

All winners in Special Olympics

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

The sun shone as brightly as the athletic talents that were on display at the Cleveland County Special Olympics last Thursday. Held at George Blanton Memorial Stadium on the campus of Shelby High School, the event saw over 200 Special Olympians from all over Cleveland County take part. Nearly 300 volunteers also lent their time and love to make the event a success.

"This is an opportunity for the mentally and physically challenged to participate in Olympics-style activities," said event coordinator Anita Friday. "Thanks to our volunteers, everything has come together for the games and worked out great."

Volunteers for the Cleveland County Special Olympics are from all walks of life and perform their services selflessly.

"I enjoy volunteering at the Special Olympics because it's not only fun, it also helps other people," said Melissa Terry.

Friends Kelly Martin and Amanda Hoyle from Fallston looked at volunteering for the Special Olympics as a natural extension of their clinical work with the mentally and physically challenged at North Shelby School.

"We both just love working with the kids," Martin said.

The games kicked off with a parade of athletes and guests

that included Ronald McDonald, Smoky Bear, Kings Mountain Middle School cheerleaders, Miss Cleveland County Fair, Wanda Webber and her racing pigs, and county commission candidate Ralph Gilbert. Grand Marshall for the parade was Charlotte Sting basketball star Charlotte Smith.

Games at the Cleveland County Special Olympics included over a dozen different challenges. Events for motor activities included wheelchair courses, assisted walk, bowling, ball throw, strike for distance, and parachute activity. Field events were the shot put, running long jump, standing long jump, softball throw, and grasp and release.

Track activities were also part of the program and included the 25 meter assisted walk, 100 meter manual wheelchair, 100 meter dash, 200 meter dash, and 400 meter dash. There was also a 100 meter powered wheelchair race.

Following the track and field games, lunch was served and entertainment followed. Groups that put on shows included the Shriner's Piedmont Pistons, Cleveland County Canine Patrol, and Beth Mayo Academy of Performing Arts. Food and drink donors included Eaton Corporation, McDonald's, Pepsi, and Sundrop.

Though some athletes at the Cleveland County Special Olympics earned their way to



Leon Burgess of Kings Mountain lit the torch to kick off the Cleveland County Special Olympics last Thursday. Burgess will also be taking part in the Teen USA Winter Games in 2001.

the awards podium, everyone who took part was a winner. An annual event that gets bigger and better every year, the

Special Olympics truly lives up to its motto- "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

SOCIAL BRIEFS

Military Park to host forum

Kings Mountain National Military Park will be holding its Third Annual Kings Mountain Forum on Saturday, May 6. Activities will begin at 9 a.m. and continue throughout the day.

Featured speakers at the event will include Dr. Bobby Moss, author of several books on the Revolutionary War in the South. Moss has titles such as "The Patriots at Kings Mountain" and "The Patriots at Cowpens" to his credit.

Another speaker will be Dr. Lawrence Babits from East Carolina University. Babits will discuss the Revolutionary militia and its role in the Southern campaign.

Speaker Todd Braisted is Webmaster for a site dedicated to the study of the Loyalist in the Revolution. He will discuss Ferguson's regulars and their place in the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Other speakers will be Michael Williams, William Wilder, and Ken Bloom. Williams and Bloom are Revolutionary War reenactors. Wilder is a storyteller and member of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association.

Other activities will include a living history encampment by members of Bratton's Regiment. Music will be provided by the Guilford Courthouse Fife and Drums.

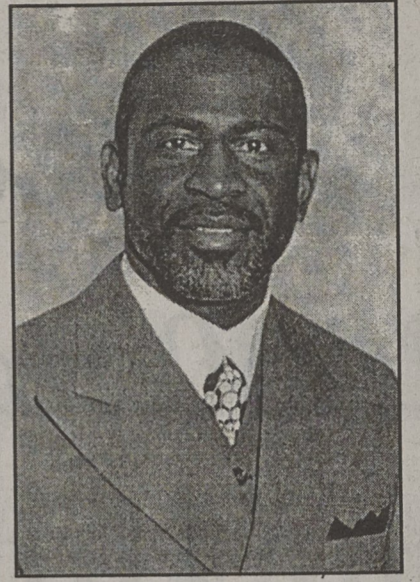
For more information on the Forum, call Chris Revels at 864-936-7921.

Love Orchestra at gazebo Sunday

The Frank Love Orchestra will be performing Sunday, May 7, from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. at the Gazebo in downtown Kings Mountain. Bring your lawn chairs and quilts, as well as family and friends for this concert which will feature the best in orchestral music.

A musician since childhood, Love formed his own band in high school. In addition to music, Love is also a former nationally ranked senior tennis champ. He is also a retired textile industry employee and is married to Virginia Love. They have five children, 11 grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

There is no charge for the concert, which is sponsored by the City of Kings Mountain.



DR. ANTHONY JINWRIGHT Holy Temple pastor to note anniversary

Holy Temple Baptist Mission Church will host a second anniversary celebration for their pastor, Rev. Georgia B. Guest, Sunday.

The 11 a.m. service will be held at the church. Rev. Rose Corry will serve as Master of Ceremonies. Rev. Y. Tusake McNeil, first lady of Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church in Mount Holly, will deliver the message.

The evening service will begin at 4:30 p.m. at the Bynum Chapel AME Zion Church family life center, 312 North Cansler Street, Kings Mountain. Dr. Anthony L. Jinwright and the Salem Baptist Church family will be special guests. The public is invited.

Spring band concert Tuesday at KMHS

The Kings Mountain District School bands will present their annual spring concert Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes Auditorium. The concert will be directed by Christopher Cole and Gil Doggett and will feature the Kings Mountain Middle School 7th and 8th grade bands, the Kings Mountain High 9th grade band, and the KMHS Blazer Band.

The Blazer Band will be joined by the Kings Mountain Chamber Choir under the direction of Gene Bumgardner and Sherry Young for a concert celebration featuring the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber, which features selections from "Jesus Christ, Superstar," "Phantom of the Opera," "Wita," "Cats," and "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

Traditional marches, patriotic selections and standard concert selections will be presented. The concert is free and open to the public.

Prayer service at Ebenezer Baptist

A prayer and deliverance service will be held May 7 and 21 at 6:30 p.m. at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Highway 216 N. The service will be conducted by Sister Marilyn Nauman, who will be praying for the sick.

For more information, call 739-4113.

Shelby Senior Center to honor Leona Neal

The new Senior Center in Shelby will be named the Leona Smith Neal Memorial Senior Center in recognition of a \$300,000 gift for the facility from her family. It will be located on property adjacent to Cleveland Home Health. To date, over two-thirds of the necessary \$3.2 million needed has been raised. The County has donated \$1 million and the rest has or will come in pledges over three to five years.

Tom Neal and daughters Chris Cline and Patty Dorian were present at a recent Steering Committee Meeting for the Capital Campaign. They are husband and daughters to the late Leona Smith Neal.

CLASS

From 1B p.m. Fee for the 10-week class is \$20.

Brazilian Embroidery begins Wednesday, May 24 fro 1-4 p.m. The class will run for six weeks and the fee is \$30.

For more information on either class, call Shirley Bridges at 482-3488.

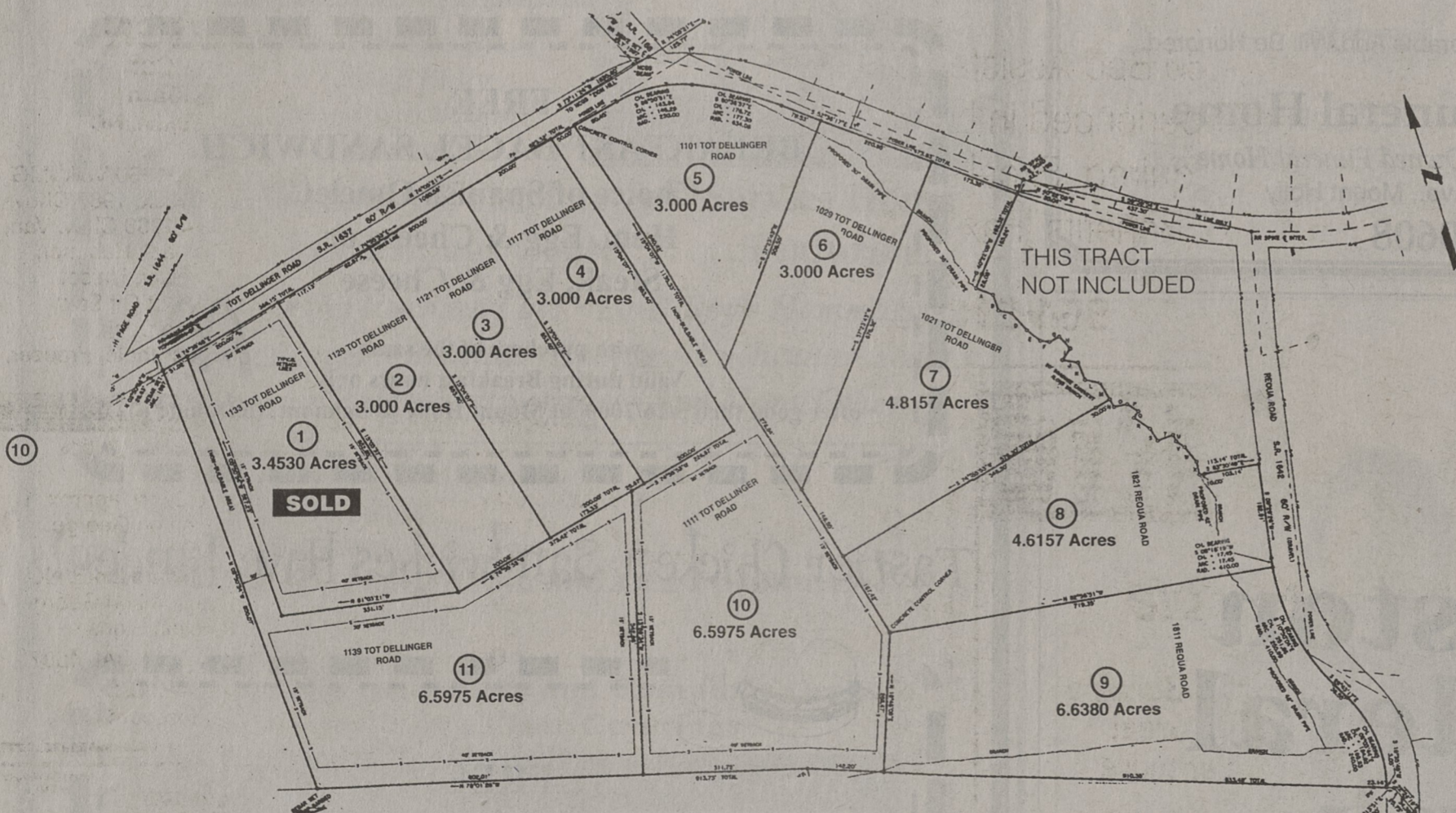


Ronald McDonald cheered for the participants at the Cleveland County Special Olympics held last Thursday at Shelby High School. Taking a break with Ronald was athlete Robbie Conner from Kings Mountain.



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD
Bradley Murray and Crystal Champion share a joke with Smoky the Bear at the Cleveland County Special Olympics. Smoky was at the event courtesy of the Forest Service.

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