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2-year-old has bone marrow transplant

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

A 24-month-old Kings Mountain boy has a greater chance at a quality life following a bone marrow transplant on February 21 at Duke Medical Center in Durham.



Dalton Johnson was diagnosed in April 2001 with Hurler Syndrome, a condition that does not break down the sugar in one's body.

His parents, Andy and Christy Johnson, have been in Durham since January and will not be able to return to their home and jobs for at least 100 days from the date of the surgery.

Medical bills are "tremendous," according to Dalton's physician in Durham, Mahmoud Mustafa, MD.

Friends and churches in Kings Mountain are organizing numerous fund-raising events to help the family, and anyone wanting to make donations may do so at any First Union National Bank in the name of Dalton Johnson/Crystal Johnson.

Dalton is the grandson of Mary and Terry Johnson, and Benny Rowland and Shirley Hall, all of Kings Mountain.

According to Dr. Mustafa, Hurler Syndrome is a "lysosomal storage disease that is characterized by enlarged liver and spleen, persistent rhinitis, coarse facial features, corneal clouding, claw hands, coronary artery stenosis, bone deformities, hydrocephalus, and progressive severe mental retardation." He said most children with Hurler have significant mental retardation by age 3 and die by age 10 from heart prob

See Transplant, 5A

CROSS WALK



The Centurion (Jim Belt) puts his spear into the side of Jesus (Chris Quinn) as he hangs on the cross during last week's CrossWalk drama in downtown Kings Mountain. Approximately 1,500 people attended the three-night presentation.

GARY STEWART / HERALD

Council okays apartments 5-2 over protests

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

Citizens packed city hall to oppose two issues on Tuesday night's Kings Mountain City Council agenda.

Several residents spoke out against an apartment complex to be built across the street from the new Kings Mountain Intermediate School, which passed by a 5-2 vote.

The Planning and Zoning Board recommended the permit by a 4-3 vote.

Council members Gene White and Jim Guyton voted in opposition.

Eddie Payne, who placed an advertisement in last week's edition of The Herald, presented a petition with 247 signatures on it and asked council to deny the conditional use permit for rezoning would allow the development.

Payne said the complex could create more crime and vandalism for the area.

"I do feel we were misled," Payne said.

John Eagan, with Eagan Construction, who will manage the complex said he believed they have elements to make it a good community.

"We've done things in this community you normally don't see," he said.

The firm wants to utilize funds from a state tax credit program that would also keep rents lower than market value in the area.

Council member Gene White said he was concerned with the fact the complex would be partially subsidized, and noted problems with other complexes in Kings Mountain.

"The inherent defect is subsidizing," he said.

After Eagan spoke, several residents said they wanted to ask questions of the developer, but Mayor Rick Murphrey

banged his gavel calling for order and said there was no time.

Shortly after the vote was taken, Eagan officials left with Shelby developer John Barker Sr.

Payne's wife, Pat said she was disappointed the group of citizens were not able to question the developer.

"I can't believe that they didn't even let us question the developer when he specifically said when he got up that he would take questions," she said.

Payne said she wants to know what she could do next concerning the apartment complex.

Apartments were not the only matter on the agenda that yielded concern from residents, as council passed a motion by a 6-1 vote to leave Ridge Street entrance to the Patrick Center open.

Earlier, East Ridge St. residents Sarah Rhea and Eddie Robbs voiced concerns with safety issues if the street stayed open.

In other business:
 • Council denied a motion by a 4-3 vote to transfer \$150,000 received from the sale of the former ABB Combustion industrial site from the general fund into a designated fund for economic development to only be spent upon approval by city council.

• Council passed a motion to amend chapter 12 of the Kings Mountain Code of Ordinances regarding peddlers and the community market.

• Council set the date of April 30 at 7 p.m. for a public hearing regarding a request by Leslie Houser to rezone property located near Crocker Road and Kings Mountain Blvd.

• Council set the date of May 28 at 7 p.m. for a public hearing for a Kings Mountain Blvd. Thoroughfare Protection Overlay Zoning Amendment.

Talley fears loss of license

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

Grover physician Dr. Joseph H. Talley, who last week was found guilty of prescribing narcotics to patients, will have to wait a little longer to find out if his medical license will be revoked.

Although no specific date has been set, Talley's sentence could come during the next medical board meeting on April 17-18.

But while he is still able to practice, Talley said he anticipates the board will sentence him harshly.

"I anticipate they will evoke the highest penalty available to them," Talley said from his office on Tuesday. "But it is my

conviction the penalty will be maximum at the time."

And while the hearing in Raleigh was expected to have an overflow crowd, one medical board official said that was not so.

Public Affairs Director Dale Breaden said while the trial did attract a lot of attention, the attendance was not unusual.

"I do know this one has attracted a very high level of attention," Breaden said. "This is certainly one of the longest hearings the board ever had."

Charges Talley was found guilty of include stockpiling and taking

See Talley, 5A



The NC Medical Board ruled against Dr. Joseph Talley in hearing last week.

BEN LEDBETTER / HERALD

Sheriff files suit against Williams

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

A Fallston resident who runs the Citizens for Good Government publication has been served with two lawsuits from elected officials who serve Cleveland County.

County Sheriff Dan G. Crawford, who is represented by Shelby attorney Rob Deaton, has filed a lawsuit against Robert Williams claiming he has made false, libelous accusations which have damaged his reputation. Crawford is seeking in excess of \$10,000 for claims of embarrassment and emotional pain and suffering.

Recently a Cleveland County judge issued an injunction against Williams, preventing him from publishing anything associating District Court Judge Dina Foster and the Wicca religion.

Foster claims in a lawsuit filed in November 2001 that Williams had mailed letters that falsely associated her with a Wiccan Church. She is represented by Charlotte attorney

Bill Diehl. Williams has filed an appeal to the injunction.

Williams was asked to disclose several things about his publication, including factual documentation on his story about Foster.

Deaton has also challenged Williams to reveal his information.

In the suit are several statements Williams allegedly published about Crawford.

Those include:
 • On or about Feb. 14, 2002, Williams published a facsimile, which was delivered to the Sheriff's Administrative Assistant and a Shelby newspaper, that stated Crawford intimidated the Asha Degree family into removing a Raymond Hamrick for Sheriff sign in their yard.

• In several publications, Williams has implied that Sheriff Crawford has planted physical evidence, and that he has hidden the body to produce it before the election for maximum political exposure, regarding to the Degree case.

See Suit, 5A

Crisis Ministry asks Grover for money

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

With many government units in North Carolina feeling the strain of a possible budget crunch, one non-profit agency said Monday night in Grover that it has experienced it also.

During the regular Grover Town Council meeting, Becky Lineberger with the Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry requested \$10,000 from the town to assist Grover clients who seek assistance through the ministry.

But while the town has not previously

funded the ministry in recent years, Lineberger said she will continue to help citizens in the town.

"We want to continue to help Grover," she said. "It's our sister city."

Last year, the ministry assisted 143 residents with a Grover address at a cost of \$11,517.99.

Mayor Bill Favell said, after looking at a list of residents the ministry assisted last year, that most of the 143 people live in the county although they do have a Grover address.

Mayor Pro-Tem Max Rollins wanted to

know why churches in Grover were not involved, and Lineberger said she plans to approach them. She was also on the agenda for the Kings Mountain City Council meeting Tuesday.

One segment of the area's population that uses the ministry is the elderly, and Grover Council member Robert Hunt said one of the problems they face is paying for health care that sometimes is higher than their income.

"It's really serious out there with some of these elderly folks," he said.

See Grover, 5A

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