

KM's Nathan Deal wins top award in Cleveland Cup 5K race Friday

Running and walking promotes health and wellness and that's what employees of three municipalities learned in the first 5K walk/run race Friday beginning at Shelby City Park.

Lareina Carpenter, coordinator for the city's health and wellness program, said that 38 employees of the City of Kings Mountain joined employees from the City of Shelby and County

of Cleveland and had a blast.

Shelby City took home the Cleveland Cup for having the greater percentage of employees in the race but Kings Mountain's Nathan Deal, an employee of the gas department, brought home the first place award in the event. He completed the 3.1 mile run in 18 minutes, 22 seconds.

Dillon Lackey and Matt "Bubba" Moss also placed

in their age group.

The race started at 3:30 p.m. in the afternoon and it was hot. But the turnout of runners was great. Shelby City entered 26% of their employees while the City of Kings Mountain and Cleveland County entered 20% of their employees in the competition.

"We plan to make the race an annual fun event," said Carpenter.



Pictured are the 38 employees of the City of Kings Mountain who participated in the Cleveland Cup, a 5K race Friday. Employees from the City of Shelby and County of Cleveland County participated in the health and wellness event. City employees represented virtually all city departments and ranged in age from 24-70.



Nathan Deal, above, City of Kings Mountain Gas Department employee, was first place overall winner in the Cleveland Cup 5K race Friday. He was at the finish line of the 3.1 mile race in 18 minutes, 22 seconds.

CANDIDATES: pack Woman's Club stage

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Scott Neisler, a former mayor and a candidate for election, agreed that city government is complex. I was in textiles. We employ professional people to help us," he said.

"The city manager/council form of government works great," said At-large councilman Keith Miller, a candidate for reelection. "It's far too complicated for a lay person to understand, we have to keep up with all the trends and we can go to jail if we don't comply with all the regulations." City council determines policy. Most cities operate a council/manager form of government, he added.

Those with questions were asked to write their questions on index cards. A man spoke out from the audience, "Are you skirting the issue of the casino?" he asked. Has the positive been addressed?

Beauford Burton, candidate for mayor, said that every study he had read looked at more crime, extra police, and



Scott Neisler



Rick Murphrey

more social services needed if a casino should locate here. He said he had no evidence of positive impact, that he had been

told that the city expected to sell power to the casino.

Miller complimented the city staff for doing their usual excellent job as they do with all industrial prospects, including determining, for instance, what costs, infrastructure, how the city would accommodate any prospect. He noted that everyone has his/her own opinion but that a casino decision rests in the hands of the Board of Indian Affairs in Washington, DC. He suggested that those interested go on line to the US government website to learn about the Catawbas, reservation status, in particular.

Of the 32 candidates invited to the forum, 28 were able to attend. Each candidate was allowed 3 minutes to discuss why they were best suited for the job. Ann Gamble was moderator and Betty Sue Morris was time keeper. Renee Bost and Jane Alexander were forum co-chairmen.

All four candidates for the office of mayor were in attendance, including incumbent Mayor Rick Murphrey who

One dead in Crowders Mtn. fall

A male hiker died Monday morning after falling from the top of Tower Trail at Crowders Mountain State Park in Gaston County, according to police. Authorities are reporting the death as a suicide, according to Donna Lahser, the public information specialist for the Gastonia Police Department.

A 911 call came in a little after 10 a.m. Monday, according to Gaston County emergency rescue workers. Investigators were still at the scene in

the early afternoon hours. Police are not releasing the name of the man, who rescue officials say was in his mid-twenties and was found dead at the scene.

The fatality is the second in less than a year. A 48-year-old Matthews woman fell to her death in May.

Stephanie Anderson's accidental death was the 14th attributed to a fall at a state park over the past 10 years, not including suicides.

She had hiked with her

husband and one of three daughters to The Pinnacle, the park's highest peak at 1,705 feet.

Crowders Mountain State park is managed by North Carolina Division of Parks & Recreation. Its two peaks are The Pinnacle and Crowders Mountain.

The mountain attracts visitors for climbing, rappelling and walking. According to N.C. Division of Parks, climbers are responsible for obtaining proper equipment and training.

KMHS sophomore Tucker Carroll honored for scholastic achievement

Tucker Carroll, sophomore student at Kings Mountain High School, has been selected for membership in the National Society of High School Scholars.

The Society recognizes top scholars who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, scholarship and community commitment.

"On behalf of NSHSS

I am honored to recognize the hard work, sacrifice and commitment that James Tucker Carroll has demonstrated to achieve this exceptional level of academic excellence," said NSHSS Founder and Chairman Claes Nobel, senior member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes.

NSHSS President James

W. Lewis said, "We are proud to provide lifetime membership to young scholars to support their growth and development. We aim to help students like Tucker Carroll on their academic success by connecting them with unique learning experiences and resources to help prepare them for college and meaningful careers."

has served as mayor for the past 15 years and on city council for six years prior to being elected mayor; Scott Neisler, who previously served two terms as mayor from 1991-99 and on council from 1989-99; Beauford Burton, and Eugene (Sherlock) Holmes, both newcomers to politics.

"Friends, our city is in the best shape in its history and it was incorporated Feb. 11, 1874," said Rick Murphrey who opened his remarks by saying that he believes in Kings Mountain's future and he loves Kings Mountain. He said the city has moved progressively forward and is positioned for planned growth working with city council, staff, the county Economic Development Partnership, and the state as industry is recruited. Since 2000 when he was elected mayor he said the city has recruited industries like Greenheck, AT&T, Southern Power, Walt Disney, and others bringing 3,000 jobs and discussed savings that will be brought on by the agreement with NTE and how those savings will be passed on to customers. By purchasing electricity wholesale from NTE, the city would take in \$8-9M a year and over

a 20-year period \$240M. He said the city is pro-business and has the lowest tax rate and utility rate in the area, among only eight cities operating four utilities.

Neisler began in light-hearted vein by showing a campaign sign that read "re-elect Neisler" that featured a picture of himself when he ran for office at age 35. "I'm pushing 60 now" he said. During his first term of office Neisler said it was a big struggle for the city to get the system in order but that during his last two years in office the city was set on a great course to take it to the next level. He noted that city customers pay 2% more for power than Duke Power customers, asked citizens to ask questions and give input on his Facebook page and suggested that if vendors don't make timely applications at Beach Blast that they still be allowed to participate.

Burton opened his remarks with "I care about this community and future generations." He said he wants to see growth while maintaining the town's small town feeling. He then addressed the controversial topic of a potential casino. "I would invite any productive

industry here. I'd do anything I could do to bring jobs to Kings Mountain and the surrounding area. But I'll tell you one thing I won't do. I will not welcome a casino to Kings Mountain," Burton said.

Eugene Holmes, who is listed on the ballot as Sherlock Holmes, spoke out against homosexuality.

"I'm a national celebrity," he said, holding up a front page of The Kings Mountain Herald. "They wrote good stuff about all you candidates, look what they wrote about me. People stand in my face and say it is o.k. for two men to marry, there's not enough jails to hold them." No one in the almost-full room applauded.

Ward I

Howard Shipp, the incumbent, used three words to say why he was best qualified to serve on city council: experience, experience, experience. During his 15 years on the board he said he was impressed with the many on-going and new programs but signaled out peak shaving which saves the city \$1 million on utilities each year. "I want

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