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Mission in Action

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Thursday, October 5, 2000

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POLICE BRIEFS

Statutory rape charge filed on KM man

A 19-year-old Kings Mountain man has been charged with two counts of statutory rape and two counts of taking indecent liberties with a child in connection with an incident alleged to have occurred on Monday, October 2.

All of the charges are felonies. The alleged incident involved a 14-year-old girl.

David Glover, 407 York Road, was jailed under a \$40,000 secured bond.

According to Kings Mountain Police, the statutory rape charge involves "intercourse with a child who is 13, 14 or 15 years old by someone who is more than four years but less than six years older than the victim."

Attempted armed robbery reported at Pine Manor

Kings Mountain Police are investigating an attempted armed robbery Thursday night in the parking lot of Pine Manor Apartments at 612 Charles Street.

Anthony Huskey, 18, of 119 Hillway Drive, and Theodosia Currence, 18, of 612 Charles Street, Apt. 33, told Ptl. A.D. Borchert that they were sitting in a car when a suspect came up to the driver's side window and told them to "empty your pockets and give me everything you got."

The suspect then reportedly opened the door and pulled a gun, and threatened Huskey and Currence.

Currence told Borchert she ran inside Apartment 33 to call the police and the suspect fled the scene on foot.

Both Currence and Huskey identified the suspect, but an arrest has not yet been made.

KM man arrested on liberties charge

Michael Dean Lockridge, 41, of 808 Fourth Street, Kings Mountain, was arrested last week on an alleged charge of taking indecent liberties with a minor.

He was jailed on a \$10,000 secured bond.

According to Kings Mountain Police, Lockridge is accused by a 12-year-old of rubbing her legs and other areas.

County wide zoning approved

BY ALAN HODGE
 Staff Writer

In what some audience members considered another act of high-handedness, the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners voted 4-1 Tuesday evening to adopt countywide zoning. As he did with the school merger vote, commissioner Willie McIntosh cast the sole dissenting ballot.

"It was like merger all over again," said county resident

Kathy Falls. "A lot of people wish that the new commissioners that will be voted in next month could have handled it."

In a flashback to merger meetings, commission chairman Jim Crawley and commission candidate David Morrow once again crossed swords. Following an impassioned address by Morrow against zoning that brought loud approval from the audience, Crawley rapped his gavel for order.

One point in the new ordinance that Falls and others took issue with restricts home businesses from opening before 8 a.m.

"Most day cares are operated as home businesses," Falls said. "This provision will make it hard on working parents who won't be able to drop their kids off before going to work."

As in the merger hearings, the commission chambers were packed with people eager to hear what was said - and to voice their own opinion on zoning.

The emotionally charged atmosphere even pitted neighbor against neighbor with different views about use of their lands. Especially contentious was the debate over mobile home parks.

One aspect of the zoning ordinance that officials think will help soften the impact of new mobile home parks on neighboring residential areas is the rule requiring "screens" of planted bushes, trees, or even earthen berms between the two

areas. The rule is that the screens have to be at least 20 feet high. The catch is that the screens of planted trees or bushes don't have to be that high at first, they only have to have the potential to eventually grow to that height.

The new zoning requirements divide the county into eight areas. These include neighborhood business, general business, light industrial, heavy

See Zoning, 11A



Not everyone at the Cleveland County Fair had the balance of Dexter Grades when it came to climbing the swiveling rope game. Grades said it took a lot of practice to master the art.

ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD

FAIR WEATHER

Clear skies, cool temperatures perfect combination for Cleveland County Fair

BY ALAN HODGE
 Staff Writer

Perfect weather got the 76th annual Cleveland County Fair off to a good start last Thursday and has kept it that way. With the clear skies and cool temperatures that have so far characterized the meteorological scene, fair organizers expect attendance to top 200,000 before the action ends Saturday night.

This weekend saw heavy masses of the public making their way through the fair gates and from that point beelines to the attractions, rides, and food. Folks ranging in age from tots to the elderly packed the midway and stood in long lines to try out the amusements.

With the theme of this year's fair being the Department of Agriculture's "Goodness Grows in North Carolina," there are many exhibits that showcased not only local fruits and vegetables, but a wide variety of prize livestock and poultry.

Food at the fair has everyone salivating as well as filling their mouths with eats that include the standard hotdog and other delicacies such as pizza.

See Fair, 3A



Six-year-old Koale Cloninger of Dallas won his prizes playing the "Smash Mouth" game at the fair. Cloninger was also on the lookout for some cotton candy.

Man charged with killing woman in KM

BY ALAN HODGE
 Staff Writer

A man arrested in Putnam County, Tennessee on DWI, felony stolen vehicle, and drug charges has confessed to strangling his girlfriend in Kings Mountain on September 18, according to the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department.

According to police, 37-year-old Alva Lamar Richmond of Oak Hill, West Virginia confessed to the murder while being held in the Putnam County jail on charges relating to a September 19 auto accident about 80 miles west of Knoxville on I-40. In his confession to police, Richmond said he strangled 46-year-old Virginia Helmick on September 18 at 1140 Rollingbrook Court in Kings Mountain. Richmond also reportedly stated that he transported Helmick's body to Putnam County near Baxter and hid it in a wooded area. Richmond was also a suspect in the strangulation death of his wife on April 9, 2000 in Oak Hill and was charged with that murder on Monday, police said.

Police said that Richmond told them he strangled both women while they were asleep. Helmick's body was found in the forest about four miles from

See Charges, 11A

KM to become gateway to parks

The City of Kings Mountain this week received notification from the Department of Interior National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, that its proposal to make Kings Mountain a gateway to the Crowders Mountain and Kings Mountain State Parks, and the Kings Mountain National Military Park, has been approved.

The Park Service will provide technical assistance to the city and the three parks to implement a marketing program and signage to promote the parks and the city.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said the local project was one of 13 approved for next year's park budget.

The Southeast Regional Office will work with the local agencies in conservation efforts

regarding trails, rivers and programs and to make Highway 161 the main entrance to all three parks.

"We're excited about this opportunity and look forward to working with the National Park Service to develop Kings Mountain as a gateway community," Murphrey said. "We are working toward a goal of attracting park visitors to Kings Mountain, along with new businesses."

Murphrey and City Manager Jimmy Maney have met with officials from the three parks on numerous occasions.

As a gateway community, Murphrey said the City will be listed in all park guides and brochures. Park experts will help the parks and city preserve their local resources and create

See Gateway, 11A

Community mourns death of two legends

Ruby Alexander advocate of KM, Cleveland County

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

Her name was Ruby, but she was really a gem.

Realtor and Developer Ruby Alexander spent her lifetime promoting her hometown of Kings Mountain through her involvement in church, community and business activities.

Mrs. Alexander, 74, died Friday following a three-year bout with cancer which saw her beat the odds, return to an

active lifestyle and, as always, be an inspiration to all she came in contact with.

"My mom has always been an inspiration to me, but never more than during her cancer fight," said her daughter, Cindi Wood. "She has fought valiantly for three years - reminding us often that her fighting power came from her relationship with Jesus Christ."

"Her construction work con-

See Ruby, 3A



RUBY ALEXANDER



BILL FULTON

Bill Fulton greeted all with a firm handshake

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain lost a church, community and business leader, and a gentleman, with the passing last week of William S. "Bill" Fulton Jr.

The longtime owner of Fulton's Department Store died Saturday at his home following a lengthy bout with cancer.

Fulton wore many hats in the community, and in all of them greeted everyone he met with a

kind word and a firm handshake.

"Bill has been a great citizen for Kings Mountain all of his life," said his fellow Kiwanian J.C. Bridges. Bridges and Fulton served together in the Kiwanis Club for over 50 years. Both are lifetime members.

"He was always friendly," Bridges said. "He never pushed anybody. He never tried to push himself to the front. He

See Fulton, 3A



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