

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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2003 KINGS MOUNTAIN RELAY FOR LIFE

24-hour walk to cure cancer begins Friday at KM track

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
 Staff Writer

For many months, citizens of Kings Mountain have worked to raise money for cancer research by participating on a Relay for Life team. This weekend, they will finish their hard work by walking on the walking track through the night on Friday.

So far, 41 teams have signed up to participate in the Relay for Life rally on Friday night. Each team consists of at least 5-10 people. Although some teams have been planning to participate for months, last minute entries are also welcome and encouraged, said Dena Blalock, co-chair of Relay for Life in Kings Mountain.

"We still have room if anyone wants to get a team up. There are still campsites available," she said.

Kings Mountain has more teams this year already than it has had in the past, said Blalock.

The Relay for Life rally will start at 7 p.m. Friday and continue through Saturday morning. Cancer survivors will walk the first lap, as a "Walk of Honor," for their struggle. The night will be filled with stories of those who fought cancer and survived and with the memories of those who did not survive the disease.

The night will also be filled with fun, as Relay for Life participants mark each hour of the night with different costumes and games. Hour themes will include cowboy hour, pajama hour, beach hour, military
 See Relay, 3A



Dot Dixon, right, draws the handprint of Barbara McClain at Relay for Life's cancer survivors dinner Thursday night at Summit Place. Over 100 people attended.

History Museum, Senior Center seek additional funds from city

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
 Staff Writer

Discussion about the historical museum and the senior center topped the Kings Mountain City Council meeting Tuesday night.

Mickey Crowell, museum coordinator, made a plea for additional funds. The museum has become infested with termites, and the problem needs to be addressed immediately before further damage is done, she told Council members.

"We have an immediate need for funds," she said.

The extermination fees will range from \$600-800, she said.

She also made a plea for supplement funds for the operating budget. Right now, most of the money the museum receives is from donations. The city gives the museum \$15,000 per year, as well, but all but approximately \$2,000 of that money goes to pay Crowell's yearly salary.

Since the museum now

changes exhibits every couple of months, additional funding is required, said Crowell. The current budget does not cover the educational programs, computer, office supplies, and grounds keeping.

She requested that the board consider giving the museum an additional \$10,000-15,000 per year, beginning next year. The board of the historical museum decided that the additional money would best help the museum meet its expenses.

"We are requesting that the board consider our plea for \$15,000," said Crowell.

Councilman Gene White said he did not want to consider any funding for the historical museum until the city manager had a chance to meet with the historical museum advisory committee.

Councilman Dean Spears said that the Council had already set the cap at \$10,000 for extra funds for
 See Funds, 3A

Spectrum, school evacuated

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

A Kings Mountain plant and school were evacuated after unrelated incidents Tuesday morning.

At 8:46 a.m. Kings Mountain area fire departments responded to Spectrum Dyed Yarns where a malfunction in a dye mixing area resulted in chemical fumes. All of the approximately 150 employees were evacuated.

While working that situation along with Oak Grove and Bethlehem fire

departments and the Cleveland County Hazmat Team, Kings Mountain Fire Department received a call to Kings Mountain Intermediate School where almost 750 students and all school employees were evacuated after a city utility crew dug into an electric line.

There were no injuries at either place, and at no time was anyone in danger at either place, according to Kings Mountain Fire Chief Frank Burns.

According to Burns, fumes from a

leeching solution that is used to clean yarn before it is dyed got into the air due to a mixing malfunction at Spectrum. The fumes were all inside the building and were never a threat to the environment, he said.

"They evacuated all of the people, and basically we had to flood the area with water and wash the chemical out through the drains in their testing area," Burns said.

It took about three hours for firemen to clean the area, he said.

See Spectrum, 3A

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
 Staff Writer

Since Thursday is the National Day of Prayer, people around the nation will gather throughout the day to pray for their leaders and their nation. People in Kings Mountain will meet in front of City Hall, from 12:20-12:40 p.m., for a time of prayer. All are welcome to attend.

The city will also host its first Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at the senior cen-

ter today.

"I think it'll be a blessing for everyone who attends," said Mayor Rick 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
 See Prayer, 3A

Local fire departments receive grant to provide smoke alarms

Last 3 KM fires were ruled arson

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
 Staff Writer

Arson Awareness Week is next week. According to Kings Mountain Fire Chief Frank Burns, approximately 33 percent of all fires are set. In fact, the last three fires in Kings Mountain were caused by arson.

"Arson is not a victimless crime because everybody pays for arson in insurance premiums," said Burns.

The purpose of Arson Awareness Week is to let people know that it is a crime, said Burns. He said that fire departments can rule out accidental fires fairly quickly. Determining a fire's cause and origin is usually not very difficult for fire scene investigators, said Burns.

Some of the fires are set out of spite or revenge, said Perry Davis, Oak Grove Fire Chief. Other fires are set by juveniles, said Burns. Arson is also suspected when the building that burns houses a failing business.

"Financial hardships are the number one reason people decide to commit arson," said Davis.

See Arson, 3A

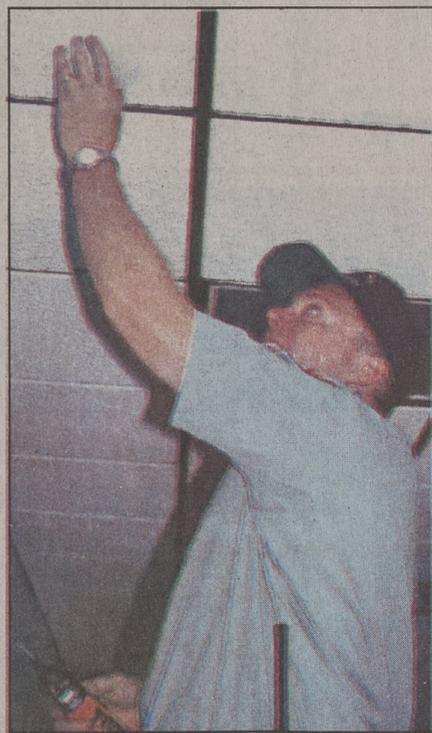
BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
 Staff Writer

Kings Mountain Fire Department, in conjunction with the Oak Grove, Bethlehem, and Grover Volunteer Fire Departments, have received a grant for smoke detectors. Now, those who live in the Kings Mountain area can ask for the firefighters to install a free smoke detector in their home.

The targets for the grant are households with children under five years of age and the elderly, although everyone is eligible to receive a smoke detector, even if those who request one already have one. Approximately 500 smoke detectors are available. The grant is good through September 30.

The fire departments are also conducting a survey to find out how many homes have smoke detectors and how many of those smoke detectors actually work. Anyone without a functional smoke detector is considered "at risk." The firefighters may go door to door in some neighborhoods to make sure that families are safe.

Kings Mountain Fire Chief Frank Burns said the firefighters will target at-risk communities. Houses should have a smoke detector on each level. The firefighters are able to install smoke detectors on rental property, as well. Smoke alarms with strobe lights will also be available for the hearing
 See Smoke, 3A



ABIGAIL WOLFORD / HERALD
 Firefighter Jamie Black installs one of the smoke detectors made available in a grant from the state. Smoke alarms are free by calling local fire departments.

Hospital board discusses plan for renovation

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
 Staff Writer

The Cleveland County Healthcare System, which includes the recently merged Cleveland Regional Medical Center and Kings Mountain Hospital, held its first board of trustees meeting in Kings Mountain on Monday. The board of trustees will now alternate its monthly meetings between Shelby and Kings Mountain.

The planning committee announced at the meeting that the pharmacy renovations at Kings Mountain Hospital are complete. A Certificate of Need was recently approved, which would allow \$8 million worth of renovation and expansion on the Kings Mountain Hospital. The project does not include tearing down any of the already-existing sections of the hospital but simply renovating and expanding the facilities that are already there.

The healthcare system plans to submit the Certificate of Need to the state in June. The project may begin as early as late fall. Construction cannot begin without the approval of the North Carolina Division of Facility Services.
 See Hospital, 3A



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