

# The Herald

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## Murder warrant issued

Woman found dead in apartment

By GARY STEWART  
 Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain Police Department has issued a murder warrant in connection with a death April 5 at 206 Orr Terrace

Fidel Garcia Cruz, 29, of 1668 Greenview Terrace Apartments, Kings Mountain, is accused of killing Crystal Dawn Perez, 26, of 206 Orr Terrace.

At The Herald's press time, police did not know the whereabouts of Cruz. He is described as 5'5" tall, weight approximately 145 pounds, with short black hair and either gold or silver plated front teeth. Anyone with information about him is asked to call KMPD Detective Division at (704) 734-0444.

According to Det. Derek Johnson, Ms. Perez was found dead at her apartment at 9:25 p.m. April 5. An autopsy was performed Monday in Gastonia but Cleveland County Coroner Ralph Mitchem said he had not received the official report. He said it usually takes about two months for him to receive the report.

But he confirmed that Ms. Perez was stabbed several times and was found lying in a pool of blood.

"It was bloody; she bled to death," he said. "She had several stab wounds."

### PLAY TIME



With heavy rain in the forecast for this week, Destiny Van Dyke and Carrie Mayberry took advantage of Friday's warm, sunny weather to play the bells at the community playground at the Jake Early Sports Complex on Cleveland Avenue.

ABIGAIL WOLFORD / HERALD

## 4 selected for induction into KM Hall

By GARY STEWART  
 Editor of The Herald

The 16th annual Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony will be held Saturday, May 17 at 6 p.m. at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life and Conference Center.

This year's inductees include Shon Byers, Barry Gibson, Aubrey Hollifield and Mike Ware.

Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased from any member of the Hall of Fame committee.

This year, the Hall of Fame will also recognize two men for many years of distinguished service

to youth sports in Kings Mountain. They are Paul Lancaster, who has been an avid supporter of youth baseball through the years, and for whom the KMHS baseball/softball facilities are named; and Pressley Anderson, who has been umpiring in the local baseball leagues for 34 years.

Receiving the Special Achievement Awards this year are two KMHS seniors - Shonda Cole, who broke the school's all-time girls basketball scoring record and was named North Carolina Volleyball Player of the Year; and Sedrick Young, who won the State High School diving championship.

In addition, five KMHS seniors will receive \$500 scholarships: two given by the City of Kings Mountain, two by the KMHS Booster Club, and one by the Hall of Fame. One of the Booster Club's scholarships will be given in memory of legendary football coach Shu Carlton.

All four of this year's inductees had outstanding athletic careers at Kings Mountain High School. Three of them - Gibson, Hollifield and Ware - also served many years as high school coaches, and Byers has put Kings Mountain on the map worldwide by becoming a two-time US Armed Forces heavyweight Greco-Roman wrestling champion, and is the current World Champion.

Byers, who played football and wrestled at KMHS, was the 1992 North Carolina High School wrestling champion and went to North Carolina A&T on a football scholarship. After one year there he joined the U.S. Army and over the past several years has racked up numerous championships and awards. He is currently stationed in Colorado Springs, CO.

Ware played football, baseball and basketball at KMHS in the late 1950s and 1960. He was an All-Conference lineman in football and played one year at Catawba College before transferring to Appalachian State. He recently retired after 34 years in education. He served several years as head football coach and athletic director at Newberry, SC High School, where his teams won four regional championships and he was voted South Carolina Athletic Director and South Carolina Athletic Administrator of the Year. He is also a recipient of the Silver Crescent Award, the highest honor given by the Governor of South Carolina.

Gibson was an undefeated lefthand pitcher on KM High's championship 1963 baseball team and he also had four out See Hall, 3A



GIBSON



BYERS



HOLLIFIELD



WARE

## CrossWalk delayed

By GARY STEWART  
 Editor of The Herald

Already drenched ground and forecasts of more heavy rain through the end of the week has caused the organizers of the outdoor Easter drama, "CrossWalk - The Trail of Amazing Grace," to postpone the performance until next week.

Reg Alexander, one of the organizers of the third annual event, said this week's rains have made it impossible for the group to set up scenery and props, so the performance originally slated for April 11-13 will instead be held on April 17-19 in the Mountain Street area of downtown Kings

Mountain.

The Thursday, April 17 performances are at 7:30 and 8:30 p.m., and the Friday and Saturday, April 18-19 performances will be at 7:30, 8:30 and 9:30 p.m.

There are still plenty of tickets remaining for each performance and they are available by calling Regal Ventures at 739-8425.

Alexander said one of the reasons the CrossWalk planning group originally set the performance on Palm Sunday week was so they would have a back-up plan in case of bad weather.

"Everything on the forecast indicates rain all week," he said. "Our See Cross, 3A

## Firehouse Cook-off set next weekend

By GARY STEWART  
 Editor of The Herald

The seventh annual Firehouse Cook-off, sponsored by the Kings Mountain Fire Department, will be held Friday and Saturday, April 18-19 at the City Walking Track.

Approximately 40 teams from as far away as Illinois will compete in various barbecue cooking categories. Since this is a State cook-off event, the winner will receive an invitation to the prestigious Jack Daniels World Champion Cook-off in Lynchburg, TN.

Teams will begin arriving and setting up their cooking sites after lunch on See Cook, 3A

### KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

## Pearson has seen many changes

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD  
 Staff Writer

Ninety-two year old Olland Pearson has seen many changes in Kings Mountain. In fact, he remembers when Kings Mountain was not even Kings Mountain. He remembers when it used to be two towns.

Pearson turned 92 on March 25. His daughter, who lives on the same street, threw him a party. When Pearson was born on Baker Street in 1911, Kings Mountain was known as East Kings Mountain in Gaston County and West Kings Mountain. The split was along Cherryville Road, said Pearson. In 1915, the two towns voted to become one town.

Pearson remembers the end of World War I. He was recovering from the killer flu, which killed more people than World War I. In the strip of seven houses on his street, five or six people died of the flu. The only known remedies then were aspirin tablets and white liquor, he said. As he sat on his front porch, mill whistles started blowing, and church bells started ringing. People ran up and down the street.

"I jumped up and ran in the house," he said.

He brought his mother outside to see what was happening. Only three telephones were in town at that point: one in the boarding house, one in the company store, and one in the mill office. The woman

who owned the boarding house found out that the war had ended and spread the word.

Pearson said he remembers his great-grandfather, who served in the Civil War. His great-grandfather eventually died from his wounds from the war when Pearson was young. He said he remembers his great-grandfather's beard, which went down to his chest.

Pearson attended school until the Friday he got promoted to the sixth grade. The following Monday, his father took him to work at the mill. Since his family had eleven children, the oldest ones knew that they needed to work to help support the family. His See Pearson, 3A



OLLAND PEARSON

## Mayor plans prayer breakfast at Patrick Center

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD  
 Staff Writer

The city will be hosting its first Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at the senior center on May 1. Everyone is welcome to attend.

"I think it'll be a blessing for everyone who attends," said Murphrey.

Rev. Roger Woodard, of the Family Worship Center, said he had the idea for the prayer breakfast after hearing about the President's prayer breakfast in Washington, D.C. With the current heightened terror alert, Woodard said he felt like the community of faith needed to come together for a time of prayer.

He took the idea to the Pastor's Prayer Circle, which in turn took it to the mayor during a meeting with local pastors at the police station a few months ago. The police chief and mayor discussed with the pastors different strategies the city was taking to prepare for a possible terrorist attack.

See Prayer, 3A



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