

Hey, this isn't the county fair I remember

It was the first time I'd been to the county fairgrounds in about 30 years.

And I couldn't find the hoochy-coochy show.

But there were a lot of people there.

Admission was free, but I bet most of the people in attendance spent more than they would have at the fair.

This event was Shelby's annual Relay for Life last Friday night.

Although, in my slanted opinion, it doesn't come close to comparing to Kings Mountain's Relay for Life it was an entertaining and very successful event. Even with a slow economy, I was told the amount raised was within \$20,000 of last year's total of over \$270,000 and that figure will probably be topped by the time all monies are in.

I'd say there were close to a thousand cancer survivors that braved the rain to walk in the survivor's lap; and probably a couple thousand more that walked with their teams and took part in numerous fund-raising events to help find a cure for cancer.

The reason I was in attendance is because my wife was walking with the Cleveland Home Health team, and my daughter Leigh Anne, son-in-law Steve Newton, and grand-daughter Alyssa were there to support and walk with her.

The weatherman had been saying all day that it would begin raining around 6 p.m. and set in for the night, and about 5:30 the sky began darkening over toward KM and my immediate thought was that the KMHS graduation would be a wash-out and folks would have to crowd into Barnes Auditorium to see their sons and daughters and grandsons and granddaughters receive their diploma. Thankfully, that didn't happen and the event was held at Gamble Stadium so there was room for everyone.

Just moments prior to the scheduled 6 p.m. start of the survivors walk, some more dark clouds came over the fairgrounds and the bottom dropped out. Everyone hurried for cover, and we found ours in one of the permanent fair concession stands beside where Mark Blanton and his Mink Band were performing.

The rain didn't last but

See Gary, 5A



Gary Stewart

Editor

PICTORIAL EDITORIAL



KM Police Department, KM Fire Department and the Highway Patrol checked 40 safety seats during a checkpoint Saturday at Harris-Teeter, and replaced some 14 defective safety seats. The seats made motorists feel safer, and the fire hats made a lot of children happy.

How can some things be new and improved?



Ben Ledbetter

Staff Writer

Speaking of overused cliches, there is another one called new and improved.

Sometimes it's used to describe minimal changes to a product or service and that change is built up to be the greatest thing.

Getting out from the spirit of this phrase, Coca-Cola introduced a new drink, Vanilla Coke.

I don't know if it improved on much except maybe its beverage line, but I picked up a bottle of it and tried it for myself.

It was definitely full of sugar, but did not contain a lot of creamy, smooth, vanilla flavor. I was a little disappointed.

Oh, well.

Speaking of new, the Hornets have finally got the votes they need to get to New Orleans.

This will not only effect the people who want to buy tickets to go to games, but all those Junior Hornets Recreation Leagues may be gone as well.

Another effect would be the people who worked concession stands in the Charlotte Coliseum would be out of work.

While the Hornets will have a new home, Coke has a new drink out, there will be a new change to the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners.

At this writing, the Republican Party's executive committed scheduled a meeting to talk about finding a replacement to fill Charlie Harry's seat.

One of the three candidates for the job is former Kings Mountain Mayor Scott Neisler.

If he was named, the board would almost have a reversal from the 1999 board that had five people who were active in Shelby.

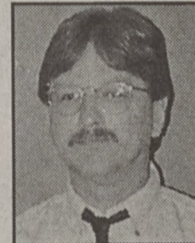
While the party lines would be the same, there would be four people from Kings Mountain on the board.

Lower Cleveland County has had representatives on the county board before, but it seems like there has never been a majority of candidates on the board from a place other than Shelby.

Before getting happy about possibly having four Kings Mountain commissioners, the record of the current three needs to be taken into account.

See Ben, 5A

When lightning flashes and the lights go out



Alan Hodge

Guest Column

Last Monday afternoon's severe thunderstorm was a doozy.

It started out with a whippin' wind, followed by a blinding rain, all the while punctuated with lightning and thunder. Of all parts of a storm, I like thunder the best. Just to let you know, a good deep rumble of thunder a little way off sounds just exactly like the dull thud of cannon fire from 12-pound Napoleons, 10-pound Parrotts, and three-inch ordnance rifles.

Anyway, lightning is another story. I am skeered of it. When I am on the front porch listening to the sweet sound of thunder and imagining that somewhere in the distance a great battle is being fought and the old flags are fluttering in the breeze again, lightning sends me back in the house. The trick is to not run back in, for as General Lee once said "never let them see you run," but to act cool and unperturbed as you move as fast as male ego and dignity will allow back to the safety of the hooch.

For over 30,000 households, Monday's storm also meant that electric service was out for a period of time. In the case of our hacienda, it was off from about 7 p.m. until 11 p.m. It was a space of four hours that translated into a step back of many, many decades of years.

It is amazing how folks react when something like an electrical outage hits. The first thought is often one of denial. This can't be happening. Other ideas that no doubt race through minds at that time include- will the grub in the refrigerator spoil, how will I blow-dry my hair, how can I see to pluck my eyebrows, will I miss the ball game on TV, how can I microwave something to eat, etc.

For people who depend upon a well, driven by an electric pump, a power outage also causes you to try and estimate how many trips you will need to make to the toilet before the tank runs dry. An extreme example of this situation took place when Hugo came and I had to dip water out of the creek to flush the toilets. One trip deposited a crawdad in the commode. but that's another story.

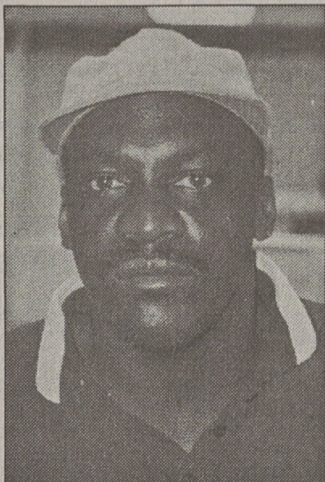
Being someone who cannot function without a liberal dose of TV, my wife Lil' Petey made her first task after the juice went off Monday to quickly grab up the Sony Walk-TV thing and check out its batteries. That done, she

See Alan, 5A

SIDEWALK SURVEY

BY BEN LEDBETTER
THE HERALD

What do you think is the toughest issue facing the area?



I guess it's the roads.

Curtis Perkins
Kings Mountain



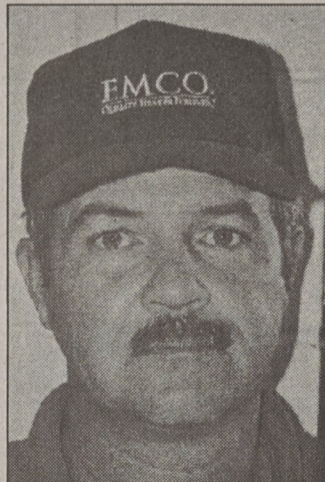
There really ain't too much around here.

Ashley McKinnish
Kings Mountain



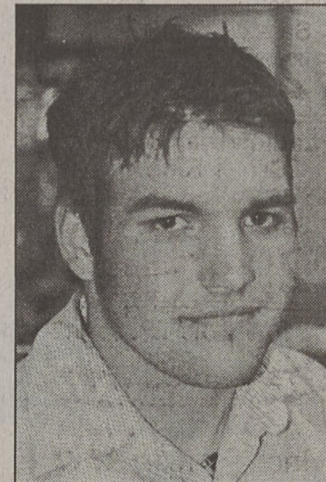
I'd say employment.

Richard McCraw
Vale



(It's) Cleveland County unemployment. We lost all our textile industry.

Charles Neal
Cherryville



I guess the school district.

Jon Burger
Kings Mountain

Got a question you'd like to submit to Sidewalk Survey? Send your question by mail to us here at The Herald. If we use your question, we'll give you the credit.