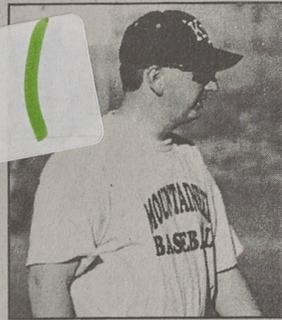


# The Herald

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Thursday, April 3, 2003

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## Taking up cross daily

Johnson has been carrying cross through U.S. 17 years

By GARY STEWART  
Editor of The Herald

The tall, bearded man carrying a 12-foot high white cross brought a lot of second looks as he walked north on I-85 in Kings Mountain late Monday afternoon.

Motorists slowed down on the busy highway as quickly as they do when coming upon a Highway Patrolman running radar.

But Chuck Johnson just kept up the constant walking pace as he has done for the past 17 years. Tired,

hungry and in need of a bath and a good night's sleep, he stopped briefly to talk just before getting a room at a nearby hotel for the night.

Johnson, 41, a native of Minnesota, has carried his cross every day of the year since 1986 when he was saved at a church service in California. He calls himself a "non-denominational" Christian.

He obviously takes God's word literally and instantly, because shortly after his

See Cross, 3A



GARY STEWART / HERALD  
Chuck Johnson comes through Kings Mountain on daily cross walk that has lasted 17 years.

## KM senior hurt in wreck on Monday

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD  
Staff Writer

Seventeen-year-old Lane Wood of King Mountain was in a serious car accident on Monday on the way to school, but family members say with much prayer and patience he is expected to make a full recovery.

"He's doing better. Everyone's been real positive. It's a miracle. He's doing as well as he could in the best case scenario," said his brother, Brandon Wood, on Tuesday afternoon. "We're thankful to God. It's been a complete miracle."

The accident occurred when Wood pulled into the path of another car at the intersection of Scism and Oak Grove Roads at about 7:40 a.m. on Monday. The driver of the other car, a 1990 Ford, William McClain, 41, hit the driver's side of Lane's 1997 Mitsubishi. McClain was not injured.

Wood was airlifted from Cleveland Regional Medical Center to Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte at about 10 a.m. Monday because of bleeding in the skull area.

Early in the day doctors said the outlook for recovery did not look good but as the day progressed so did Wood.

Tuesday, medical staff began the process of weaning Wood off a ventilator and tubes were expected to be removed Tuesday night. Doctors were discussing moving Lane out of intensive care and into a regular room by Wednesday.

Constant prayer has been the key to Wood's progress, family members say.

"We attribute it to all the prayers of so many people in Kings Mountain and out of town," said Wood's uncle, Reg Alexander. "Prayer chains have started up everywhere - on the internet, in the different churches and in many different states that we've heard from."

The family did not know on Tuesday how long Lane would have to stay in the hospital. Brandon Wood said that they were very relieved and thankful that he was going to be okay.

See Wreck, 3A

## Still no decision on KM manager

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD  
Staff Writer

On Monday, City Council members interviewed the five remaining candidates for the position of city manager. The interviews lasted all day.

City Council members will meet again on Thursday night at 6 p.m. to review the candidates again, said Mayor Rick Murphrey.

"No decisions have been made at this time. It's an ongoing process," said Murphrey.

Council members had the opportunity to ask questions and visit with the candidates during the interviews. The Council wants to bring in the most experienced person possible for the job, said Murphrey. Naturally, the Council is looking for someone with experience with utilities and city management, as well as good communication skills.

"I know we'll get a person who will be an excellent person for the job," said Murphrey. "We'll find the right person for the job."

Whoever gets the job will be coming into a great situation, he said. The city has a great staff and infrastructure. More than 90 people applied for the job.

The current city manager, Jimmy Maney, retired effective December 31, but he agreed to stay on as interim city manager until his replacement is chosen.

The city advertised the position in many state and national trade publications. Many applicants with a wide range of skill levels have shown interest in the job. The applicants have been from all over the United States and have anywhere from zero to several years of experience.

### PATRIOTIC RALLY



ABIGAIL WOLFORD / HERALD

Pat Stuart, above, signs a banner in honor of her three sons who are serving overseas and Megan Wright, below, holds a sign to show support of her father at Saturday's rally for the troops at the Kings Mountain gazebo.

## Proud KM citizens show support for military at home and abroad

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD  
Staff Writer

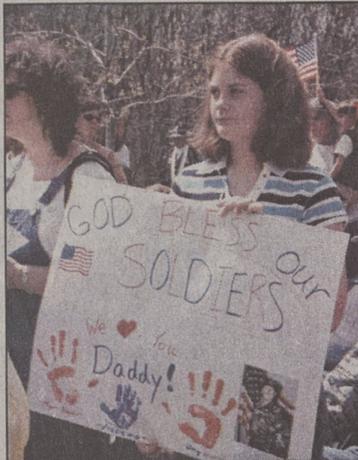
On Saturday morning, many Kings Mountain residents put on their red, white, and blue and came to Patriot's Park to show their support for the troops serving overseas and at home.

"The City of Kings Mountain wants to express their support for those men and women at home and abroad who are fighting for our freedom," Mayor Rick Murphrey told those gathered at the rally. "I think today is the day that the armed forces are saluted by Kings Mountain."

Murphrey recognized local families who have loved ones overseas, as well as local people and politicians who have served in past wars. He said that the city has a history of being extremely patriotic.

"This city has always been patriotic and

See Support, 3A



## Phifer out of hospital, liver functioning well

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD  
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, March 25, Don Phifer received the liver transplant for which he has waited for many months. By Thursday, March 27, he was up walking around. On Monday, March 31, he left the hospital.

He moved into an apartment in Durham on Tuesday, where he will live for the next 4-6 weeks, said his daughter, Cindy Phifer. He will have to have blood work done each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for a few weeks to make sure his body is adjusting to its new organ correctly.

Doctors are also making sure that his anti-rejection medications are properly

"He is doing wonderful. Everything's going well. So far, so good."

Cindy Phifer  
Don's daughter

adjusted. "He is doing wonderful. Everything's going well. So far, so good," said Cindy.

Cindy was able to stay with her father from Monday night until Sunday night, while he was in the hospital. She is planning to go up on weekends to help. Her sister went up to help her parents move into their apartment. Her father is not

See Phifer, 3A

## CrossWalk slated April 11-13 in downtown Kings Mountain

Easter season is upon us. All across the nation, church choirs are preparing joyous musicals. Children are dyeing eggs. Bunnies everywhere are gathering treats to be delivered.

But a unique festivity is being planned for Kings Mountain. Next week, a section of the downtown area will be taken back in time, becoming the Jerusalem of 2000 years ago as the third annual presentation of CrossWalk comes to life.

Scheduled for April 10, 11 and 12, CrossWalk - The Trail of Amazing Grace will once again transport hundreds of people a night back in time to literally walk through the events that

became the very first Easter. Appropriately billed as "the Southeast's most unusual street drama," CrossWalk combines a variety of dramatic elements into one presentation. "We like to call it 'virtual drama'," explains Reg Alexander, Director of Regal Ventures Creative Ministries, the non-profit organization that developed the concept of CrossWalk.

"This is not simply a play that an audience sees; it is a story that they walk through, experiencing the sensation of its reality. It's like inviting the audience on stage to view the play among the players, except that our stage is about four

See CrossWalk



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