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DR. JAY STRACK

Jay Strack Crusade begins Sunday

The Jay Strack Impact Crusade opens Sunday at 7:30 p.m. for five big services in John Gamble Stadium.

"We're ready and we hope the crowds will come," says Chairman Ronnie Hawkins and Rev. Ron Caulder, president of the sponsoring Kings Mountain Ministerial Association.

For Hawkins and Caulder, the Strack Crusade will be their third to work but in different capacities. Hawkins handled publicity for Clyde Dupin in 1987 and was treasurer for Rick Gage in 1991 and Caulder

worked both times in counselor training.

This crusade has seen both Kings Mountain men involved for two years in all aspects of the crusade, overseeing a large executive committee. Both were on the search committee for the evangelist who spoke at a pastor's conference Caulder attended in Houston, Texas several years ago. Most recently, the two men met Strack at a NC Baptist State Convention at Carowinds where 1800 young people responded to the invitation and there were 400 first

time commitments to Christ.

"My wife Libby and I rededicated our lives to Christ at the Dupin crusade," recalled Hawkins.

"That's my prayer that others will rededicate their lives to Christ at this crusade and that every young person in town can hear Strack's message."

Hawkins said the Strack Crusade is organized much like the Billy Graham crusade based on financial accountability with committees appointed to raise the budget. Once the \$29,000 See Crusade, 5A

Strack talks straight to kids

Evangelist Jay Strack talks straight to kids - about drugs, sex, alcohol, and following the crowds.

He will take his "Straight Talk" program to the Kings Mountain High School Monday from 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. at Barnes Auditorium and speak at Kings Mountain Middle School from 1-2 p.m.

Strack will lead evangelistic services Sunday through

Thursday at 7:30 p.m. nightly at John Gamble Stadium and he says he's excited about coming to Kings Mountain.

Interviewed from his home in Orlando, Fla. Friday before he set out on Saturday for a preaching tour in Europe, Strack says he has never witnessed as much enthusiasm for a crusade in a small town.

"I have preached all over See Strack, 3A

KM's Early to bike to beach to help raise funds for MS

Keeping in shape is important to a bike rider.

Just ask Brent Early, who is riding 30-60 miles every day to race his Cannondale 16-speed bike to the finish line September 14-15 in the MS 150 Breakaway at Myrtle Beach, SC.

The Kings Mountain man has good reason to push for a win. He's raising money and riding for MS victims who can't pedal the distance.

Early will be riding this year for Tim Allen, a neighbor on Peoria Lane and Sharon Bingham, a family friend at Grover Church of God.

Brent will be sporting big banners on his bike and he's hoping to have plenty of sponsors from Kings Mountain people.

An electrician at PPG for 10 years, Brent started riding for exercise and mainly to cope with family health problems. Last year he joined 14 riders at PPG who were among 1200 cyclists who raised \$500,000 for the MS Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

"It gave me such a good feeling and my family was right there cheering me on," said Brent.

This year 1600 people will

ride in a two-day event, racing 76 miles from Rockingham to Florence the first day out. On the second day the trek will take them 84 miles to Myrtle Beach.

Jonathan Early, 13, a juvenile diabetic, and Jacob 6, who suffers from a seizure disorder, will be at the finish line with their mother, Debbie Gilliam Early, and other siblings Brad, 17, Angela, 15, and Jeremiah, 2.

"We've had close calls with Jacob a couple of times since he became afflicted with a seizure disorder at age six weeks," said Brent. Young Jonathan's diabetic condition requires three shots of insulin a day.

The Earlys are proud of all their children.

Debbie Early supports her husband in his efforts to help children and adults with a disease that robs individuals of muscle control.

"We were at Duke Hospital three times last month with Jacob and we've been in and out of hospitals alot so we know the suffering of others," said Debbie. Both Jacob and Jonathan will return to Duke Hospital this month and the family will be staying at

Ronald McDonald House to be near the boys. Jacob attends North Shelby School but had to be out Monday because of illness.

"Illness takes its toll on all members of a family," said Early, who said he and his wife depend heavily on their older children for support when times get hard.

"We are very lucky that we have our children and we just keep hanging in there praying that some day there will be a cure for these diseases and that God will give us courage," said Early who said faith has kept his family strong.

Debbie will drive the family car with all the children, help take up pledges and meet her husband at the finish line at the beach.

Last year Early placed third on the first day and 15th on the second day.

"It's exciting but last year Brent beat us to the beach," said Mrs. Early, who says it takes her about two days driving with the children.

Early pedals at a speed of 22 miles an hour and uses about 85 percent of his pedaling strength.



READY TO RIDE - Brent Early, avid biker, is riding for MS patients in the MS 150 Breakaway September 14-15.

Tim Allen, who was diagnosed with MS 3 1/2 years ago, used to drive a truck for Burlington Industries. His disease, which affects his bladder and stomach, is in remission.

Allen, son of Betty and Billy Allen and married to Deana Bowen Allen, said he appreciates the efforts of Brent Early who is riding for dollars for re- See Early, 5A

Cemetery fees to be reimbursed

By ELIZABETH STEWART of the Herald Staff

The City of Kings Mountain will reimburse the approximately 25 families who paid the higher cemetery fees passed by Council with the budget July 1.

City Manager Jimmy Maney said the staff recommendation is on the agenda for Tuesday night's 7:30 p.m. Council meeting at City Hall.

"We will pay the difference between the first new fee and the amended fees that were passed at the recent Council meeting," said Maney.

Reports from several ongoing studies a discussion of the city's master plan for recreation.

Maney said that engineer Al Moretz is inventorying the city's recreational facilities and properties and will be presenting a recommendation soon on how the city can utilize them to the fullest.

The city is advertising for bids for painting the interior and exterior of the Community Center, refurbishing the gymnasium floor and repairing the concrete columns with stucco. The costs could run about \$40,000 and the work is expected to be completed by the start of basketball season.

City electric crews are putting up new poles along King Street and patching of potholes is a priority of the Public Works Department.

"We have talked to commercial and industrial clients who are serious about locating in Kings Mountain and new businesses going up, including Summit Place and Holiday Inn Express, are making progress," said Maney.

Maney will recommend to Council that Mountaineer Christmas and a night Christmas parade be combined. Tentative date for the holiday event is December 5.

Wes Grooms new Herald Publisher

Wesley Grooms, 32, has been named publisher of The Kings Mountain Herald and five other Republic Newspapers in Cleveland and Gaston Counties.

In addition to The Herald, Grooms will publish The Cleveland Times, Cherryville Eagle, Bessemer City Record, Mount Holly News and Belmont Banner.

Grooms comes to Kings Mountain from Keokuk, Iowa, where he was Advertising Director for two years for Brehm Communications. With 10 years experience in advertis-

ing, he was account executive for Dining Out Marketing, a monthly metro Atlanta publication, and worked in Canton as Advertising Director for The Enterprise, a newspaper owned by Mountaineer Publishing Company in Haywood County.

He is a native of Waynesville, a graduate of Tuscola High School in Waynesville and a 1987 graduate of Western Carolina University with a major in political science and a degree in public affairs. He is single.

"I am glad to be back in Western North Carolina since I

have family roots here and I look forward to working with the staff, readers and advertisers in the community," said Grooms.

"The Kings Mountain Herald is an accurate reflection of the happenings of the community and we pledge to continue to give that same local news and advertising coverage that is The Herald's trademark.

"I feel the job of a good community newspaper is to act as a focal point of communications for its readers. It reflects the way we conduct our lives, the products and services we enjoy

and the way we interact as communities," said Grooms.

"At the Kings Mountain Herald we attempt to explain the issues and trust our readers to draw their own conclusions. Your community newspaper is yours to communicate your needs, services and interests to others in our area."

"Wes Grooms' experience in advertising and his North Carolina heritage should be a real asset to the Kings Mountain community," said Nick Drewry, Republic's Executive Vice-President of Knoxville, Tn.



WESLEY GROOMS

Crawford takes Lions Club motto seriously

W. Donald Crawford, Kings Mountain's first elected District 31-C Governor, takes the Lion motto, "We Serve," seriously.

During his visits this year to 42 clubs in five counties, the local realtor and 30-year retired federal employee, plans to push all the humanitarian programs of the civic club but he also plans to be on hand again at Camp Dogwood, a 13-week camp for the visually impaired at Sherrills Ford.

"There were about 800 people at our camp last year and it was a wonderful experience," said

Crawford. He said that Lions also promote diabetes awareness since diabetes is one of the leading causes of blindness. He said Lions gave over \$500,000 in grants to Bowman Gray Hospital for a Pediatric Eye Center for research and eye banks.

Another first for Crawford and his wife JoeAnn, was a trip to Nags Head where they went on a VIP fishing tournament with over 400 visually impaired people.

"It was so rewarding for both of us and we plan to go again

this October," said Crawford.

The couple also attended the USA/ Canada Forum sponsored by Lions International in Milwaukee, WI last year. This year they plan to take their vacation and return to Nags Head and trout fish with some of the people they like to work with the most, the folks that Lions Clubs all over the state help with their funds and also with their love.

Son of the late Tom and Ethel Crawford of Kings Mountain, Crawford became active as a realtor in the 1960s and he and his

wife, Joe Ann opened Joe Ann and Don Realty. He is past president of the Kings Mountain Realtors Association. Joe Ann and Don have two grandchildren, Angie Davis and Bill Cornwell and one great-granddaughter, Kelsie Davis.

Crawford became active in Lions in the Manteo Club in 1976 when he and his wife were stationed with the National Park Service in the Outer Banks. He is also a former Kings Mountain Post Office clerk with 22 years service.

A past president of Kings

Mountain Lions, Crawford worked up the ranks and was noted as a 100 percent secretary with 20 years perfect attendance and Lion of the Year. He was also elevated to his present job through District activities and was a Melvin Jones Fellow and recipient of the Jack Stickley Award.

An Eagle Scout, he was active in Scouting for 56 years and is a former longtime Scoutmaster, recipient of the Wood Badge 149, the Silver Beaver Award and deputy Camp Chief. He See Crawford, 5A

Mountaineers scrimmage another 4-A power Friday at Gaffney 8A



Coming in next week's Herald 75th Anniversary KMHS Football Edition!

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