

## Health care to get tougher for seniors

Next year, the U.S. government will reduce the amount it will pay for Medicare payments to physicians by 4.4 percent. That doesn't sound too bad on the surface but if you look a little deeper, it could mean catastrophe for the infirm elderly who depend on Medicare.

Doctors don't believe they are getting a square deal from Medicare in the first place. They never have. Now they are beginning to grumble their payments will be shrinking even more.

The results could be that doctors will stop seeing as many Medicare patients, or spend less and less time with them. In today's climate, many people rarely get to see their physician now, but are seen by assistants, competent assistants to be sure, but still not the doctor they expect to care for them.

Medicare covers basic services for all American, 65 or older or younger, but disabled. Since it began in 1965, the program has become too huge and unwieldy, opening many doors for those who would defraud. The number of claims submitted by physicians all over the country are mind boggling.

That will be reduced somewhat if the new rule reducing payments goes into effect, because many seniors, getting into the program for the first time are destined to experience difficulty finding a primary physician to treat them. That will put added strain on hospital emergency rooms.

Politicians all talk about doing good deeds for the elderly. Here is an opportunity to make good on the boast. Medicare wasn't a good idea to begin with, but it is what keeps the elderly alive today. It is time for elected officials to step up and delete the 4.4 percent reduction. If they don't chaos looms.

## Fred Thompson speaks the truth

Senator Fred Thompson (R. Tenn.) is leaving the hallowed halls of the U.S. Senate and will resume his acting career interrupted eight years ago when someone talked him into becoming a politician.

Thompson always looked uncomfortable as a senator. He has accepted a role on the highly successful TV series Law and Order.

Thompson says the Senate is just too clogged for his tastes and that too much time is spent on trivial matters and constant partisan bickering.

See Opinion, 5A

## KINGS MOUNTAIN SCENES



ABIGAIL WOLFORD / HERALD

Citizens enjoy strolling around the Walking Track on Monday morning.

## Wear a white ribbon to promote better treatment of women



Abigail Wolford  
Staff Writer

Monday, November 25, is the International Day Against Violence Towards Women, or White Ribbon Day.

As a woman, I know that I need to use whatever platform I have to promote better treatment for others of my gender. I also know that I need to educate myself, as well as others about the dangers of the world. I grew up in a home where domestic violence was never a problem and where I could learn to be an independent person. However, I know that others are not so lucky.

The statistics on domestic violence are appalling. According to WOMANKIND, a nonprofit agency that promotes the elimination of domestic violence, 700,000 women are raped or sexually assaulted each year in the U.S. alone. Every eight seconds, a woman is physically abused. Every six minutes, a woman is raped. One out of every four women will be abused in her lifetime.

Despite the common belief that domestic violence affects only those in the home, the community is also negatively affected in many ways. The website, www.batteredwomen.com, states that 25 percent of the absenteeism, low productivity, and employee turnover in a workplace is a result of domestic abuse.

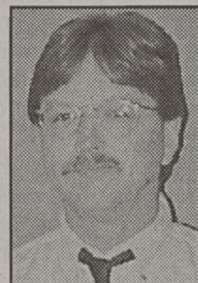
Nearly 70 percent of men who abuse their wives also abuse their children. Almost 100 percent of children who are raised in homes where domestic violence is a problem end up marrying abusers or becoming them.

In every community, people exist who insist that the women must think abuse is okay. If they didn't, they would leave. However, many women have trouble leaving their abusive husbands simply because they cannot support themselves financially. Many families, especially in the south, still raise their daughters to be dependent on a man's income. Dependent women who find themselves in abusive marriages often stay because they do not know how to be independent. Women should always be taught to be able to support themselves before marriage so that if something happens, like the husband dying, they can provide for themselves and their children.

What causes abuse? What traits do abused women have in common? Many abused women are people who feel it is their responsibility to care for other people.

See Abigail, 5A

## Renaissance Festival good place to watch people



Alan Hodge  
Guest Column

The recent Carolina Renaissance festival near Concord reinforced an age-old truism- when you think you've seen everything, something new turns up to astonish your eyeballs.

The Renaissance Festival is an event that takes the clothes, amusements, and ways of the days when knights in shining armor, men in tights, and women in low-cut bodices abounded, then throws in some food vendors and a camel or elephant ride, and turns thousands of visitors loose in a make-believe ye olde village and then lets 'er rip. It's a sort of ye olde carnival where ye olde paying spectators get to take part if they want to. It is also a swell place to do a lot of ye olde people watching.

Besides the Renaissance Festival staff and performers, anyone who wants to can don garb in a style from from hundreds of years ago, stroll ye olde village and see and be seen. And brother, there was a lot of seeing to be done.

One guy I spotted looked to be about six feet, four inches tall with a weight of about 96 pounds. He was wearing a poofy little pair of velvet short-short pantaloons that looked like a disposable diaper, pointed-toe Puss N' Boots shoes, and black leotards. His legs were as skinny as soda straws, and combined with his lack of posterior padding, he looked for all the world like a black snake in a feathered hat.

One of ye olde sideshows had some girls who put on an Arabian Nights-style dancing exhibition. They wore harem outfits and scooted and squirmed around for tips. One seemed to know what she was doing as far as dancing the Cah-coo-cha went, another was ok, but the third one had about as much rhythm in her lanky frame as a 2x4 board. All the while she attempted to ratchet her hips about, she had a teeth-gritting look on her face as if she was chopping wood.

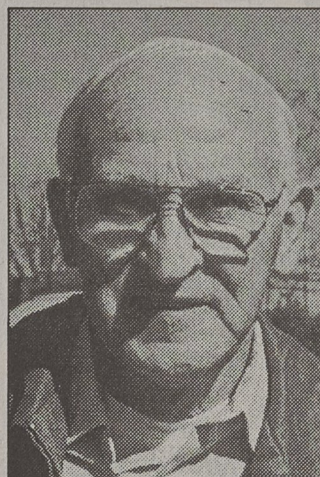
Though Middle Ages garb was available for sale and rent, some folks showed up in their homemade rigs. Not all of these attempts at costumery were historically accurate. One guy had on some rolled up Bermuda shorts, a pair of black panty hose, loafers, a disco-era shirt with big, pointed collars, and a Robin Hood hat. Another bloke was wearing a reasonably accurate ensemble, but the effect was

See Alan, 5A

## SIDEWALK SURVEY

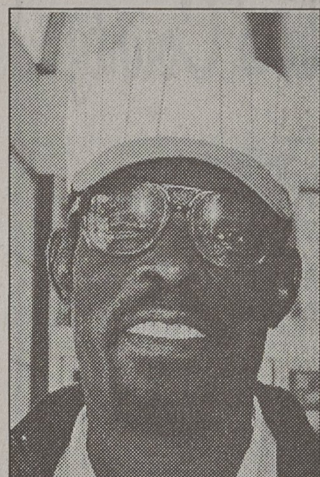
BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD  
THE HERALD

## What will you be most thankful for this Thanksgiving?



"Being alive. I just had four bypasses and open heart surgery. And having my family."

Bob Hope  
Kings Mountain



"For being here for one thing. Trust in the Good Lord. He's the man."

Lewis Moore  
Kings Mountain



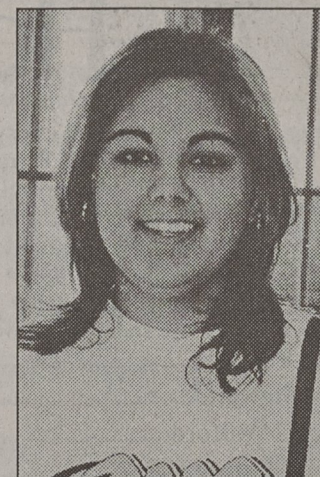
"Family, friends, and church."

Linda Clary  
Kings Mountain



"Keeping up with my good health for one thing and the fact that I'm still alive."

Vincent Canoe  
Kings Mountain



"Family."

Britt Talbert  
Kings Mountain

## LOOK BACK

## Football was in the air in 1964

From the November 19, 1964 edition of the Kings Mountain Herald:

Kings Mountain High School Mountaineers, Southwest division champions, will be host team at Blanton Memorial Stadium at Shelby Friday night to the Hickory's Tornadoes, Northwest division champions, as both teams pursue the football championship of the Western North Carolina High School Activities Association.

Linda Sherrer will represent the city in the annual Thanksgiving Day Carolinas Carrousel Parade in Charlotte.

A group of 21 Kings Mountain business and industrial leaders formed a stadium committee Wednesday to launch a subscription drive for funds for a new football stadium.

Capt. John D. Fulton recently retired from the army after more than 20 years of active service.

Kings Mountain Ministerial Association will sponsor for the second year its Empty Stocking appeal to provide Christmas cheer for the indigent.

The Kings Mountain area secession movement to Gaston County ended Tuesday morning, as a group of civic and service organization leaders voted unanimously to honor objections of Grover and Bethware citizens who opposed secession.

The Kings Mountain Mountaineers took lone possession of the SWC championship crown Friday night with a 24-0 win over Lincolnton. Quarterback Pat Murphy completed 16 of 24 passes for four touchdowns, including two to Jimmy Cloning.

Jim "Punch" Parker, former Kings Mountain Mountaineer and now a halfback for The Citadel, was one of numerous Atlantic Coast and Southern Conference players nominated for All-American honors.

Elaine Dixon, high school junior and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marion Dixon, has been selected as Miss Hi Miss to represent Kings Mountain High School, in the annual Winthrop College program.

James B. Yarbro, formerly collection manager at Sterchi's, has been promoted to office manager.