

The Herald

KINGS MOUNTAIN

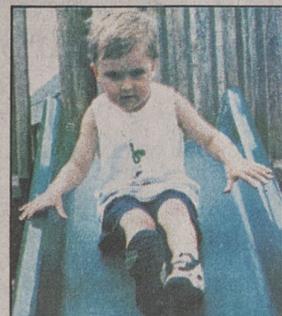
Thursday, June 19, 2003

Vol. 115 No.25

Since 1889

50 Cents

*****CAR-RT LOT**C 002 25
 307 11-11-03 0001400
 MAUNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY
 100 S PIEDMONT AVE
 KINGS MOUNTAIN NC 28086-3414



Playground is a favorite location for summer fun See Page 1B

Man dies from wounds

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

Jeffrey Rogers, 32, was killed outside the house where he was staying, on Saturday. The latest available information indicates that officers are still trying to find suspects and a motive.

Rogers was shot outside the home of Janice Moore, at 114 Pierce Drive, which is off Margrace Road, south of Kings Mountain. Rogers was supposedly staying there. The shooting happened at lunchtime.

Ms. Moore was at home during the shooting. Officers were looking for a blue sport utility vehicle mentioned by investigators but were unsure as to whether the occupants of the car were actually involved in the crime.

As of Sunday, no arrests had been made and no suspects had been named. Calls to the Sheriff's Office for an update were not returned.

Train strikes man in KM

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

A Kings Mountain man was killed early Friday morning when he was struck by a train near Linwood Road. The man has been identified as Dennis Edward Moore, 43, of 815 Phillips Drive.

According to police reports, Moore was walking along the railroad track when a south bound train approached. The Norfolk-Southern engineer sounded the whistle however Moore continued to walk along the tracks. The incident happened at approximately 1:50 a.m.

See Train, 3A



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD
Duke Power crews have rerouted electric lines in preparation for bridge construction at N.C. 161 and Interstate 85. Construction is scheduled to begin in August, officials say.

Lines being rerouted for bridge replacement

By ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Duke Power crews are rerouting electric lines along N.C. 161, readying for construction of a new bridge and access ramps onto Interstate 85.

Construction is slated to begin in August, according to Dan Grissom, a construction engineer with the state Department of Transportation.

When completed, the project will allow motorists to access the on ramp to I-85 without making a left turn across N.C. 161.

"Right hand turns are a lot safer," Grissom said.

To eliminate the left turn, crews will build a loop-style ramp for northbound entry onto I-85. The entry point of the southbound access ramp must be moved further from the bridge to accommodate the new, wider

northbound access ramp.

The state purchased several homes and a gas station to make way for the construction, Grissom said.

The project also calls for a new bridge over I-85. After the new bridge is completed, traffic will be routed onto it. During this phase of construction, the old bridge will be demolished. The road will remain open to traffic throughout construction though motorists should expect some delays, Grissom said.

In addition to electric lines being rerouted, the City of Kings Mountain must move water, sewer and gas lines before construction can begin.

The completion date for the \$6.5 million highway project is October, 2005. The work will be done by Taylor and Murphy Construction of Asheville.

Public input requested to examine new length of terms

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Kings Mountain City Council members will hold a public hearing about the proposed lengthening terms in local government. If the proposal is passed by the voters in November, the mayor and Council members will serve four years at a time, instead of two years, beginning in 2005. The voters' decision will not effect those elected in November.

Howard Shipp, mayor pro tem, said at the last Council meeting that it was important to consider the matter because with the terms as they are right now, it would be possible for citizens to elect an entirely new Council and mayor during an election.

"It's possible to come up with a completely inexperienced board," said Shipp. "It would be a disaster if one November morning, we woke up and had a whole new board."

Right now, 286 North Carolina cities have staggered four-year terms for their city councils. At this time, everyone on Kings Mountain's City Council serves two year terms that end at the same time. The Council voted unanimously to bring the matter before the public at the next meeting.

"Most cities recommend four-year terms," said Mayor Rick Murphrey.

In the past, Kings Mountain elected officials have served four-year terms. The move to two-year terms occurred eight years ago. The city held a special election, as a result of a petition from the Council.

Murphrey said that advantages and disadvantages exist for both the two-year and the four-year terms. He said the four-year terms provide more stability in the local government.

The Council members have four years to learn the process. Two-year terms make it hard for Council members to learn and gain experience before they leave

office. Advantages of the two-year terms mainly center around the fact that if a person is not doing a good job, they can be removed from office sooner. Those who are effective leaders can simply be reelected.

Shipp has served on the Council for two terms. He said it has taken him all four of the years he has served to learn about the job. Two years simply is not long enough to learn all there is to learn about the job.

"I find in this length of time that I'm just now beginning to feel comfortable with what I'm doing. It takes some time to even learn the ins and outs of the job," said Shipp.

He said he also recalls one time when he was young when the entire City Council changed over after an election. The mayor at the time was Garland Still, he said. With the four years staggered terms, the city would never have to face a completely new Council all at once.

"If something happened once, it could happen again," he said.

Councilman Jim Guyton also voiced his support for the change.

"I'm strictly for the four-year terms if the citizens vote for it," he said.

Guyton said his first term on the Council was a four-year term.

"At the end of two years, I didn't even know my way around City Hall," he said.

He said the four-year terms would allow new Council members to learn more about the office and the city. Plus, the staggered terms would prevent the entire Council from being voted out of office at the same time. An entirely new, inexperienced Council that takes office overnight could be disastrous for the city.

Councilman Gene White originally presented the petition for the change in term length. He cited the two-year term lengths of

See Terms, 3A

Reenactment group shows history by demonstrations

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Peggy Jolley stood at a wooden table in middle of the forest, chopping peaches for a pie. She would cook the dessert over an open fire while her husband Buck helped recruit more citizen soldiers for the Kings Mountain Backcountry Militia.

The peaches were real, but the recruitment drive was pretend. The June 14 and 15 activities were part of King Mountain National Military Park's new reenactment group.

Mrs. Jolley's now spends many weekends dressing up in clothing of the late 1700s, camping out in a canvas tent and cooking without modern conveniences.

"My husband and I were hunting for something to do together. We love history and its a cool way to teach," she said. "The public is a hoot."

She hopes the group's demonstrations will help local residents realize the historical resource that sits almost in their back door.

While the Kings Mountain group is new, several members have participated in other reenactment groups. They are educating new members like the Jolleys.

"Everybody is so willing to teach," she said.

During the late 18th Century, all men between ages 16 and 60 were required to join the militia with the exception of ministers and mill owners. The men came together regularly for battle practice, usually at the captain's farm.

Wives and children came along for two reasons - safety and a chance to socialize. The settlers were still fighting the Native

See Reenactment, 3A



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD
Dan Stowe orders "new recruits" to draw their weapons as Dave Sherrill gives a firing demonstration. The action took place Saturday during the Backcountry Militia encampment at Kings Mountain National Military Park.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK
Celebrating 129 Years

Kings Mountain
300 W. Mountain St.
704-739-4782

Gastonia
529 New Hope Road
704-865-1233

Shelby
106 S Lafayette St.
704-484-6200

Bessemer City
225 Gastonia Hwy.
704-629-3906