

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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RESCUE REHEARSAL



BEN LEDBETTER / THE HERALD
Kings Mountain Rescue Squad members and firefighters place a victim on a stretcher at Saturday's mock disaster at the depot.

Mock disaster helps prepare for real thing

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

A train carrying a hazardous chemical hits a church bus near the old depot on Piedmont Avenue. The chemical could have caused extensive damage and several emergency agencies from the county were called.

The chemical that was leaking was ethylene oxide.

Ethylene oxide is produced in large quantities, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration web site. It is used in the production of several industrial chemicals, used in certain agricultural products and used in sterilizing medical equipment.

Acute exposure to the gas could result in respiratory irritation and lung injury, shortness of breath, headache,

nausea, vomiting and cyanosis - which causes the skin to turn blue.

That was the scene the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad worked during a mock disaster Saturday.

Six people, who laid in front of the trains, were hurt. Kings Mountain Rescue, which was the first agency notified, called Grover Rescue when it arrived on the scene to help with the

See Rescue, 3A

Rain helps but drought still critical

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain and Cleveland County got some good news last week.

Over a three-day period - Wednesday through Friday - up to five inches of rain fell in some parts of the county and 2 1/4 inches at the Moss Lake water treatment plant.

That raised the lake level of Moss Lake by one-fourth of an inch, according to Kings Mountain Water Director Walt Ollis, and Shelby, which had been purchasing over two million gallons of water a day from Kings Mountain to ease its water crisis, came completely off the KM system because its main water source, the Broad River, was running again.

But with rain not in the forecast over the next several days, the bad news is that the drought that has devastated this area of North Carolina will continue.

"The thunderstorms we received last week are just temporary fixes," said Kings

"If you've been praying for rain say 'thank you, Lord,' but don't quit."

Walt Ollis
KM Water Director

Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey. "The long-term solution is not there until we get a sustained rain over several days that would really make a difference."

Ollis adds, "if you've been praying for rain say 'thank you, Lord' but don't quit." Although the rain helped get Shelby off the KM water system for a few days, Ollis said it didn't significantly change the level of Moss lake.

"Half of that quarter of an inch of water level was gone the next day," Ollis said, "meaning it didn't rain over

See Rain, 3A

County SERT team stops man threatening suicide

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

After a two-hour standoff with a mental patient threatening suicide, Cleveland County Sheriff's SERT (Sheriff's Emergency Response Team) stormed into the bedroom of a small mobile home off Cansler Street in Kings Mountain Monday afternoon and took the man into custody.

The 24-year-old man, who had just been released from a mental institution last Wednesday, was involuntarily committed to Broughton Hospital. He was not charged.

According to Chief Deputy Paul Cash, Cleveland County Communication Center received a 911 call about 9:30 a.m. from a woman who said her son was threatening to commit suicide with a knife.

Cash said Sheriff's Office negotiators talked to the man for about two hours, but without success.

Cash said officers began to worry that he might be planning to do something around noon when he opened the back door to the

mobile home.

"An officer spotted him and yelled 'he's at the back door' and I guess he saw the officer and went back in the house," Cash said.

The man reportedly then locked himself in a bedroom near the back door. Officers went through the back door, kicked in the bedroom door and threw a "Flash Bang" into the room.

A Flash Bang, Cash explained, looks similar to a hand grenade and explodes, making a loud noise without doing any damage to the person or home.

"But it does deafen you for two or three seconds and you can't move," he explained. "The deputies went in right behind it and he never knew what happened. They pinned him down, and rolled him over and handcuffed him."

Deputies confiscated a knife taped to a 2" x 4" piece of wood. The man did not pull the knife out of the wood, he said.

No one was injured, Cash said. Cash said the man's mother indicated that

See SERT, 3A



GARY STEWART / HERALD
Cleveland County deputies try to talk man out of mobile home off Cansler Street.

KM bus burns, no one hurt

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

Thanks to one bus driver, eight Davidson School students were taken off a bus after it caught fire Monday on Yarboro Road.

According to Cleveland County Assistant Fire Marshal Perry Davis, a ruptured fuel line in the engine spread to the interior of the bus.

Davidson Principal Bob Grigg said he received a call from bus driver Keith Parks around 2:20 p.m.

According to Grigg, he had already dropped off his first student and noticed smoke coming from the floorboards.

That's when Parks decided to take action.

"He stopped the bus on the side of the road," Grigg said about Parks. "They walked up a hill to a yard. So they were safe."

About five minutes later, Grigg said Parks called to say the bus was on fire. He later called for a fire department.

Grigg said he started to take the students home as a substitute bus came.

Despite the fire, they were only 15 to 20 minutes late going home.

"We're just thankful nobody got hurt," Grigg said.

Cleveland County Schools Transportation Director Don Byrnes said the bus is a total loss and incidents similar to Monday's are rare.

See Bus, 3A

Fed up with KM, man takes down barn



Putnam's barn coming down piece by piece

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

A question over zoning jurisdiction has caused a barn to be demolished.

The barn, which was built by Dennis Putnam, was next to Ebenezer Baptist Church and is now being torn down after the city of Kings Mountain said that it violated its zoning.

The area is in the city's two mile extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ.) Concern over the barn was first brought by a church official at a Planning and Zoning Board meeting.

Calvin C. Miller, an associate pastor said he went to the city and complain when he saw the barn being built. Miller said another reason for going to the city was it would not let him put trailers on

his land.

Miller said the horses are gone and the barn is being torn down piece by piece.

The issue of jurisdiction surfaced since Putnam was initially issued a Cleveland County building permit.

The county permit was revoked since the area was in Kings Mountain's jurisdiction and Putnam requested the city rezone his land from R-10 to R-20.

An R-20 classification would allow the barn and horses to stay.

Kings Mountain City Council denied the rezoning request at its May meeting.

During the meeting neighbors, Ebenezer Church representatives and people who helped with the barn aired their views which ranged from opposition to the

See Barn, 3A



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