

Faces of the Relay

By Gary Stewart



Left
Karen Bess was the winner of the Craziest Hat contest. She said it took her most of the day to create the masterpiece, which she said felt like it weighed 50 pounds and made her wobble when she walked.



Right
Mrs. C.A. Allison, cancer survivor and retired Kings Mountain educator, places her hand to her heart during singing of the National Anthem which opened Friday night's Relay for Life.



Whether they were walking, selling items to raise money to fight cancer, or both, the 35 teams in Friday and Saturday's Relay for Life had a ball. In photo is at left is the David Baptist Church survivor's shack, which won the most creative campsite for the second year in a row. David Baptist raised over \$9,000 of Kings Mountain's grand total of \$67,000. In photo at right is the walking team from Central United Methodist Church, which was one of many teams that were participating in the walk for the first time.

Right
Members of some of the walking teams took time out to do the Electric Slide as the popular local band, Mink, performed on Friday evening.



Bottom left
A night of walking around and around the Kings Mountain walking track finally caught up with Suzanne Berry of the Dixon Presbyterian Church team. Suzanne found a comfortable lawn chair and pillow and caught a few ZZZZZZs.

Bottom right
Cancer survivors Barbara McClain, left, and Billie Roberts relaxed prior to the Survivor's Walk which officially opened the 2001 Kings Mountain Relay for Life.



RELAY

From 1A

could help rid society of cancer. She began helping from the outset of the KM Relay four years ago because she was a good friend and co-worker of the late Joe Smith, for whom the event is named.

And she really began to put in a lot of extra effort to raise money after her daughter, Donna Longano, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Disease.

"I really started fighting real hard raising money when Donna became so sick," she said. "I saw it all then. It really hit her hard - the after effects of all the treatments and everything. She has battled depression and anxiety and panic attacks. Her immune system was shot. She's just had so many complications, but now she's in remission."

Donna was one of the many area cancer survivors and others who have had a family member or friend affected by the disease, that walked and took part in other fund-raising activities during this year's campaign.

Together with the Shelby Relay's collection of \$273,000, Cleveland County will raise approximately \$340,000 this year, which should rank them among the top ten fund-raisers in the U.S. on a per capita basis.

Mike Neely, a former chairman of the event and this year's master of ceremonies, beamed with pride and said Kings Mountain folks won't quit until a cure is found.

"It takes a lot of people to put this together," he said. "But they do it because they're dedicated to curing cancer."

Andrea Whitesides, a Kings Mountain native who now works with the American Cancer Society, was attending her first Relay for Life in Kings Mountain and was obviously impressed.

"This is truly a community that is taking up the fight against cancer," she said, "and

I'm proud to be a part of it."

Joni Smith-Wilson, daughter of Joe Smith, said her father and other Kings Mountain people who are no longer with us, would be proud of the weekend's effort.

"I know they're having a blast up there in Heaven, and they're so proud of what's happening here in Kings Mountain," she said. "We have the most committed people here, and the best Relay of anywhere."

Although the Relay is named for her father, she said it is everyone's fight.

"We are blessed to have so many folks fighting so hard," she said. "This is everybody's relay and Daddy would have wanted it that way."

Roark said teams that haven't collected all of their money, and others who are interested in donating, still have plenty of time to turn in some more funds to help Kings Mountain go over the \$70,000 mark. The KM group hopes to have all of its funds turned in by June 30, but Roark said the Cancer Society's fiscal year runs through July 31 and any funds received by then will be credited to this year's Relay for Life.

After that, there will be little time to rest on their laurels as Kings Mountain folks will begin turning their attention to a bigger and better Relay for Life in 2002.

"I've already had people say that they want to participate again next year, and they want to keep working," she said. "I think our team captains feel the same way and will be back next year."

"We've just had so much excitement from the very beginning and just knew this would be a great year."

"I have enjoyed it. I really have. It's such a worthwhile cause, especially knowing what Donna's been through. I just felt like I had to do something. When you're touched by cancer, you just want to put a stop to it anyway you can."

CANCER

From 1A

than African-Americans to survive for five or more years after being diagnosed with cancers lung, colorectal, breast and prostate, according to the American Cancer Society.

Though scientists don't know all of the reasons for these differences between African-Americans and other races, they have pinpointed some of them.

Scientists believe that obesity - a risk factor for several cancers - is one contributor to the problem. According to data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, African-American women are more likely to be overweight than women of other races. Studies found that by 1998, 64 percent of African-American women were overweight, with 32 percent characterized as obese. Other data indicates that nearly 30 percent of African-American men are overweight.

The American Cancer Society said that smoking is another problem, with more adult African-American men than

adult white men lighting up and increases in smoking among both male and female African-American high schoolers during the 1990s. According to one study cited by the organization, 34 percent of African-American men and nearly 22 percent of women reported that they smoked.

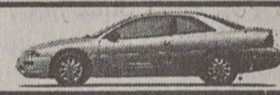
But perhaps the greatest challenge in the battle to lower cancer rates and raise the survival rates, however, is the low percentage of African-Americans who report that they have recently been screened for the most frequent types of cancer.

According to the organization's 2000-2001 report, in 1987 only 19 percent of African-American women older than 50 had received a mammogram within the past three years. Ten years later, that percentage had jumped to over 76 percent.

However, medical experts still believe that too few African-American men and women are being screened for colorectal cancer, which in 1996 was second only to lung cancer in newly diagnosed cancer cases.

The Classifieds

Gets Your Car, Truck or Van sold FAST! Advertise your vehicle where the majority of your market audience is looking for a great deal!



The Herald

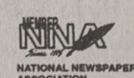
Published every Thursday
Periodicals postage at Kings Mountain, NC 28086
USPS 118-880 by Republic Newspapers, Inc.
Postmaster, send address changes to:
P. O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086
Phone (704) 739-7496 • Fax (704) 739-0611
Office: 824-1 East King Street • Kings Mountain, NC 28086
E-mail: kmhnews@aol.com

Mike Blanton.....Publisher
Gary Stewart.....Editor
Ben Ledbetter.....Staff Writer
Stacy Godfrey Kale.....Advertising Manager
Shelley Campbell.....Composition Manager

Mail Subscription Rates

Payable in Advance. All Prices include 6% NC State Sales Tax.

	1 Year	6 Months
Gaston & Cleveland County	\$24.25	\$15.75
Other NC Counties	\$25.50	\$17.00
Outside NC	\$30.00	\$19.00



Republic Newspapers, Inc.



North Carolina Press Association

Concert June 16 at Second Baptist

Safely Anchored will be in concert Saturday at 7 p.m. at Second Baptist Church, Kings Mountain.
A love offering will be taken.
For more information, call Janey Ollis at 739-4216.

Bible School June 16 at El Bethel Methodist

A one-day Bible School will be held Saturday from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at El Bethel United Methodist Church, Kings Mountain.
Ages 4-12 are invited.
For more information call Betty Cash or Robin Faris at 739-3862.

Be Good to Dad on Father's Day By Bringing Him into

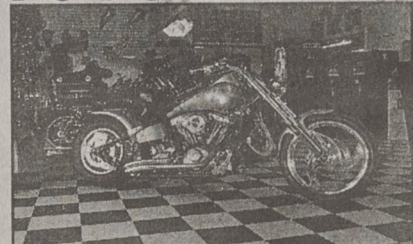
Specializing In
Harley Davidson

CROFT
CUSTOM CYCLE

Custom Engine &
Frame Work

704-629-2300

Men's & Women's
Double H Boots
On Sale!



Aluminum
Swingarms
Custom Made!

See Mike, Glenn or Johnny - our Experts & Very Knowledgeable Staff from the purchase of that lifetime dream of owning a Custom Motorcycle or Accessories to go with your existing bike to individualize your ride that you've worked so hard for.

201 West Pennsylvania • Bessemer City, North Carolina