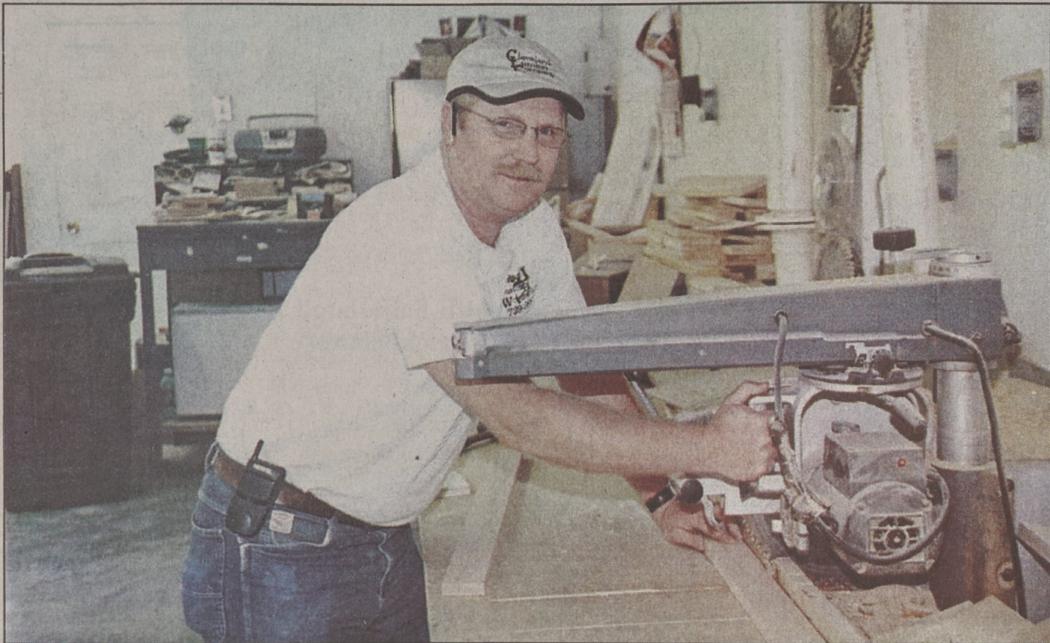


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CANCER AWARENESS



GARY STEWART / HERALD
 Don Phifer feels good enough to work every day, but it's vital that he receive a liver transplant to overcome cancer.

Phifer hopes liver transplant will help him overcome cancer

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

Don Phifer is the picture of health. The 47-year-old Kings Mountain man has worked at least 40 hours a week since he was a teenager. But two years ago he became sick one day and went to a local doctor, who feared he had liver cancer. He was sent to the hospital where a tumor the size of a baseball was found. After the tumor was shrunk, he underwent surgery at Duke University Medical Center and had

two-thirds of his liver removed. He has had surgery on two other occasions since to burn off the tumor because it is located too close to his bile duct. In February of this year, he was told he needed a liver transplant. Before he can get on the transplant list, though, he must raise approximately \$150,000 for uninsured costs



"I've been real lucky. I've worked every day."

-Don Phifer

relating to the transplant, including a \$50,000 deposit.

See Phifer, 3A

McDaniel hopes to get youth involved in Relay

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

Sloane McDaniel, a member of Central United Methodist Church, has been leading her church's youth group team in the Joseph R. Smith Relay for Life. This year's event will be held June 7-8 at the Cleveland Ave. Walking Track. In March, she had an opportunity to share ideas with other youth around the country when she attended the National Relay

for Life Youth Summit in Dallas, Texas. "We learned about how to get more youth involved in the relay," she said. "They gave us a lot of ideas." About 300 other youth involved in relays in their own community attended the March event. McDaniel also attended a regional Relay for Life meeting in October.

See Relay, 5A



Sloane McDaniel recently attended Relay for Life Youth Summit in Texas.

Still no word on injunction in merger case

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

A decision on whether or not Kings Mountain's temporary injunction against the Department of Justice acting on preclearance of the Cleveland County school merger would become a permanent injunction had not been decided at The Herald press deadline Wednesday.

The Attorney General's office responded to the Kings Mountain request late last week, and the Court of Appeals will now decide if the injunction will stand until that Court's 3-judge panel has a chance to rule on the legality of the approval by the State Board of Education.

Also late last week, Cleveland County Judge Timothy Patti signed an injunction preventing the merger from taking place until the Court of Appeals makes its decision, even if the Justice Department preclears it under the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Meanwhile, Kings Mountain Schools Superintendent Larry Allen said their attorney, Brian Shaw of Raleigh, is sending additional information to the Justice Department that he hopes will bolster Kings Mountain's claim that the 185 students who live in the

Gaston County area of Kings Mountain city limits are legally a part of Kings Mountain District Schools.

Allen said several months ago the Gaston County Board of Education wrote Gaston County residents who live inside the KM city limits and told them they would not be eligible to vote in the Gaston County School Bond referendum "because they are a part of the Kings Mountain School System."

Also, Allen said, the DOJ has been notified that Mike Smith, a Gaston County resident, was duly elected in November to an at-large seat on the Kings Mountain Board of Education.

"We thought it was an interesting twist and new information that our attorneys could use," Dr. Allen said. "Once again, another government agency recognizes that the Gaston County folks are in the Kings Mountain School District."

"Going back to years ago to when this first started, the Attorney General's Office directed the State Controller at that time that those students were Kings Mountain students, and they directed the Gaston County Commissioners to fund those students to Kings Mountain at the same

See Merger, 5A

Queen wants permit for poker machines

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

The Kings Mountain Board of Adjustments heard three requests during its Thursday meeting at City Hall and continued one case involving video poker.

J.R. Queen had filed a request for a conditional use permit for a business he'd like to open at 101 S. Battleground Ave.

One of the things Queen would like to have in his

establishments is six poker machines, but according to board members Thursday, he did not have all required documentation.

The board requested Queen bring a Rutherford County tax listing, proof of the machines being in lawful operation in 2000 and a registration form from Rutherford County also stating the machines were in lawful operation.

See Poker, 3A

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

Flying ammo into Vietnam experience for Don Adams

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

Don Adams has been around the world. During his 22 years of service in the U.S. Air Force he has been to Vietnam, Europe and all points between. He joined the military in 1953 because he wanted to do something besides work in textiles. "I just decided it was the thing for me to do because there were no jobs in 1953," he said. "The only jobs were primarily in the textile business."



DON ADAMS

A native of Bessemer City, Adams spent his first four and a half years in the military in a post he didn't like and eventually came home for a week with plans to reenlist.

In 1967, his first war involvement was in Israel during a conflict in the Middle East.

Even then Americans were told to be careful, Adams said.

But conflicts in the middle east were not the only wars occurring.

See Adams, 5A

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Judy Ford has done almost everything at West School

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

Judy Ford has done a little bit of everything at West School.

And she's done it well.

Kings Mountain's 2002-03 Teacher of the Year began her education career as a bus driver and assistant to four teachers in the fourth and fifth grade.

She realized very quickly that she wanted her own classroom, so she went back to school at night at Limestone College in Gaffney, SC to complete her degree requirements.

After two years as a teacher assistant, the school's secretary job came open and she



Judy Ford, left, accepts KMDS Teacher of Year Award from last year's winner, Donna Russ.

See Ford, 3A



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