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Golfers needed for benefit event

Area golfers are desperately needed to insure the success of a benefit golf tournament September 27 at 2 p.m. at Woodbridge Golf Links.

The tournament, directed by Carl Champion, is being held to raise money to help pay the medical and burial expenses of 14-year-old Jerry Tessner II, son of Kings Mountain policeman Jerry Tessner, who died unexpectedly April 26 just 16 days after undergoing surgery to repair a defective heart valve.

The tournament was originally intended for police officers and their spouses to help one of their own. But

Champion said this week that law enforcement officers are not entering the tournament and he is opening it up to all golfers.

The entry fee is \$75 and includes golf and cart fees, prizes and refreshments, a donation to the Tessner fund, and admission to a barbecue dinner to be served at the conclusion of the event. There will also be closest to the hole and other contests. Entry forms are available at all area golf courses, Kings Mountain Police Department and Champion Contracting.

See Golf, 9A



JERRY TESSNER II

Lack of rain drops level of Moss Lake

Moss Lake has dropped 18 inches due to insufficient rainfall in the past four weeks.

City Planning Director Steve Killian said citizens have not suffered for lack of water but that the dry weather has cost farmers all their hay crops.

KM Water Department Supervisor Walt Ollis said the city staff is monitoring the lake situation closely and everyone's praying for rain.

City Council is expected to vote on the seven members of the new Moss Lake Commission at the September 30 meeting, according to Mayor Scott Neisler. Memorandums went out from the mayor's office this week to all seven elected city officials and to officers of the Moss Lake Property Owners' Association. The mayor said the property owners are expected to nominate two lake owners to serve on the new board and City Council is to select five members of the board, none of whom can be elected officials and all of whom must reside in the Kings Mountain city limits.

"We hope to have this authority in place at the September 30 meeting," said the mayor.

Lee Hayes and Jeff Curtis have joined the City Codes Department, according to ad-

ministrator Killian, and the city is advertising for another position of codes officer. Andy Scoggins is building inspector. Killian also oversees the operation of Moss Lake.

In other city activities, Killian said that the city board of adjustment approved Tuesday a variance request from Shane Doty for a front yard setback at 105 Raintree Dr. Doty was requesting a 34 feet setback from the right of way so that he could get his house in line with adjoining property owners.

Killian said that city staff and representatives from Ingles Super Markets are expected to meet soon to talk about a sewer line to be run to the property on Oak Grove Road that Ingles is buying for a new food store. With conflicts in scheduling, the conference has been delayed.

Construction is moving along on Summit Place, the new assisted living complex across from the Middle School. Killian said that the sewer line is still to be completed as well as landscaping and interior designs.

City Manager Jimmy Maney is out-of-town until Friday attending a natural gas convention in Louisiana. Hoping to lock in gas prices, he said he expected to learn much at the convention and also climb on board an oil rig.

KM Schools enrollment up

Tenth day enrollment figures increased 87 to a total of 4,289 students who are attending Kings Mountain District Schools this fall.

"The increase from 1996-97 is reflected in the elementary schools," said Supt. Dr. Bob McRae in a report to the Kings Mountain Board of Education Monday night.

McRae said the system unit-wide is in good shape and no class is exceeding the state class size requirements. He said four mobile units are up and running.

The enrollment figures, school by school, include: Bethware, 634, up 38; East, 312, up 11; Grover, 537, up 34; North, 426, up 16; West, 313, no change; Middle School, 956, up

See School, 9A



LAKE LEVEL DROPPING - Even though the Moss lake level is dropping due to the drought the ducks don't seem to mind. City officials are monitoring the lake level daily but like the farmers who have lost hay crops they are praying for rain.

Lynch says she's a miracle

Liz Lynch may never get printer's ink out of her blood.

The widow of the former early 1940's Herald Publisher Haywood E. Lynch in still sends news articles to the newspaper even though it's painful for her to write the notes.

Mrs. Lynch is suffering from Esinoesphilia Pneumonia and the serious lung problem has kept her close to home.

She attended Boyce Memorial ARP Church two weeks ago in a wheelchair and recently she was among 40 people she called "miracles" who were guests of Dr. and Mrs. John C. McGill at an ice cream social.

"I consider myself a miracle," said Mrs. Lynch, who has difficulty talking but whose voice

was stronger Tuesday as she spoke on the telephone from her room at Cleveland Pines where she was admitted after five days at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

But she said her streak of independence and the grace of God has kept her intent on beating the odds.

Elizabeth Simmons Lynch, affectionately called "Meme" by her family, said she was thankful she could make the party. She also recalled how she watched the construction going up at the new Summit Place from her car.

Lynch wanted to be the first resident of the new assisted-living facility across from the Middle School and said as

much at a City Council meeting where she carried her life-saving oxygen with her and talked to Council about her dream of living in the apartment complex.

Liz said that among guests at the McGill party was Kim McMackin who spent long stays in the hospital after a bank vault door fell on him, pinning his legs underneath the heavy door.

"He walked in and others like me came on walkers, wheelchairs or crutches," said Mrs. Lynch of the party which honored the home-bound members of Boyce Memorial ARP Church.

See Lynch, 4A



LIZ LYNCH

Business and Professional group plans park at old Roller Mill site

The old Roller Mill property at the corner of West Gold Street and South Railroad Avenue will be developed by the Kings Mountain Business & Professional Association as a park.

City Council last week gave the green light to project when it approved the use of the city-owned vacant lot, across from the old Plonk Brothers, for a municipal park.

"This is a great thing for downtown and something that our association has been wanting to do for some time," said Joe Smith, one of the organizers of the park.

Tim Miller, also a promoter of the project, said the group envisions a gazebo and bandstand

and hopes to use the site for Mountaineer Christmas in December by placing a big flatbed trailer on the site.

"We won't have the gazebo and bandstand up by that time because we are looking for donations from the public in the form of cash and labor to build the gazebo and bandstand," said Smith.

Engineer Al Moretz donated the drawings for the project. Landscaper Cliff Laurich has been retained to make the area look like a park, according to Smith and will meet with the sponsoring group to get their input on the project. Trees and shrubs are expected to be planted this fall.

See Park, 6A

'Forever Plaid' opens Saturday to raise funds for Little Theatre

The Kings Mountain Little Theatre renovation project at the old Dixie Theatre will benefit from "Forever Plaid" and the curtain goes up Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 4 p.m. and again on September 19 and September 30 at 8 p.m. in B.N. Barnes Auditorium.

Billed as family entertainment, the show will feature all local talent, a barbershop singing group of four men backed by drummer David Roof, bass guitarist Jerre Snow and pianist Keith Denson.

"It's a challenge for us," said Mayor Scott Neisler, who along with his brother, Andy Neisler, Randy Patterson and Tim Miller make up the vocal group.

Tickets are \$10 at the door. Advance tickets may be purchased at Bridges Hardware.

Directed by Punkin Higginbotham, "Forever Plaid," is a different kind of show for

the local theatre group and Higginbotham says Kings Mountain citizens should make plans to attend.

"These guys are good," she said.

The group has been working for weeks on the production, set just before the rock-n-roll era and featuring the songs of the 1950's when kids and parents listened and danced to the same music.

The story line centers around four guys who met in high school and discovered they enjoyed the same music and dreamed of becoming like their idols - The Four Aces, the Four Lads, the Four Freshmen, Hi-Los and Crew Cuts. Rehearsing in the basement of a plumbing supply company, they almost realize their big gig when a tragic car accident ends their

See Plaid, 2A



CURTAIN GOING UP - Andy Neisler, Jerre Snow, on string bass, Randy Patterson, Keith Denson at piano, Tim Miller and Mayor Scott Neisler, left to right, rehearse a 50's number from "Forever Plaid," which opens Saturday at Barnes Auditorium as a benefit for the Kings Mountain Little Theatre's Dixie renovation project.

Area's blood supply is low

The American Red Cross is seeking immediate blood donations and encourages volunteer donors to assist in meeting the blood supply needs of local communities by scheduling an appointment to give blood.

Despite a 7% increase in blood donations in July, the Red Cross is experiencing low blood supply levels in many regions nationwide. About 25 of the 38 blood regions have 1 1/2 day or less supply of O positive and O negative blood. Ideally, the Red Cross prefers to have a three to four day supply.

Sandi Bolick, Director of Blood Services for the Cleveland County Chapter of the Red Cross, said persons may donate blood September 14 from 12:30-4:30 p.m. at Palm Tree United Methodist Church; Wednesday, Sept. 17 from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Cleveland Community College; and

See Blood, 5A