

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

Thursday, April 4, 2002

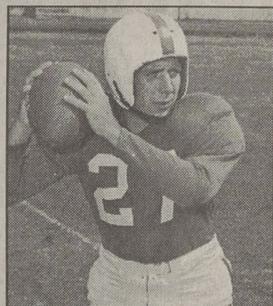
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1B

KM man charged with bank robbery

A Kings Mountain man has been arrested on a charge of robbery with a dangerous weapon in connection with a bank robbery on Thursday. First National Bank, 300 West Mountain Street, Kings Mountain, was robbed of an undisclosed amount of cash shortly after lunch. Arrested on Friday afternoon at his home on Castle Court near Kings Mountain was 30-year-old Larry J. Chapman. He was jailed in Cleveland County Detention Center under a \$100,000 secured bond.

According to Det. Shane Davis of the Kings Mountain Police Department, a white male in his late 20's to early 30's entered the bank at 12:35 p.m. and passed a note to a teller advising "this is a robbery."

According to Davis, the suspect fled in a dark blue, 4-door late model Chevrolet Lumina. No injuries were reported.

Davis and Officer Chris Moore of KMPD, along with three Cleveland County deputies, made the arrest about 5:48 p.m. Friday.

Davis said Chapman was a suspect in another case KMPD was working on and that he and his car matched the descriptions given by witnesses at the bank.

Davis said he has been in contact with the FBI and they are planning on charging Chapman under federal statutes.

In addition to being charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon in connection with the bank incident, Davis said Chapman was charged with See Robbery, 5A



BEN LEDBETTER / THE HERALD
 Samantha Lane, left and her daughter Cayla read one day in their Kings Mountain home. Cayla has mitochondrial disease, which inhibits energy production in the body.

Family searches far and wide for help with daughter's disease

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

One Kings Mountain child has been battling a series of diseases since birth which has almost stretched her family thin financially.

Cayla Lane has had seizures since she was 18 months old and a urinary tract infection since birth, family members said. She also may have mitochondrial disease, a sickness which keeps the body from producing a certain level of energy. Cayla is a second grade student at East Elementary.

So far the family has seen doctors at Duke University, Wake Forest and in Atlanta.

The results from the recent Atlanta appointment are expected to be mailed, and during an interview at the Lane's home, Cayla's mother Samantha went to check the mail hoping the results would be in there.

"We're anxious to hear what the results of the test are," Cayla's grandmother Anne Fortenberry said.

The one-day doctors visit in Atlanta cost \$11,638.

See Cayla, 5A

County may offer incentive for company to locate in KM

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

A possible move by Michigan-based Blachford RP Corporation gathered more support Tuesday during the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners meeting when the board set the date of April 16 at 6 p.m. for a public hearing to decide whether to industrial incentive grants to the company. According to a proposed legal advertisement furnished during Tuesday's meeting, the company will bring 80 new full time jobs over the next three years.

With the new jobs that it's expected to bring, Blachford is expected to invest \$4,900,000.

The company would locate in the former Wix/Dana Building, 707 Broadview Drive, Kings Mountain.

Blachford is expected to complete renovation of the facility and installation of new equipment by December.

While Blachford's move may be getting closer, County Attorney Bob Yelton said another company may be coming to the Cleveland County Industrial Park.

Yelton read from a letter from Cardinal Health that said it wanted to sublease the building to Owens & Minor, a medical

equipment distributor. While still not official, Economic Development Commission Director Steve Nye said the company could bring more than 50 jobs to the county. Commissioners approved the sublease request.

In other business, members of the recently formed district representation study committee were at Tuesday's meeting to discuss its first meeting.

"I think there may have been some confusion," Commissioner Mary Accor said about the first meeting which had Attorney Michael Crowell talk about the background of the issue. "It's just simply whether or not the people of Cleveland County want district representation."

Commissioners Chairman Willie McIntosh said the committee has the opportunity to find out if the county residents want to change the way commissioners are elected.

"The main thing is to get this out in the open to the public," he said.

Committee member Dean Westmoreland mentioned sending mail to residents seeking comment.

The committee's next scheduled meeting is April 11.

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

Joyce Hord has been serving up good food in KM schools since '65

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

For Kings Mountain High School Cafeteria Manager Joyce Hord, it all started in 1965.

That is when a friend asked her to be a PTA mother at Parkgrace School.

After managing cafeterias at other schools within the Kings Mountain school district, she became manager of the new Kings Mountain High School cafeteria.

One of the vital parts of a school is a cafeteria, Hord said.

"They can't open a school without a cafeteria," she said.

And through the many years she has worked in Kings Mountain, Hord has liked her job.

"I enjoy it," she said. "I always

worked when the children were in school and was out when they were out."

When she started in the school system each school cooked its own food, then centralization started during her time at East Elementary.

But one thing has not changed. The high school still cooks its own food plus food for Davidson Alternative School.

The cafeteria has also seen good participation and variety, Hord said.

Previously, students had what was on one line, but now they can choose between that and other choices like a fast food line that serves hamburgers.

Another change she has seen is the use of computers.

Teachers used to send their classroom See Hord, 5A



BEN LEDBETTER / THE HERALD
 Veteran Kings Mountain High School Cafeteria Manager Joyce Hord stores bread Friday morning.

Shriners want use of old KM Depot

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

One vacant building in Kings Mountain has been getting attention from several area organizations looking to move.

The former depot on North Piedmont Avenue previously housed the city of Kings Mountain's Department of Aging for over 25 years.

When the new \$3.1 million facility on East King Street was completed recently, that left the building without a primary occupant.

Late last year, the Southern Arts Society expressed interest

in using the facility without any city funds last year.

Another Kings Mountain club has recently voiced its interest in the building.

In a letter addressed to the city on March 25, the White Plains Shrine Club said it would also not seek any city funds for the building and would perform maintenance on it.

Currently the club has met at the Masonic Lodge in Kings Mountain.

"If we get it, we would take care of it," White Plains Shrine Club President Gilbert Brazzell said.

See Depot, 5A

Red Cross coming to KM

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

The Red Cross will be coming back to Kings Mountain.

Although the office in Shelby has served Cleveland County since the Kings Mountain Chapter merged with Shelby in the 1960's, Red Cross officials believe a Kings Mountain presence will help provide better services.

Cleveland County Red Cross Director Rick Dancy said the former Kings Mountain chapter opened in 1917 and merged with Shelby in the 1960's.

The chapter will be housed in the old Herald Building behind Kings Mountain Baptist Church and is expected to cost approximately \$125,000.

"Kings Mountain is a growth area of the county," Dancy said. "Being closer to the people who want the services is certainly part of it."

But while many satellite offices of organizations tend to be smaller and offer less services, this one will be different.

The Kings Mountain office will have everything offices from Shelby to Los Angeles have, Dancy

said.

Some of the services available in Kings Mountain will be a blood collection center, health and safety classrooms and is expected to be operational six to eight hours a day.

One of the ways it will be staffed is with volunteers.

A vehicle for responding to disasters will also be housed at the Kings Mountain office and will save an estimated 15-30 minutes on response times in the southern part of the county.

This will be a convenience to residents in Kings Mountain and Grover, Program Director Claudia Rose said.

"They won't have to come all the way over here to register for classes," she said.

The Red Cross expects to be in the new building by the first of July and Dancy said the building is ahead of schedule.

"We're getting now to where it's carpet and paint time soon," Dancy said.

And while the county chapter looks to establish itself, it is also seeking a new office in Shelby to replace the one on Patton Dr. and E. Graham.



BEN LEDBETTER / THE HERALD
 Ricardo Thurman, left, and Jim Stamey hammer nails into boards at the new Cleveland County Red Cross office. The organization will be using the old Herald Building on Piedmont Avenue.



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