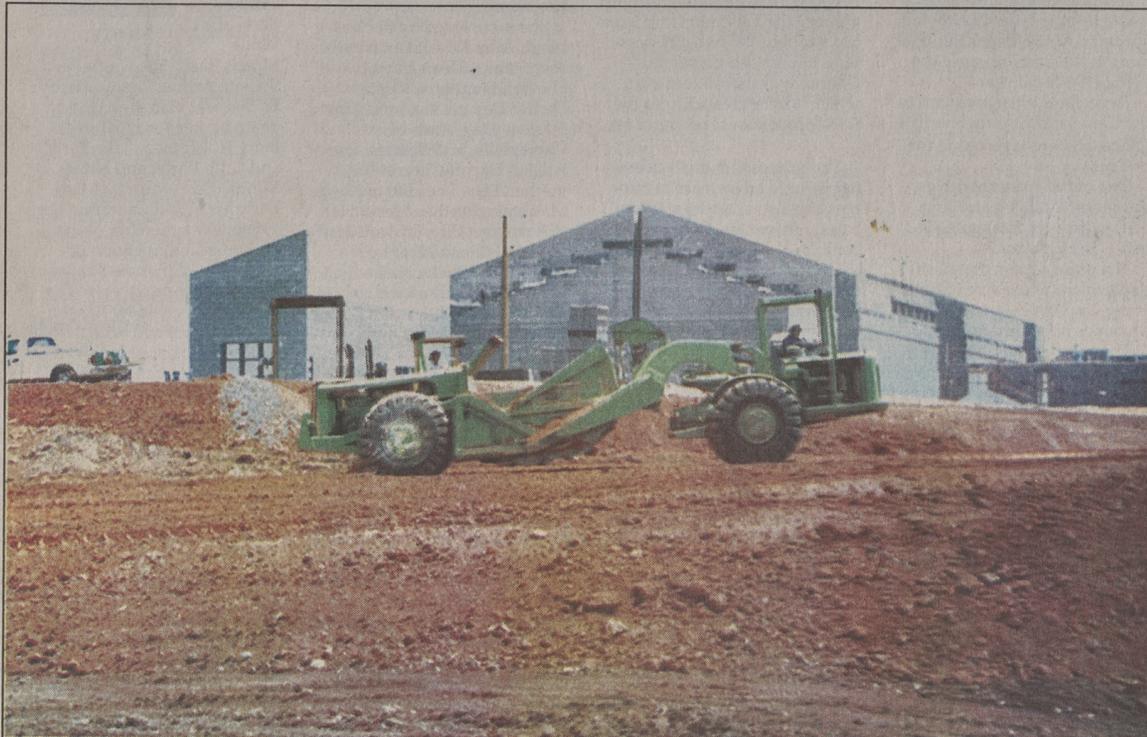


*****CAR-RT LOT**C 002
 307 11-11-01 2300A00 28P 4S
 MAUNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY
 100 S PIEDMONT AVE
 KINGS MOUNTAIN NC 28086-3414

Get a good
 taste of the
 NC mountains
 1B



Grading and construction work is going full speed ahead on the new Kings Mountain Intermediate School on Kings Mountain Boulevard. The school board plans a ground breaking for the new 5-6 grade school on Tuesday, June 12.

GARY STEWART / THE HERALD

School merger hearing slated next Wednesday

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

With a series of lawsuits waiting to be heard, Kings Mountain District Schools is waiting on the outcome of the cases before deciding its next step on the Cleveland County school merger issue.

One will be argued in the North Carolina Court of Appeals June 6, which is against the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners.

Two cases against the North Carolina State Board of Education will be heard June 11 in Wake County Superior Court.

"Ultimately, what's at stake is the existence of the three school systems," Richard A. Schwartz said. "The legal actions that are involved will consolidate the three school systems or leave them independent."

Schwartz, a Raleigh attorney, represents Kings Mountain in the cases.

Kings Mountain Schools Chairperson Sherra Miller said the board will make the next decision after the June cases. "If we lose this one case,

there are still a couple of others that are out there," Miller said. "So we'll need to weigh our options after that."

Miller said she thinks students in Kings Mountain's school system can be better served in a small district.

The element behind the lawsuits for Kings Mountain are the students from Gaston County.

"That's the whole basis of the lawsuits," Miller said. "Those students have been a part of the Kings Mountain system for decades, the merger plan has ignored that."

If merger went through students in Gaston County would have to get a release since they would automatically be outside of the school system.

Winning the cases would not end the merger dispute either.

"At that point, all they're saying is the Cleveland County judge erred at granting the injunction," Kings Mountain Schools Superintendent Dr. Larry Allen said. "At that point, we'll go back to Cleveland County for a trial by jury hopefully."

City awards contracts for fire station, water

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

City Council Tuesday night awarded two major building contracts totalling approximately \$1.5 million.

Pavilion Construction Company won a bid of \$578,920 for construction of a new fire substation at the intersection of West Gold Street Extension and Highway 74. The bid, which includes plumbing, mechanical and electrical work, was \$554,920 and Council voted to add a 400-square foot room at the back at a cost of \$24,000 to serve as a satellite police office.

Ken Newell of Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects said construction should be complete in eight to ten months.

Newell said 10 "competitive" bids were received on the project, ranging from Pavilion's low bid of \$578,920 to a high bid of \$806,452.

"This is something we've needed for a long time," said Mayor Rick Murphrey. "We've expanded the city limits. This is something we need to have adequate fire protection for that side of town."

Steppe Construction was awarded a contract of \$708,839.72 from Community Development Block Grants to construct water lines in the newly-annexed areas of Quality Lane, Hillway / Hill Top, and Galilee Church Road.

Other bids ranged as high as \$1,073,939, causing engineer Al Moretz to call Steppe's bid a "blue light special."

Moretz said the low bid was some \$120,000 lower than anticipated, mainly due to Steppe's having two crews needing work and the fact that Steppe did another water project on Lake Montonia Road and is "aware of the conditions out there."

The required city's matching funds of \$300,000 will bring the total cost of the project to \$975,546.87. The base bid includes a contingency fund of \$64,439.97 which will allow any

See Projects, 3A

Peddler's ordinance taken off KM agenda

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

James Martin said he feels vindicated even though he hasn't done anything to be vindicated.

The Kings Mountain resident, known to many as the "Confederate Flag Man," and other street-side vendors will be allowed to continue selling their wares after Council pulled the proposed peddler's and solicitor's ordinance off Tuesday night's agenda.

Mayor Rick Murphrey had advocated having one location - perhaps at the old Depot - to be designated as a farmer's market where local farmers could sell their produce. However, he told The Herald last week that street-side vendors would not be included in the ordinance at this time. Murphrey has said in the past that it was not fair to downtown merchants to allow vendors to set up on the side of the street.

Councilman Carl DeVane, who seconded Dean Spears' motion to take the matter off the agenda, said the ordinance needs further study and questioned if the depot was an appropriate location. Murphrey said others have suggested that sellers of arts and crafts and other items be included.

"There's just been a lot of questions that came up" since last week, Murphrey said, "and we need to address the whole issue and also make a place where crafts can be sold. We just decided to delete it from the agenda and it will be up to Council if they want to bring it

See Council, 2A

CANCER AWARENESS



The Road to Recovery

Volunteer drivers valuable asset to cancer victims

BY ALAN HODGE

Along with all the other difficulties that cancer can bring, transportation to and from doctor visits may often be added to the list.

Where many cancer patients once thought nothing of hopping in their car and cruising down the highway, the debilitating effects of the disease has in many cases taken even this freedom away.

Statistics show that one cancer patient requiring radiation therapy could need between 30-35 trips in a six week period.

Recognizing the need many cancer patients have for a ride to their doctor's office or clinic, the American Cancer Society instituted the "Road to Recovery" program.

Basically, Road to Recovery matches volunteers with folks who cannot drive themselves to treatment and home again. Volunteers make themselves available weekdays during the hours of 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Volunteers set the times they are available, and can make as few or as many transportation sorties as they like.

People who decide they want to become Road to Recovery drivers can fill out an application, receive basic training, and soon be on their way to helping

others. Requirements are simple. All that's needed is a valid driver's license, a safe driving record, and the state's minimum required liability insurance.

In the Belmont area, Road to Recovery volunteer Lilly "Boots" Larocca has been providing rides for cancer patients all over Gaston County for two years. Larocca traces her experience with the program back to her own battle with cancer and involvement with the Relay For Life.

"I had breast cancer five years ago and through that experience became involved with the Relay For Life," said Larocca. "That's how I became acquainted with the Gaston County Road to Recovery coordinator Deana Shortridge."

Larocca was in on the very first Gaston Relay for Life. She and her daughters Sheila Neesmith, Rhonda Craig, and Cindy Mauney formed a team and took part in the annual walkathon which raises cancer awareness and money for the American Cancer Society.

"My daughter Rhonda and I were in charge of the luminaries part of the event," said Larocca. "We spelled out the word 'hope' with them. Hope is what I want everyone with cancer to

See Cancer, 2A



ALAN HODGE / THE HERALD

Boots Larocca of Belmont volunteers in the American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery program. Each week, Larocca takes cancer patients from across Gaston County to their medical appointments.

Regular exam best way to beat cancer

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

Getting tested early is the piece of advice Dorus Bennett has.

The City of Kings Mountain Cemetery Director has won his bout with prostate cancer and will be walking with the cancer survivors in the Relay for Life, Friday June 8 at the Cleveland Avenue Walking Track.

Bennett, who has survived a bout with prostate cancer, said he had not noticed any symptoms of the disease.

"We had gone down to the beach," Bennett said. "My wife and son, for about two days got all over me," he said about getting a physical.

He did when they returned from the beach. Bennett went to a doctor in Kings Mountain and said everything was fine, until he checked his prostate.

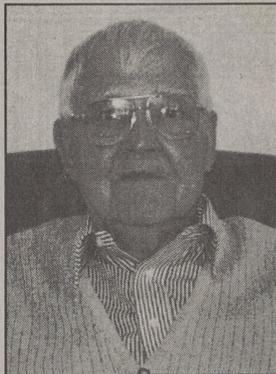
The doctor told him to see a urologist, and he later went to Gaston Memorial Hospital.

When a biopsy came back he was told he had prostate cancer, and had waited too late.

"I guess I just went numb," Bennett said. "Because cancer with a big c will floor you."

He later went ahead with the operation on October 13, 1993. Bennett has had 38 treatments of radiation and he goes back every 84 days to Gaston Memorial for other treatment.

See Bennett, 2A



DORUS BENNETT

	FIRST NATIONAL BANK	Kings Mountain	Gastonia	Shelby	Bessemer City
	<i>Celebrating 127 Years</i>	300 W. Mountain St. 704-739-4782	529 New Hope Road 704-865-1233	106 S. Lafayette St. 704-484-6200	1225 Gastonia Hwy. 704-629-3906
					Member FDIC