in Arts program and also received the Excellence in Service to Students award from the National Society of Leadership.

"I want to be that teacher that makes a difference in a

"I once had dreams that I did not think would be fulfilled due to several barriers," said Oates, concerned about being an older student in a class of 18-year-olds

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## Memorial Day Monday A day to honor the fallen

### Flags, Tears Mark Solemn Ceremony

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Memorial Day was a day to honor the fallen Monday morning as Kings Mountain citizens remembered the area men and all those men and women who have died in the military for the United States at solemn services in Patriots Park.

### Famed war correspondent a popular speaker

**DAVE BLANTON**  
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Kings Mountain was host Monday to one of the most credentialed war correspondents in modern times when Joe Galloway appeared to make the keynote address at the city's Memorial Day service.

about the Ia Drang battles in Vietnam and a 2002 recipient of the Robert Denig Award for Exceptional Service of the U.S. Marine Corps Combat Correspondents, is also the winner of the Bronze Star for Valor.

War. Galloway was present as a journalist, and during the fighting he repeatedly disregarded his own safety to rescue wounded soldiers under fire. His was the only Bronze Star for Valor awarded by the Army to a civilian for actions in Vietnam.

Galloway, a 1991 National Magazine Award recipient for his writings

The medal was in recognition of his heroism at the November, 1965, Battle of Ia Drang, the first major conflict fought by U.S. troops during the Vietnam

Early in 2013, Galloway was sworn into service as a

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A DAY TO HONOR – Pictured left to right on the stage at Patriots Park Monday morning were speakers on the program for Memorial Day service. From left, Vietnam veteran Jim Medlin, Mrs. Joe Galloway, Joe Galloway, American Legion Post 155 Commander Curtis Thrift, Mayor Rick Murphrey, Chief of Police Melvin Proctor and Assistant Fire Chief Jamie Black.

Photo by DAVE BLANTON

## Baccalaureate Finals begin Sunday night for 301 KMHS Seniors

Finals exercises for 303 Kings Mountain High School seniors will begin on Sunday night at 7 p.m. with baccalaureate services in B.N. Barnes Auditorium and culminate on Saturday, June 6, at 9 a.m. in John Gamble



CARPENTER

Stadium with presentation of diplomas to the Class of 2015.

The worship service Sunday is sponsored by the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association.

isterial Association President, invites family and friends of graduates to the special service of worship and inspiration.

Rev. Scott Carpenter, interim pastor of Temple Baptist Church, will deliver the message, "The Completion of the Matter" based on the text from Ecclesiastes 12:9-14. Carpenter is a graduate

of Kings Mountain High School, Gardner-Webb University and Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Linda, have one daughter, Erica, who is president of the senior class and will give the welcome.

The invocation will be given by Johnna Scism and the congregation will join in

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## Teen mom Eula Wilson determined to finish school

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A teen mom, Eula Wilson, 17, was determined not to drop out of school when she became pregnant.



EULA WILSON

Her 10-month-old son, Aimajee, in the arms of his father Najee Gist, will be in the audience at John Gamble football stadium when Eula dons her traditional

cap and gown and walks across the stage to receive her high school diploma June 6 from Kings Mountain High School.

"It's been a struggle to get to this point but I have had the loving support of family and I won't stop here with my education," said Eula, an honor student. For Eula it's more than a feeling of accomplishment, it's also

a feeling of accepting and thriving on life's challenges.

Her goal is to earn an associate degree in mortuary science and that's what she wrote about for her senior project.

Eula visited Harris Funeral Home and spent time with the staff, applied for an internship and learned about Gupton-Jones School of

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