

# The Herald

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## School merger cases to be consolidated

### Bolin resigns from KM School Board

By BEN LEDBETTER  
Staff Writer

School Board member Melony Bolin resigned from the Kings Mountain District School Board at its monthly meeting

Tuesday night at Central School.

In a letter dated June 12, Bolin said she hoped to complete the six months left in her term, but that was not possible because of health reasons.

School board chairperson Sherra Miller said she did not know when the vacancy would be filled.

Bolin was not available for

See Concerns, 2A

By BEN LEDBETTER  
Staff Writer

The two court cases in the Cleveland County school merger issue filed by Kings Mountain District Schools will not be heard by the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

"We trust our attorneys will do their best to change their minds," Kings Mountain

Schools Superintendent Dr. Larry Allen said in the board's meeting Tuesday night.

Allen said the two cases scheduled to be heard in Wake County Superior Court on July 23 will be consolidated, and a decision might not be handed down for another three months.

With the decision coming toward the end of the summer break, the 2001-2002 school year

could start before merger is decided.

School Board Chairperson Sherra Miller said that with the judges not hearing oral arguments, there is not any way to determine how the judges will interpret the briefs.

"We're having to trust our attorneys to what they feel

See Merger, 2A



Over 600 Kings Mountain area cancer survivors walked the first lap to open the most successful Relay for Life ever in Kings Mountain Friday at the Walking Track. Over 500 walkers participated in the fourth annual event, raising over \$67,000 to help find a cure for cancer.

## Over 500 walkers help KM raise \$67,000 in cancer Relay for Life

By GARY STEWART  
Editor of The Herald

A little bit of rain and a lot of tired, aching bones did little to dampen the spirits of the some 500 walkers participating in the fourth annual Joseph R. Smith Relay for Life Friday and Saturday at the Kings Mountain Walking Track.

Although some of them brought out umbrellas until the rain stopped, most were just like the Energizer bunny. They just kept going and going.

The total amount of money raised by the 35 teams sponsored by area churches and other organizations, just keeps going also. At last count, the event had raised \$67,000 - \$17,000 over the \$50,000 goal - and Relay co-chairman Joyce Roark predicts the effort will top the \$70,000 mark before all pledges

and donations are turned in. Roark had no doubt the group would surpass its goal, because since the beginning of the almost year-long organization for the walk there has been a tremendous amount of interest.

But, she said she was pleasantly surprised that the event went so much greater than expected.

"Our teams have really worked hard," she said. "They've been fantastic - just outstanding."

With 35 teams participating, the event attracted almost twice the number of participants as last year, when \$36,000 was raised. Only 19 teams participated last year.

Like most people, Roark had extra incentive to do what she

See Relay, 3A



7-year-old cancer patient Autumn Malpass of Kings Mountain was the center of attention at Friday night's Relay for Life at the KM Walking Track.

GARY STEWART / THE HERALD

## Cancer serious threat to African-Americans

By RYAN FOST  
Special to The Herald

Everybody, regardless of race or sex, has the potential for developing cancer, but for African-Americans that threat is especially real.

According to a study released by the American Cancer Society, 'Cancer Facts and Figures for African-Americans 2000-2001,' African-American men and women are more at risk for developing cancer than white men and women, and their survival rate is lower for some of the most common cancers like breast, colorectal, lung and prostate.

African-American men develop cancer 27 percent more frequently than white men and

have a 45 percent higher death rate. African-American women, meanwhile, have a 22 percent higher death rate than white women.

But according to the American Cancer Society's studies, there is a ray of hope. The rates of newly -diagnosed cancers among African-Americans dropped between 1993 and 1997 for the first time in 20 years and between 1991 and 1997 death rates from cancer fell for the first time in 30 years.

Yet during a 1988-1992 study period, African-American men were more likely than any other racial or ethnic group to develop the prostate, lung and oral cancers. Overall, prostate, lung, colon and rectum, oral and stomach cancers were the

leading cancer cases.

African-American men develop prostate cancer 60 percent more often than white men and are twice as likely to die from it than are white men.

For African-American women, the leading cancer types include breast, colon and rectum and lung. Lung, colon and rectum cancer rates are higher among African-American women than among women of any other racial or ethnic group other than Alaska Natives.

Fewer African-American women develop breast cancer than white women, but they are still more likely to die from the disease.

Overall, whites are more likely

See Cancer, 3A

### CANCER DIAGNOSES

Here's a look at the reported number of new cancer diagnoses from 1973 to 1996. Figures represent the number of new cases per 100,000 population.

YEAR	AF-AM	WHITE
1973	353.1	319.7
1975	356.6	333.9
1980	390.7	346.4
1985	408.6	375.4
1990	427.1	405.1
1992	470.9	428.7
1993	471.8	412.2
1994	465.4	404.2
1995	442.4	396.4
1996	430.9	387.3

SOURCE - National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, Cancer Statistics Branch, Bethesda, Maryland 20892.

## Service clubs seek CU permits for video poker

By GARY STEWART  
Editor of The Herald

A Board of Adjustments meeting Tuesday morning at City Hall to hear requests from three area service-related organizations that they be given conditional use permits to continue to operate video poker machines was postponed when three of the six members of the board failed to show up.

According to Planning Department secretary Tandra Ramsey, chairman Bob Myers recently underwent surgery and members Lou Ballew and Ron Humphries were out of town on business.

Clavon Kelly, who made the announcement that the meeting would be delayed until July 3, Herman Green and Howard Shipp were the only members present. Without a quorum they could not conduct any business, Kelly said.

The local American Legion, VFW and Amvets posts are asking for conditional use permits to continue video poker operations.

Officials from the three organizations immediately went in to another room at City Hall to confer with Attorney Bill Lamb of Shelby, who is advising the American Legion.

Word spreading around City Hall was that there is a possibility of a federal law which would exempt the nonprofit clubs from the new Kings Mountain Zoning Ordinances.

But Planning Director Steve Killian and City Attorney Mickey Corry, neither of whom was at the meeting, said later that they are not aware of such an exemption.

"I spoke with their legal counsel and told him that if he had that information to provide it to us," Corry said. "We are not aware of it and have not found anything, either state or federal, that would give them some kind of exemption."

Corry said if such an exemption exists, "we would be required to look at it," but said that the only exemption to the state's recently-enacted video poker law that he knows of is

See Poker, 5A

## Central School historic district on National Register

By GARY STEWART  
Editor of The Herald

The Kings Mountain Landmarks Commission and City received word earlier this week that the Central School Historic District has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Landmarks Commission, which includes chairwoman Mary Neisler, Evelyn Hamrick, Pat Childers, Bernice Chappell and Mike Smith, worked for two years to get the four-block area placed on the Register. It's designation on the National Register is a first for Cleveland County.

Neisler said the area includes 31 properties in the four-block area bounded by King Street, North Gaston Street, Parker Street, and North Battleground Avenue. Two churches, three businesses and Central School are included in the area.

The homes, such as the I. Walton Garrett house, the Rev. John David Mauney house, and the first William Andrew Mauney house, are some of the oldest in Kings Mountain.

"The first home was built about the time the city was chartered in the mid-1870s," Neisler said.

Megan Eades, a consultant from Macon, GA, assisted the commission for the past year documenting properties and applying for the award. She

"It was a very difficult process," Neisler said. The applica-

tion was first approved by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, and then sent to the Department of Interior in Washington for final approval. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service.

Neisler said the Landmarks Commission doesn't plan anything specific with the district but each house will receive a plaque designating it as a national historic landmark, and hopefully signs will be posted at each entrance to the neighborhood. She also said there are certain tax benefits when renovating historic properties.

Neisler said the Commission will now focus on applying to have the designation amended to include the south side of King Street from Gaston Street to Battleground Avenue, including the "overhead" bridge. That area would also include Mauney Memorial Library, the Harmon House and the Cornwell House.

"That process will probably be a lot quicker because we've already got a district," she said.

Neisler said the Commission sought the historic designation not just because of the historical and architectural value of the homes, but because they were built by the early settlers of Kings Mountain.

"They were the founders of our community," she said.

"They were the first industrialists and the movers and shakers of the community."



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