

Tuesday NEWS

The heartbeat
of Kernersville
for 73 years

Tony Smits
has been named the
2012 Kernersville
Chamber of Commerce
first vice-chair.
See story below.



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Serving in the Women's Army Corps

Patsy Mann shares her story of service in WWII

By JENNIFER OWENSBY
Lifestyles Reporter

Patsy Mann served in the Women's Army Corps in WWII.

After graduating in 1942 from Hanes High School in Winston-Salem, she went to work at Hanes Hosiery Mill in

Winston-Salem.

"I worked there for a few weeks and decided that wasn't what I wanted to do," Mann said.

In 1943, she decided to go into the WAC, which was originally called the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps and women had to be 21 or older to join. It

wasn't until after they changed it to the WAC that she joined.

Once she was enlisted she was sent to basic training in Daytona Beach, Florida.

"They didn't teach us to fight but we had to do everything else," she said.

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Consoling others

Randy McLean joins Pierce-Jefferson

By JENNIFER OWENSBY
Lifestyles Reporter

Randy McLean has joined Pierce-Jefferson Funeral Services as its newest funeral director.

Originally from Independence, Virginia, McLean, attended Gupton-Jones College

of Funeral Service in Georgia in 1982.

He chose to go to school in Georgia to enjoy the warmer climate.

"Coming from Virginia I wanted to be in a place with milder winters," he stated.

McLean's first career choice was veterinary science, but he

had to put himself through college so his second choice, mortuary science, was the better choice since it was less expensive, he explained.

"The science aspect of the embalming really interests me and working with people and

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A lighter side to the News



The inaugural edition of *Kernersville News Magazine* hit the stands Friday and is available at a variety of locations around town. (Photo by Bob Kalbaugh)

Inaugural edition of Kernersville News Magazine hits the stands

By BOB KALBAUGH
Features & News Editor

Friday was a watershed moment for the *Kernersville News*, as the first ever edition of *Kernersville News Magazine* was made available to the

community.

The magazine can be picked up at several dozen different outside red dispensers throughout the community as well as most medical and dental offices.

The magazine is an exten-

sion of the newspaper, but is being offered as 'a lighter side of the news,' according to *Kernersville News* Publisher/Managing Editor John Owensby.

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Lunch with Santa



Mattie Price, 4, was one of many local children who visited with Santa Claus on Saturday as part of Kernersville Moravian Church's Lunch With Santa program. For additional pictures from Lunch with Santa, see page 7.

Building relationships

*Tony Smits to serve as first vice-chair of 2012
Chamber of Commerce Board*

By BOB KALBAUGH
Features & News Editor

Tony Smits will serve as first vice-chair on the 2012 Kernersville Chamber of Commerce Board.

Smits served in the same capacity on the Chamber Board

in 2004. Following his stint as first vice-chair, he was set to take over as Board president in 2005, but fate took him in another direction.

"We had just held our annual Chamber banquet in December 2004, and I gave my speech about how excited I was

to serve as Board chair," Smits recounted. "A grade school friend of mine made me an offer I couldn't refuse in Tampa, Florida right after that. I had to call (Chamber CEO) Bruce (Boyer) and tell him I wouldn't

See "Smits" Page 5

To ban or not to ban Non-profit paying attention to concealed carry restrictions

By WENDY FREEMAN DAVIS
Governmental Affairs Reporter

A non-profit organization dedicated to preserving citizen's Second Amendment right to bear arms has reviewed

Kernersville's new ordinance prohibiting legally permitted concealed-carry handguns in Beeson Athletic Complex and Town-owned property such as the municipal building and finds it lacking legality in cer-

tain respects.

Raleigh-based Grass Roots North Carolina (GRNC) has been looking closely at how cities and towns across the state

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Restrictions

Continued from Page 1

have dealt with conforming to a new state law that went into effect Dec. 1 which allows those with concealed-carry permits to carry handguns in parks; however, local governments were allowed exemptions for parks with athletic facilities or playgrounds.

In complying with the law, Kernersville's Board of Aldermen updated the Town's ordinances in early November and chose not to target specific local parks such as Fourth of July Park or Harmon Park. Instead, the Board focused its attention on Beeson Park, where the majority of the Kernersville's athletic competitions occur.

GRNC President Paul Valone believes Kernersville's ordinance contains at least two violations of the new law. The first is the ban on concealed carry in unspecified "playgrounds" and "athletic facilities."

"Such places must be specifically identified," said Valone.

The second place within Kernersville's updated ordinance is where it lists the Beeson ban to include "hiking, biking, walking, running and/or cross country trails and/or tracks, spectator areas adjacent to the trails."

According to Valone, the new law narrowly defines recreational facilities as only: a playground, an athletic field, a swimming pool, and an athletic facility.

"One would be hard pressed to classify trails, greenways, spectator areas or, in other towns, dog parks as 'athletic facilities,' particularly when all debate over the amendment on the floor of the General Assembly centered on organized games such as softball," said Valone.

As to the charge that Kernersville has initiated a gun ban on its walking and running trails, Town Attorney John G. Wolfe, III, said that the only "walking and running" trails where carrying a concealed weapon will now be prohibited is the cross

country course at Beeson Park. Even then, citizens would be allowed to keep a legally permitted concealed weapon in their vehicles in the parking lot.

"That's one track," said Wolfe. "Those are athletic trails. Kernersville did not do anything on our greenways or in parks, only the athletic facility and tracks at Beeson Park."

Had Town officials wanted to, they could have issued a blanket ban on carrying concealed weapons on all Town-owned property and within each of its parks, said Wolfe.

"Kernersville could have precluded carrying concealed weapons at all," said Wolfe. "We could have really muddied the water."

Valone said efforts to make it legal for permitted concealed carry gun owners to carry handguns in parks date back to the mid-1990s and N.C.'s original concealed handgun law and that since then violent crime in the state has dropped by 43.5 percent.

"Research shows that concealed carry laws deter violent crime and lead to reductions in rape, murder and assault," said Valone. "Meanwhile, the (State Bureau of Investigation) reports that crime and violence has actually increased in parks. What do you have in parks? Unarmed victims."

Valone challenges anyone to debate whether or not a person who has gone through the process of legally obtaining a concealed carry permit poses any kind of threat either in park playgrounds or athletic facilities, in general.

"We're talking about a limited subset of people," said Valone, adding that those who obtain their permits to carry a concealed handgun very rarely have their rights and privileges revoked.

"There have been 390,000 permits issued in North Carolina since 1995 and only about 1,000 have been revoked," said Valone. "That's less than one-

third of one percent. It's actually only three-tenth of one percent, and those that were revoked were for reasons unrelated to handguns."

One of Kernersville's primary reasons for banning concealed carry handguns at Beeson Park was because it is the main Town-owned athletic facility where competitive sports take place and where Town staff most worried about allowing legally concealed handguns.

Valone argued that he doubts anyone who would pull out a weapon during an argument or disagreement at a sporting event probably didn't have a concealed carry permit in the first place.

"These people (concealed carry permit holders) are responsible. They're not going to go crazy," said Valone. "I also defy anyone to prove to me that anyone is going to get mad at each other on a hiking trail."

According to Valone, the GRNC has spent the last 18 years trying to prove the ability of concealed carry handguns to prevent or deter crime. He admitted that while parts of the new law may be badly phrased in places, it clearly defines places municipalities can enact bans.

Given that the General Assembly provided towns and cities the leeway to ban concealed carry handguns on playgrounds and within recreational facilities, what is it that Valone and the GRNC would have liked to have seen Town governments such as Kernersville do instead?

"We passed this law to allow concealed carry in parks. Parks period," said Valone. "We have been encouraging towns not to do anything. There have been some where they simply didn't pass any restrictions."

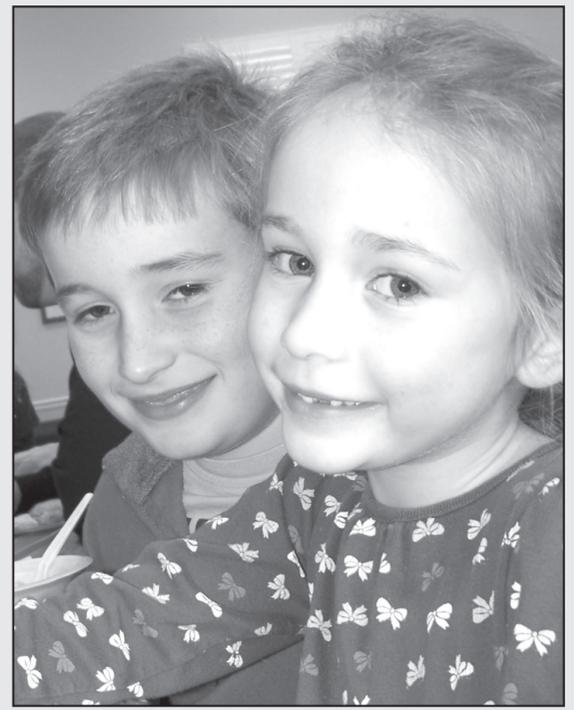
Valone's advice to those that did pass bans that might be outside the scope of the new law?

"Stop trying to be ideologues and comply with the state law," said Valone.

Meeting Santa



Owen Carroll, 2, gave Santa Claus his wish list on Saturday at the Kernersville Moravian Church's annual Breakfast with Santa.



(Right) Brother and sister Karis and Graham Tuck enjoyed lunch before meeting Santa Claus on Saturday afternoon at Kernersville Moravian Church. For additional photos from the event, see upcoming editions of the Kernersville News. (Photo by Tiara Reynolds)

Obituaries

Howell

Mrs. LaVerne Walters Howell, 87, passed away December 3, 2011. She was born November 29, 1924 in Wilkes-Barre, PA, to the late Benjamin and Gertrude Calhoun Walters.

Mrs. Howell was a very thoughtful, loving and caring wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She proudly & devotedly supported her Air Force Pilot husband

in all that he did. LaVerne was a girl scout leader and a Gray Lady as a volunteer at Misawa Airbase, Japan. She was a Champion egg dipper for the First Presbyterian Church of

Kernersville egg makers.

Surviving family include her husband Robert William Howell; daughters Linda Childers and husband David of Mt. Holly, NC and Su-

san Jayson and husband Linc of Charlotte, NC; grandchildren Robert Childers and wife Kristy, Meghan Elting and husband Robert, Valerie Cothran and husband Drew and Jennifer McGowen and husband Davis; and one great-granddaughter Ada Leigh McGowen.

First Presbyterian Church in Kernersville with Rev. Clark Vincent Officiating.

The Family will receive friends following the service at the church.

Memorials may be made to Community Home Care and Hospice 225 Davie Avenue Statesville, NC 28677.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM, Thursday, December 8, 2011 at the

Online condolences may be made to www.hayworth-miller.com/

Thomas

Mrs. Dura Parrish Thomas, 86, died Friday, December 2, 2011 at Yad-

kin Nursing Care Center. A funeral service was held 11:00 a.m. Monday,

December 5, 2011 at Gospel Light Baptist Church in Walkertown. Hay-

worth-Miller Kernersville Chapel is assisting the family.

Gross

Kathern Ann Harrell Gross, 59, died Wednesday, November 30, 2011. A Memorial Service was conducted at 10:30 a.m. Sat-

urday, December 3, 2011 at Triad Baptist Church. Hayworth-Kernersville Chapel is assisting the Gross family.

Williams

Reverend Larry Graham Williams, 64, died Monday, December 05, 2011. A Funeral Service will be held, 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December

9, 2011 at Kernersville Moravian Church 504 S. Main St. Kernersville NC 27284. Hayworth-Kernersville Chapel is assisting the Gross family.

Perrine

James Roy "J.R." Perrine, 67, died, Monday, November 28, 2011. A Memorial Service was

conducted at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, December 3, 2011 at Kernersville Wesleyan Church.

George

Mrs. Patricia Alley George died, Thursday, December 1, 2011. A Funeral Service was

conducted at 2:00 p.m. Monday, December 5, 2011 at Hayworth Miller Kernersville Chapel.

Newsom

Mr. Dickie Ray Newsom, 71, passed away Friday, December 2, 2011 at his residence. He was born March 18, 1940 in Mitchell County, NC to the late Percy and Juanita Glenn Newsom. Mr. Newsom retired from RJR after 31 years of service. Dickie was a loving father who's biggest passion in life was his daughter. He was a collector and loved old movies and music. Dickie was a

good friend to many people. Mr. Newsom was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Smith Newsom and his step father, Aaron Jacob Fishel, whom he knew as his father.

Surviving are a daughter, Jennifer Renee Estes and husband, Jerrod.

A Funeral Service will be conducted 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at Hayworth-Miller Kernersville Chapel with Pastor Jimmy Dillon officiating. Burial will follow at Smith Grove Baptist Church Cemetery in Colfax.

Online condolences may be

made to www.hayworth-miller.com.

Sneathern

Mr. Lowell Sneathern died, Friday, December 2, 2011. A funeral service will be held 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 6, 2011, at Hayworth-Miller Kernersville Chapel

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