



# Kings Mountain Herald

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## E. Coli outbreak in county

The Cleveland County Health Department is investigating 14 E. coli cases, according to county health director Denese Stallings.

Stallings said lab tests in Raleigh confirmed that a 42-year-old had the infection and that case could be an isolated incident.

Stallings said the department is also investigating six "probable" and seven "possible" cases.

The health department will conduct a mandatory workshop for all county restaurant owners and employees about proper food handling and personal hygiene Friday at 9:30 a.m. at the health department. Letters went out to all restaurants Monday.

The E. coli infection is believed to be caused from

germs ingested usually through undercooked meat, unpasteurized milk and contaminated water, including swimming pools.

The health department's investigation has expanded to three Cleveland County restaurants, however it has not been confirmed that anyone in the county contracted the infection from a local restaurant. The Health Department sent out a warning Monday to people in the restaurant, medical and child care industries that the elderly and children are particularly susceptible.

Bloody diarrhea and severe abdominal pain are the main warning signs and most people recover in a week, however, E. coli sometimes causes serious, even life-threatening complications and people

with symptoms should see a doctor. Health officials warn against the use of Lomotil, a prescription anti-diarrheal medication and the over the counter Imodium.

A team from the N. C. Department of Health and Human Resources was in Shelby this week to review the local investigation.

How can you avoid getting sick? Health officials say you should wash your hands frequently, especially before eating or handling food. All foods, particularly meats, should be cooked thoroughly and handled with clean utensils and served hot.

Mrs. Stallings said while food is the most likely link, the health department isn't ruling out anything. She said people can also be infected through

contact with others by failing to wash their hands after using the bathroom and touching food or other people. An outbreak in Atlanta recently apparently was caused by a sick child defecating in a pool and 20 children got sick. Health Department officials are busy this week interviewing the families of those sick in an attempt to determine how the disease is being spread.

Stallings says she is waiting for more test results from Raleigh and results of samples sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Raleigh.

Stallings was to issue a press statement Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

### KM woman accused of kidnapping

Robert Paul Benton, 38, of 115 Peyton Place, Polkville and Edith Brown of Kings Mountain have been charged with kidnaping by the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department.

Lt. Billy Benton said the pair allegedly held four Polkville residents at gunpoint they accused of stealing drugs from them.

Narcotics Officer Benton said the four residents were allegedly forced to search their mobile home and other residences for a quantity of drugs but when the suspects turned their backs they fled five miles through the woods to a friend's home.

Edith Brown was arrested at her residence on July 18 by Sheriff's Narcotics Officers Rocky Smith and Robert Archie. Robert Paul Benton, ran from a vehicle stop and assaulted a sheriff's deputy on Monday morning, said Billy Benton. Because of the heat a five hour search for the suspect was called off and then resumed with a surveillance team which spotted the suspect entering a residence on Stoney Point Road.

Robert Paul Benton was charged with three counts of first degree kidnaping, possession with intent to sell and deliver methamphetamine, possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, conspiracy to traffic methamphetamine, and

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### Deaths

Samuel Head,  
Kings Mountain

Betty Moss,  
Kings Mountain

Nettie Tesseneer,  
Grover

James Jolley,  
Kings Mountain

Carolyn Herndon,  
Grover

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Kings Mountain Law Enforcement Center will be torn down

GARY STEWART / THE HERALD

### New PD to cost \$1.7 million

Unable to scale back the spiraling construction costs of a new law enforcement center, City Council gave the green light Monday night to spending \$1.7 million and moving ahead on the project.

Three weeks from today the historical old city hall, the present home of the police department on Piedmont Ave., may be down and construction should be underway.

The Kings Mountain Police Department Detective Division moved this week into the old Herald Building just down the street and Chief Richard Reynolds said other departments will soon follow.

Jim Stewart, of Stewart-Cooper Architects, of Gastonia, reviewed construction plans to try to shave the costs but he told Council Monday

night that only about \$20,000 could be cut and those practical cuts came mainly from electrical and plumbing fixtures and changes in wall heights.

"I feel good about going on with this project, scaling back would hurt the future and growth," said Mayor Scott Neisler.

Neisler asked Stewart if there would be a cost savings in renovating the present building and/or starting all over on the project. But Stewart said the city would be throwing good money after bad due to the age of the present building. "The renovation would all have to be up to codes and when you got through you'd spend just as much money and you would still have an old building," he said.

Councilman Norma Bridges asked  
See POLICE STATION page 2A

### The Price Tag

General Construction -	\$1,121,676
(Pinnix Inc., Gastonia)	
Plumbing -	\$61,026
(Yandle & Davies, Charlotte)	
Heating and Air -	\$114,401
(Shelby Heating & Air Cond.)	
Electrical -	\$248,067
(Lake Electric of Denver)	
Demolition -	\$36,125
(John E. Jenkins Inc., Gastonia)	
Architectural cost -	\$110,730
(Stewart-Cooper Architects, Gastonia)	

### KM hikes Grover's water rate

By vote of 4-0, City Council Monday night denied a reprieve of a 20 percent hike in water charges to the neighboring town of Grover.

Grover Mayor Max Rollins told the board the higher costs had not been anticipated in the 1998-99 budget and would amount to about \$10,000.

"Our budget was predicated on the 99 cent rate in a five year contract which we thought was intended for the life of the contract," said Rollins.

But City Manager Jimmy Maney said Kings Mountain charges neighboring Bessemer City 1.17, the inside industrial water rate, and Grover had been paying 99 cents.

"We just want to be fair," said Maney and Mayor Scott Neisler.

Grover buys all its water from Kings Mountain.

"We appreciate the service which has been of benefit to both of us," said Rollins but he said Grover needed a clearer contract and purchase agreement.

The five-year contract adopted August 8, 1996 sets out that Kings Mountain could increase the rate with notification to Grover, according to City Attorney Mickey Corry who is also attorney for the Town of Grover. Corry said the letter was sent to retiring mayor Ronald Queen June 8.

"This is a pretty good deal at \$1.17," said Councilman Rick Murphrey who said the rate for Kings Mountain citizens is \$1.37 per 1,000 gallons. Councilman Gene White and Murphrey made the motions to deny the reprieve from the original contract and Norma Bridges and Phil Hager also approved. Absent were councilmen Bob Hayes, Clavon Kelly and Jerry Mullinax.

Rollins said the Town of Grover may have to up the cost of water for its citizens.

### New city pool to open July 31

Fanfare and live TV will open the city's half million dollar swimming pool July 31.

City officials will cut the ribbon and formally dedicate the facility at 5 p.m., according to Recreation Director Tripp Hord who said the public is invited to come as early as 4 p.m. and remain until after the 9:30 p.m. fireworks show to be conducted by Mayor Scott Neisler.

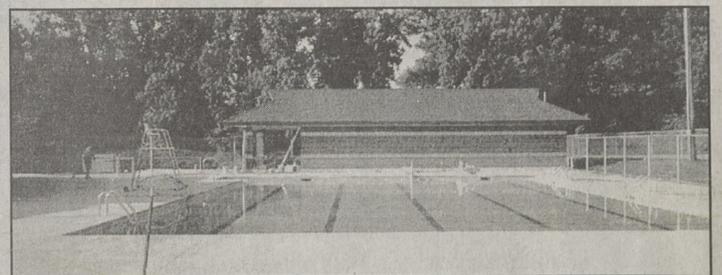
"We are planning music, entertainment, food, a hydrant shower by the city fire department, and demonstrations by a local swim team and women's aerobics class," said Hord who said public swimming probably

won't open that day. Water is in the pool and the fence is up this week but workers still had loose ends to tie up.

"We missed two deadlines but we won't miss the July 31 opening," said Hord who said that WCNC Cable Channel 6 will be on hand to broadcast live evening news from the pool at 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Hord said with school opening on August 10th that school children won't be able to use the facility much this summer except on weekends. "We hope to keep the pool open on weekends for the public through Labor Day and

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GARY STEWART / THE HERALD

New Kings Mountain swimming pool to open July 31

First Carolina Federal

Kings Mountain  
300 W. Mountain St.  
739-4781

Gastonia  
529 S. New Hope Rd.  
865-1111

Shelby  
1238 E. Dixon Blvd.  
484-0222

MEMBER FDIC