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Counties lose to Burns, at Crest Friday night

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Larry Carringer tosses a ball to his grandson James Russell Carringer as granddaughter Sara Carringer looks on.

ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD

'I choose to adjust'

Amputee Larry Carringer leads active lifestyle

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Before a rare blood disease threatened Larry Carringer's health in 1989, he thought he could handle all his problems himself. After the disease caused a dangerous blood clot, Carringer remembered God. When the disease led to the amputation of his right leg in 1993, Carringer's restored faith brought him through the surgery.

"I choose to adjust, to take what God gives me and go with it," he said.

Carringer sees his illness as God's way of bringing him back into the fold.

After the surgery, Carringer left his management job with an insurance firm. He admits the temptation to feel sorry for himself was strong but his six-week-old grandson James Russell Carringer would not allow that. After Carringer's daughter-in-law Sharon returned to work, granddad's help was needed. For three years, Carringer took care of the child Monday through Friday.

"It's amazing how that took my mind off myself," he said.

Along with God, Carringer credits his wife Carolyn, son Rusty and

Sharon with helping him through losing his leg. Even a client of his wife's pitched in, giving Carringer a motorized chair.

Carringer uses the mobile chair when he works in the garden and flower beds. When the grass needs cutting, he simply gets on the riding mower. Earlier this week, he cut the grass in his, his brother-in-law, neighbor and son's yards.

Keeping active was a conscious choice for Carringer. He had seen other people become recluses after an amputation and refused to do the same. Today, children and grandchildren of amputees approach him in public to say they wish their father or grandfather would do the same.

"I do everything I can to stay active," he said. "I don't see myself as handicapped though I am to a degree."

Carringer picks James Russell and his sister Sara up from Bethware Elementary and cares for them until their parents return from work. The two children also stay with their grandfather through the summer.

Some days he and James Russell go fishing. The two grandchildren like to play with Carringer's crutches, folding their right leg behind them. "They have accepted it real good.

I'm proud of that," Carringer said.

He hopes the two will never be embarrassed by him. Carringer believes if he continues to keep a good attitude, the grandchildren will do the same.

He chooses to use a combination of the motorized chair, manual wheelchair and crutches to get around. Because his amputation is so high, a prosthetic does not fit well, he said.

"I can get around a lot faster without one," he said.

Carringer is able to see the humor in having one leg. The Carringers were visiting a mountain farmer's market with friends when Carolyn asked her husband to hold a styrofoam beverage cup. As he stood by the door, passersby stared. It was then Carringer realized he appeared to be begging.

"My friends have a lot of fun with it," he said with a smile.

Carringer experiences what is known as phantom limb sensations, common among amputees. He still feels pain and coldness in his missing right leg, sometimes to the extent of needing medication.

"It's amazing those things can happen," he said.

What may be more amazing is the full life Carringer continues to live.

Annexation loop-hole?

City collecting tax but not providing service to Westover

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

A representative of the Westover neighborhood accused Kings Mountain City Council members of using a legal loophole to avoid installing water and sewer in that neighborhood and also mentioned a reverse annexation process exists.

During the public comment's phase of Tuesday night's city council meeting, Keith Bradley said his neighborhood was told they would have water and sewer within two years if annexed. However, it has been five years since annexation and they do not have those services.

"You have used a loophole in the annexation law to avoid giving us our due," Bradley said. "Why were we misled?"

The loophole Bradley referred to is a part of the law which says that water and sewer must be available nearby. Councilman Carl Devane, whose ward includes Westover, said that while the city has a moral obligation to provide the services the money is not currently available. Devane and Mayor Rick Murphrey said they would continue to work on the problem.

"We want to do everything we can," Murphrey said. Water and sewer funds are short because the city recently lost its second largest customer, Anvil Knits. The state also held back \$300,000 in funds due to a state budget crisis, Murphrey said.

More money will be available in 2005-2006, the mayor said. See Westover, 3A

"Why were we misled?"

Keith Bradley
 Westover resident

Citizen says Noell's position is 'rip-off'

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

A Kings Mountain resident took issue with the city's special events department during Monday night's city council meeting.

During the public comment phase of the meeting, Jane Martin told council members that the department's yearly budget is \$103,000 but only \$34,500 is spent on special events. Some in the audience could have been left with the impression events coordinator Ellis Noell's salary was what remained in the budget, \$68,500.

Noell's salary is \$30,000, according to city officials. Council member Rick Moore defended Noell during an interview after the meeting.

"He earns every dime of

it," Moore said. Councilman Gene White said he believes the special events department spends closer to \$200,000 if all cost, including city labor to set up events, is figured in. White criticized the city for sponsoring musical events such as the Beach Blast. The outgoing councilman said he may bring the issue up at the October 28 meeting.

The special events department also handles public relations and promotions for the city. Martin criticized this function, saying the city has already paid the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce \$30,000 over two years to promote the town.

"It's a rip off of tax payers," she said.

Council members made no public comments after Martin finished her remarks.

Teachers get 25% supplement raise

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Kings Mountain District Schools' teachers pay will increase. Board members voted Friday afternoon for a 25 percent increase in the local supplement for teachers.

All public school teachers are paid on the same scale by the state. Kings Mountain and many other school districts supplement what the state pays in an effort to recruit and retain teachers.

The board also approved a 10 percent increase in the supplement paid coaches and other personnel who assist with after school stu See Teachers, 3A

High School cafeteria to get facelift

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Kings Mountain High School's cafeteria will get a facelift over the Christmas holiday.

The school board approved spending \$211,163 for renovations during a Friday work session.

The project includes new serving equipment, better lighting in the serving area, See Facelift, 3A



Children enjoyed zooming around and around on the motorcycle ride at the Cleveland County Fair. The fair continues through Saturday.

ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD

Saturday last day of Fair

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Cleveland County's Fair is in full swing through Saturday.

The annual event has brought the crowds out to ride ride, play games, view livestock, visit the exhibit halls, buy merchandise and eat fast foods.

The traditional fair foods - cotton candy, caramel apples with and without peanuts, and vinegar fries - were represented among vendors. Along side those old favorites were some See Fair, 3A

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