

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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Final senior center cost \$3.1 million

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain City Council met in special session Friday morning to make budget amendments necessary to handle the final costs of the new H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life and Conference Center.

Final budget amendments of \$254,700 brought the final cost of the new senior center to \$3,116,950.

In a related matter, Council members voted to commit money out of their own pockets to pay to dedicate a section of the stained glass window in the lobby of the new center in honor of Aging Director Monty Thornburg. The cost will be \$450, with the mayor paying \$100 and each councilman chipping in \$50.

Clavon Kelly, who made the motion, said that was the least the council could do for Thornburg in recognition

of the "wonderful job" he has done not only with helping plan the new center, but his leadership throughout the years.

Although the budget amendments passed unanimously, several councilmen voiced concern that the building plans were amended so many times during the construction period.

Councilman Jim Guyton said the city may have violated its own codes by not having final landscaping plans

approved from the beginning. City Manager Jimmy Maney said they were included but many different people had input in the design. He said every change order was brought before City Council and approved.

"I don't know of a \$3 million project anywhere that you don't have to change something," Maney said. "We had committees and as they made changes every one of them came before Council. It's just like building a house.

If you make changes you're going to spend more money."

Guyton said he agreed the project needed to be finished, but urged Council to look closer at future projects.

"From here on, we need to get the whole project when we go into it and not bring it back and bring it back," Guyton said.

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5 youths charged in murder

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

Three suspects have been arrested in the Justin Braswell murder, Kings Mountain officials said last Thursday at a news conference at the Kings Mountain Police Department.

Timothy Aquilla McDowell and David Allen Glover of Kings Mountain were charged with murder, armed robbery and one count of attempted armed robbery.

Officials said Brian Hemphill, who was originally charged as a juvenile, will be booked as an adult. Hemphill turned himself in to Kings Mountain Police after returning from a trip.

The three suspects are 18-years old or older.

Two other juveniles, between 14 and 15 years old will also be charged.

McDowell and Glover are being held in the Cleveland County Detention Center in Shelby and appeared in court Friday.

The two juvenile suspects are being held in the Gaston County Juvenile Detention Center, and appeared in court last Thursday.

Whether the juvenile suspects will be tried as adults, defendants under 17 can't get the death penalty in North Carolina.

Police officials said the motive for the murder was robbery, and one of the juvenile suspects pulled the trigger of the 22 mm handgun.

The shooting was described as random by police, and they said the suspects did not know Braswell.

The murder weapon had been recovered, police officials said Thursday.

Braswell had approximately \$20 on him at the time of death.

"It's scary," Kings Mountain Police Chief Houston Corn said. "I think they'll hurt you quick."

Visitation for Braswell was last Wednesday at Harris Funeral Home on Piedmont Ave.

Justin Wade Braswell was shot in the lower back while walking from a late Saturday night concert at city hall to his grandmother's house on North Carpenter Street.

His body was found at 12:20 a.m. last Sunday morning on East Ridge Street.

The concert was the last of the city sponsored Summer Nites series which approximately 1,000 people attended.

Braswell, a student at North Shelby School, which serves students with special needs, was alive when police arrived on the scene but was pronounced dead on arrival at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

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PLAYTIME



BEN LEDBETTER/THE HERALD

Larry Hamrick Sr., from left, John Harris and Tim Plonk shovel dirt at a recent Project Playground build day.

Community joins together to build kid's playground

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

After a rainy start to the build, the new playground on Cleveland Ave. was on schedule for its completion date Sunday.

And when it was finished Sunday, organizers held a dedication at the site.

Project organizer Gina Collias said participant turnout improved since last Tuesday when workers coped with rain for much of the day.

"Well it's coming along a lot better," Collias said. "We've had a lot better turnout today," she said.

Collias characterized the build days to holding a party, sending out invitations and seeing who would show up.

Kings Mountain resident Sarah Rhea, who was applying a seal to some of the wood, agreed with Collias.

"It's like the old days when everybody

got together to build a barn for somebody," Rhea said.

The city has earmarked \$250,000 for the construction of a playground at the site of Jake Early Field, which is on city property leased by the Cleveland County YMCA.

Collias said \$135,000 of the city's playground allotment will go toward working on the perimeter. Approximately \$115,000 will go toward grading of a

walking track and a t-ball field.

While the city and other businesses have donated time, tools or money, the Project Playground Committee has raised approximately \$12,000 toward a fence, but Collias said the committee is still looking for donations.

"Those numbers are standing good," Collias said about the committee's fund raising. "We are still

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KM man escapes World Trade Center tragedy

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

"Scared but fine" is how Kings Mountain's Linda Ford described the condition of her son, Aaron, who escaped the World Trade Center in Manhattan without injury during Tuesday's terrorist attack by hijacked airplanes.

Aaron Ford, 25, is employed by the U.S. Service which had offices on the 47th floor of one of the 110-story high twin towers.

"When he called the first time to say he was safe I didn't know what he was talking about because I didn't have the TV on and hadn't heard about it," Linda Ford said.

She said her son began evacuating the building as soon as an airplane hit the building. She said she turned on the TV and

heard a few minutes later that a second plane had hit the building her son was in.

"He was already trying to get out when the second plane hit," Mrs. Ford said. "He called back and told me they were just going to a safe place.

"I am just thankful and relieved."

The early-morning attack, along with another at the Pentagon in Washington, DC, brought America to its knees. Said to be the worst attack ever on U.S. soil, it is being reported that at least 10,000 people may have lost their lives. According to televised reports there were over 50,000 people in the World Trade Center towers when the attack occurred.

While people in Kings Mountain were safe from attack,

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City votes to sell building to county

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

By a 4-3 vote, Kings Mountain City Council moved one step closer to bringing about 100 jobs to the area.

The vote, which came after another closed session Monday will allow the city to release its claim on the former ABB Combustion Engineering building near Grover.

City officials have been meeting with Cleveland County leaders and Shelby real estate broker John Barker and accepted a counter offer of \$150,000.

City of Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey said the action represents the city's interest in bringing jobs to the area.

"Everybody is concerned about high unemployment," Murphrey said. "Well, I think everyone involved is working toward bringing jobs to the city

and the community."

Ten days ago, after a closed session meeting, City Council unanimously offered to release the building for \$231,000.

With the city's acceptance of the counter offer, an outstanding loan of \$1.35 million can now be refinanced, the payments lowered, and the rental rate reduced to match current market values.

A potential 100 jobs, with wages from \$14-\$18 an hour, could be in Kings Mountain by December.

The company potentially coming to Kings Mountain is a manufacturer of electrical, mechanical, and cleaning systems services for commercial, industrial use.

City officials said the company is based in Houston and takes in approximately

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150 participate in KM Triathlon

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

Over 150 participants raced in the second annual Over the Mountain Triathlon, sanctioned by the North Carolina Triathlon series, which started at Moss Lake and ended downtown.

Allison Hardy, who was the first female across the line, Saturday said the hills were the toughest part of the course.

"The bike course was exceptionally tougher than most," Hardy said. "The course went up more then it went down."

Hardy had recently moved from Charleston, SC to the

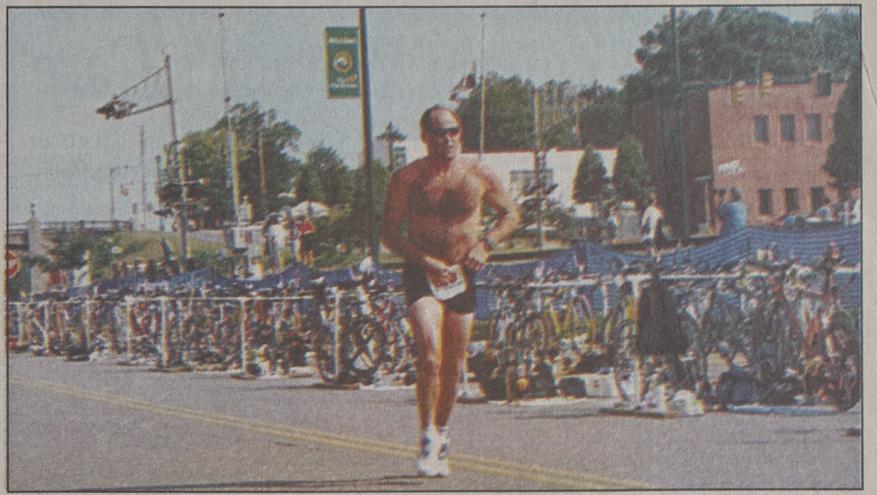
Asheville area, and said she was getting used to the hills.

The initial adaption to the hills of the North Carolina Mountains was not kind to Hardy as she was out the first four months of the season with a running injury.

Hardy finished eighth overall with a time of 2:31:32.

Participants began the race with a 1500 meter swim through Moss Lake followed by a 30 mile bike ride through downtown, and finished with a two-lap loop from downtown to Kings Mountain High School.

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BEN LEDBETTER/THE HERALD

Competitors in Saturday's Triathlon come in and leave the run/bike transition area on Railroad Avenue in Kings Mountain.



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