

# The Herald

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Thursday, October 25, 2001 Vol. 113 No. 43 Since 1889 50 Cents



Kings Mountain people are showing their colors to support the nation in its fight against terrorism. Steve Evans' truck was all decorated with American flags and decals which he was selling on King St. Part of the proceeds is going to the Red Cross relief effort.

## Candidate forums slated at church, KM Woman's Club

By GARY STEWART  
 Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain voters will have two opportunities during the next several days to meet candidates in the upcoming City Council election.

Tonight at 7:15, CARE (Concerned Citizens for Responsible Education) will sponsor a "Meet the Mayoral Candidates" night at Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Next Monday at 7:30 p.m., Kings Mountain Woman's Club will sponsor a Mayor and City Council forum at the Woman's Club on Mountain Street.

Curtis Pressley, one of the organizers of the CARE event, said there will not be any structured program or debate-type forum, but said that persons attending the event will be given the opportunity to meet the candidates and ask them anything they wish.

"This is just an opportunity for the candidates to tell who they are and what their platforms are," Pressley said.

"There won't be any questions that are rehearsed. People will have the opportunity to talk to them and ask questions.

"A lot of people who go out to vote really don't know who the candidates are, and basically what we're doing is giving them the opportunity to meet

them," Pressley said.

Betty Gamble, President of the Woman's Club, said all candidates in the City election were recently mailed letters about their open forum, and most of the candidates have indicated that they will be in attendance.

Mrs. Gamble said each candidate will have three minutes to present information based on four questions that were asked in advance, including:

- 1 - What do you consider the most important function of the office you seek?
- 2 - What goals of the office have you established for yourself?
- 3 - What are your views on the revitalization of Kings Mountain?
- 4 - Why are you running for office?

Gamble said after the candidates' responses to those questions, they will respond to questions from the public. Donna Logan, chairman of the committee planning the forum, said a box will be placed near the entrance to the Club building for the public to drop in questions for the candidates. A special committee will screen the questions as the candidates are addressing the Club's questions.

"We want to make sure

## Post office, city stress safety measures

By BEN LEDBETTER  
 Staff Writer

Kings Mountain has been taking precautions against hazardous materials in two areas.

One official with the United States Post Office in Kings Mountain said it has been taking preventive measures since several

confirmed anthrax cases in the country.

Quay Moss, Customer Service Manager with the post office, said a majority of the postal employees feel safe and the recent events will not stop him from doing his job.

"You have to take it in stride and try to get the job done," Moss said.

Moss said residents who receive a package they perceive suspicious may call the

post office and the police department if necessary. The United States Postal Service is expected to send out material about suspicious materials to the public, Moss said.

"We're doing everything we can," Moss said "We do have an action plan and hope nothing happens."

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Crystal Miller, daughter of Wilhermenia Miller, was crowned KMHS homecoming queen during halftime of Friday's football game. Crystal was escorted by her godfather, Thomas Thompson.

## KM students collect dollars for children in Afghanistan

By BEN LEDBETTER  
 Staff Writer

Students at Kings Mountain's West Elementary School responded to a request by the President Tuesday to give money to the children of Afghanistan.

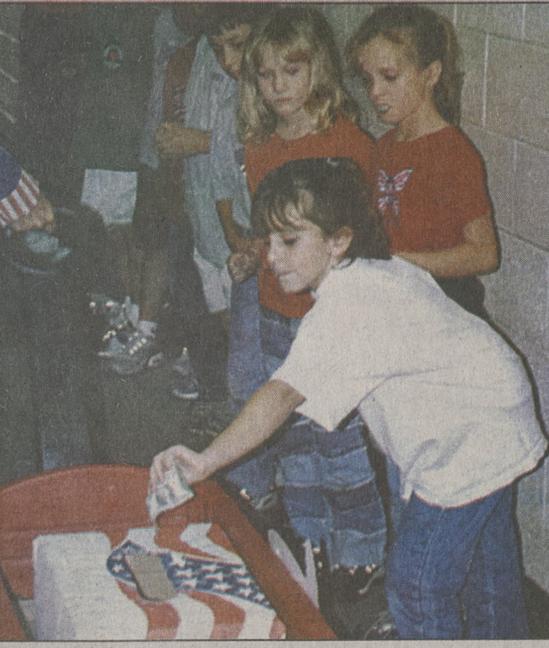
In an observance that featured patriotic music and Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey dressed as Uncle Sam pulling a red wagon, West Elementary students and staff raised \$255.

The money will be placed in the school's account and it will send a check to the White House for America's Fund for Afghan Children.

During a recent press conference by President Bush, he asked students to donate money for children in Afghanistan.

The press conference spawned a number of ideas at the school, according to Guidance Counselor Cindy Kiser.

"Some of our teachers had seen the press conference," Kiser said "And we were just



Taylor Radford puts a dollar into the red wagon Tuesday at West Elementary. The school collected \$255 to go toward the children of Afghanistan.

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## Safety urged while trick or treating

By BEN LEDBETTER  
 Staff Writer

Things might be different in America compared to last year but Halloween has not been one of those changes according to retailers and officials.

The costume industry is on the rise although the entertainment business is suffering, according to a Charlotte costume supplier.

Phillip Morris, owner of Morris Costume in Charlotte said there has been a surge of patriotic items since the September 11 attacks.

Uncle Sam, Statue of Liberty, and Betsy Ross costumes, along with other items have been popular.

"That's because of our enormous growth in patriotism since September 11," Morris said.

Morris Costume, which is known as the largest costume supplier in the United States, also serves as a fulfillment house for internet sites.

The Charlotte costume store is inviting police officers, firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical employees, and National Guard members in the Carolinas at Dr. Evil's Million Dollar Haunted House on Oct. 29-31. Civil servants and guard members will need to show their identification for the free admission.

"These brave citizens are our front line of defense in this unspeakable war," Morris said. "And we all need to do whatever we can to help the total population return to normal times. Let's all look forward to not only a happy Halloween, but to a bright future in

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## Gasoline prices continue to fall in area

By BEN LEDBETTER  
 Staff Writer

The current sluggish economy in the United States has brought Kings Mountain lower gasoline prices.

Convenience store operators in Kings Mountain said they have seen increases in sales because of the decreases.

Barry Patel, owner of Rick's Ole Country Store on Piedmont Avenue, said volume has increased while traffic to his store has changed minimally.

"The customers are happy when they

come in here," Patel said. "We do sell more gas because people are buying more."

Bill Parker, owner of Parker's Amoco on Shelby Road, said traffic and volume at his store have also seen increases.

Parker said his volume rises approximately five to 10 percent every day, and that gasoline prices have decreased by 18 cents over the last four weeks.

Ty Gantt, Vice President of operations for Cleveland County Oil company Thomas Petroleum, said the main effect on the oil industry since Sept. 11 is a lack

of travel and a smaller amount of motorists using gasoline, which has increased supplies in refineries.

"The main effect on the oil industry is the lack of travel now," Gantt said.

"The refineries have a chance to build up inventory," Gantt said, citing an increase of supply and decrease in demand for oil.

Other factors contributing to the lower gas prices, Gantt said, are competition between other oil companies and a lower wholesale price.

Oil and travel experts said that the gas

prices have fallen because of the economic factors including higher production, decreased demand for gasoline, and a decision by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to maintain current production levels.

Jacque Hughtett, Spokesperson with the American Automobile Association of the Carolinas, said airlines have been flying approximately 25 percent fewer flights and that oil inventories were plentiful before Sept. 11.

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