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Memorial Day events planned in KM, Shelby

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
 Staff Writer

Memorial Day services are planned Monday in Kings Mountain and Shelby.

At 10 a.m., the city will be placing a wreath at Mountain Rest Cemetery in honor of those who have died defending their country in war, said Mayor Rick Murphrey.

"I think it's important to honor those who died defending their country," said Murphrey.

The ceremony will be brief and the public is invited.

At 2 p.m., the Cleveland County Veterans Council will host a special service at Cleveland Memorial Park. In case of bad weather it will be in the mausoleum chapel.

Richard McSwain is chairman and master of ceremonies. The Burns High School US Air Force Junior ROTC will be the color guard, and the First Baptist Church Youth Ensemble will sing the National Anthem. Jim Cox, U.S. Navy Retired, will give the invocation and benediction.

Members of the American Legion, Amvets, D.A.V. and V.F.W. will take part in placing wreaths. All veterans, POWs and others will be recognized.

Guest speaker will be Interim Pastor Robert Philbeck of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Sandy Mush.

In the past, Kings Mountain has not done anything on Memorial Day, but with the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Murphrey said he felt that the city needed to do some

See Memorial, 3A

HALL OF FAME



Dremiel Byers, right, receives Hall of Fame plaque from master of ceremonies Jay Rhodes at Saturday's induction ceremony at the Patrick Center

Four former Mounties inducted on Saturday

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

People from four states packed the Patrick Senior Center Saturday night for the 16th annual Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony.

Reigning World Heavyweight Greco-Roman Wrestling Champion Dremiel Byers, former football standouts Mike Ware and Aubrey Hollifield, and former KMHS baseball star Barry Gibson were inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Local umpire Pressley Anderson and the late Paul Lancaster, a longtime supporter of Kings Mountain sports, received Distinguished Service Awards and current

KMHS athletes Shonda Cole and Sedrick Young won the Special Achievement Awards.

Six KMHS student athletes were presented \$500 college scholarships. The Shu Carlton Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by the KMHS Booster Club, went to Chris Yon; the Booster Club Scholarship went to Matt Frazier; the Gary Stewart Scholarship, sponsored by Carl and Pat Champion, went to Rachelle Chryst; the Hall of Fame Scholarship went to Presha Barnes; and the two City of Kings Mountain Scholarships went to Sarah Propst and Danielle Gill.

All four of the inductees left impressive marks on Kings Mountain sports, and

See Hall, 3A

Class of '03 to graduate Friday night

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
 Staff Writer

Kings Mountain High School will graduate approximately 250 seniors on Friday, at 7 p.m., at John Gamble Stadium.

The senior class has been very strong academically, something that is proved in the number of scholarships its members have received, said John Yarbro, principal of Kings Mountain High School.

At the graduation ceremony, the Kings Mountain High School 9th grade band will play "Pomp and Circumstance." The symphonic chorale will perform two selections, "Maybe Someday" and "Forever Friends."

Students Rachel Hughes, Wesley Griffin, Michelle Odums, Emily Rountree, and Angela Brice will lead parts of the ceremony. Yarbro, the valedictorian, and the salutatorian will speak at the ceremony, as well.

Graduation '03 Special Section inside today's Herald

The junior marshals will be Kristen Ammay, Laura Berry, Thomas Bridges, Harrison Bumgardner, Kevin Echols, Stephen Hall, Lauren Horne, Mary Malaythong, Kasey Sizemore, Charles Smith, Tina Southanirasay, Brian Styers, and Tiffany Williams.

The senior class officers are Michelle Odums, President; Rachel Hughes, Vice-President; Emily Rountree, Secretary; and Angela Brice, Treasurer.

The senior class sponsors are Donna Russ, Susan Canipe, Hannah Cole, Nelson Connor, Melva Huffstetler, Julia Hunt, Mary Ann Lattimore, Robin Spicer, Kay Stowe, Kay Walker, Betsy Wells, and Sally Hendricks.

KM improves on end-of-grade tests

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
 Staff Writer

The end of grade tests for grades three through eight have been validated by the state. Kings Mountain students showed great improvement at each grade level, said John Goforth, executive director of curriculum and instruction.

"Every grade level went up, some substantially," said Goforth. "We're just very proud of our teachers and our kids and our schools."

In reading, the third grade jumped from 83.3 percent last year to 91 percent this year, the fourth grade from 84.2 percent to 90.6 percent, the fifth grade from 91.8 percent to 92.4 percent, the sixth grade from 77.2 percent to 88.5 percent, the seventh grade from 79.9 percent to 90.1 percent, and the eighth from 87.5 percent to

92.7 percent. In math, the third grade jumped from 77.8 percent last year to 94 percent this year, the fourth grade from 95.1 percent to 98.2 percent, the fifth grade from 93.5 percent to 96.7 percent, the sixth grade from 94.1 percent to 95.4 percent, the seventh grade from 90.8 percent to 91.4 percent, and the eighth grade from 80.7 percent to 91.4 percent.

The high school has not received any results yet since students are still being tested.

How did the schools achieve their high scores this year?

"We focused on weaknesses that we saw last year," said Goforth.

Teachers attended workshops where they studied the types of questions that students might see on the

See Tests, 3A

Weather Watcher

Kitzmilller has been keeping daily stats since 1981

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
 Staff Writer

Most people brave weather of all types. Kenneth Kitzmilller tracks weather of all types.

Kitzmilller is the weather man for the Herald. He tracks the weather as a hobby. He first began keeping track of the weather during his time working in the various water departments. Temperature and precipitation effect the operations of the wastewater treatment plants. He had to include a weather report in his reports to the state, as

well. Now, he keeps track of the weather on his calendar each day, something he has done since 1981. He writes down the temperature for the day and the amount of precipitation the area received during the night.

Kitzmilller is originally from Ohio. He lived many years in a small town in central Ohio, called Johnstown.

Kitzmilller prides himself in keeping busy as a young man. He substituted as a rural mill carrier and for the movie theater, while

See Kitzmilller, 5A



KENNETH KITZMILLER



Bobby Kennedy, an industrial hygienist for the state, talks about bioterrorism at the terrorism awareness training at the Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department. Dewey Cook, emergency management director for Cleveland County, looks on. A dozen members of the fire department took part in the terrorism awareness class.

Bethlehem firemen train on terrorism awareness

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
 Staff Writer

A dozen members of the Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department participated in a 12-hour terrorism awareness class last week.

The training is part of homeland security, although it is not required. The training is simply something in which many fire departments nationwide have the opportunity to participate.

This is the first time the training has been offered at Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department, although some of the firefighters are members of the hazardous materials team and have gone through some training for that program. This is the first time the training has included

biological, chemical, and nuclear elements.

Larry McDaniel, chief of the department, said he hopes that wars will never come to the United States, but if they do the fire department will be ready to take care of the citizens.

"It's sad for me that we have to get to this stage. We're trained to save and protect lives. Anything we can do, we will do. We're excited to be at that level, but I hope we never have to use it, especially locally," said McDaniel.

The class took place Monday through Thursday, from 7-10 p.m. each evening. Participants learned about the laws, standards, and history of terrorism legislation, the nuclear, biological, and chemical

See Firemen, 3A

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