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KINGS MOUNTAIN

The Herald

Thursday, November 6, 2003 Vol. 115 No. 45 Since 1889 50 Cents

begins
 competitive
 cheering
 program

1B



RESULTS

KINGS MOUNTAIN

For Mayor	
Gilbert "PeeWee" Hamrick	399
✓Rick Murphrey	1,392
For Ward 1 Council	
Lamar Fletcher	36
✓Howard H. Shipp	223
For Ward 2 Council	
Preston Leonard	32
✓Brenda McFalls Ross	172
RaeFord White	86
For Ward 3 Council	
Ralph Grindstaff	70
Tommy Hawkins	107
Clavon Kelly	80
✓Jerry M. Mullinax	113
Wayne Worcester	11
For Ward 4 Council	
✓Kay M. Hambright	224
Dean Spears	214
For Ward 5 Council	
✓Carl B. DeVane	299
Clarence "Buddy" Smith Jr. (Write-In)	68
For At-Large Council	
✓Houston Corn	1,206
Gary D. Joy	407
William M. Marcellino	614
✓Rick Moore	902

KM SCHOOL BOARD

Inside City Seats	
✓Shearra B. Miller	1,534
✓Stella N. Putnam	1,822

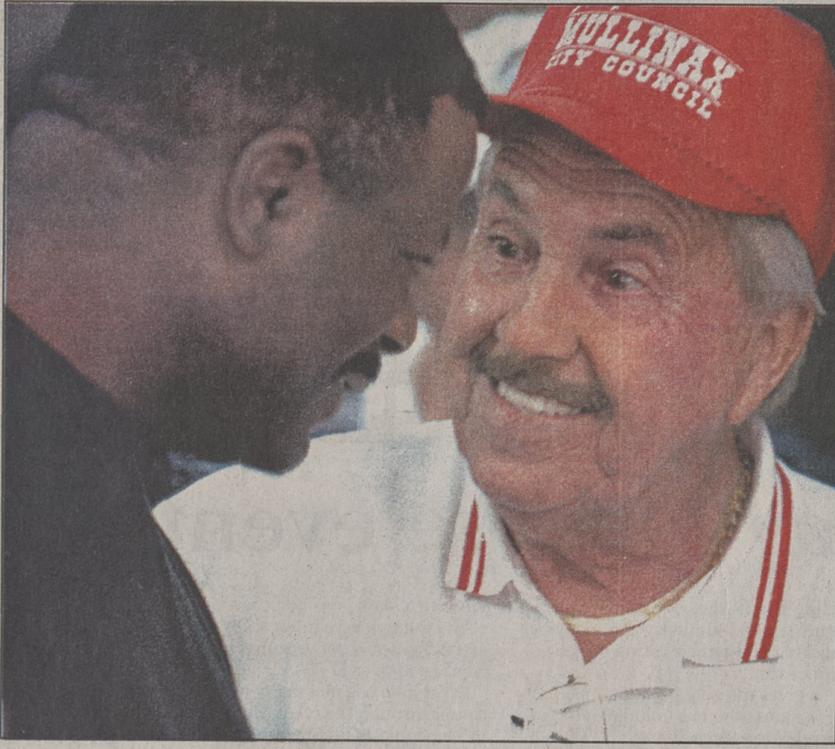
GROVER TOWN BOARD

Mayor	
Bill Ellis	20
Ed Pheagin	44
✓Robert Sides Jr. (Write-In)	55
Commissioner	
J. Kenneth Bell	41
✓Jacqueline Hope Bennett	84
Jack Herndon	33
Robert L. Hunt	27
✓Barry T. Toney	50

**CLEVELAND COUNTY
 SANITARY DISTRICT**

Commissioner	
✓Kathy Moss Blanton	1,112
✓John W. Cline	1,137
✓Dewey C. Cook	1,256
✓Sylvia A. Lattimore	1,098
C.J. "Pete" Pedersen	912

Oh brother! Oh sis!



Siblings elected to City Council (cousin, too!)

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Kings Mountain voters made history Tuesday electing two women and a brother and sister to city council. Brenda Ross, Ward 2, and her cousin Kay Hambright, Ward 4, were voted in. Hambright's brother, Jerry Mullinax, won in Ward 3. Houston Corn won an at large seat. Incumbents Carl DeVane, Ward 5, Howard Shipp, Ward 1, and at large councilman Rick Moore kept their seats along with Mayor Rick Murphrey. "I'm ecstatic. I'm so grateful for the people who supported me," Hambright said. While Hambright said she is eager to serve, she praised her opponent Dean Spears. She also gave credit to Maryam Amuda, a seventh grader from Shelby, who designed her campaign logo. "I'm thrilled. I think we can all work together," Ross said of the new council. She and Hambright will be the first two women to serve together. The only other woman to be elected to Kings Mountain's council was Norma Bridges. "We made history," Ross said. Incumbent Moore thanked his supporters for returning him to the council. He also had kind words for his opponents. "I want to thank my opponents for a good and fair race," Moore said. He congratulated Houston Corn who garnered the most votes, 38 percent, in the at-large race. Two seats were available. Mullinax, who won by six votes over Tommy Hawkins, credited his win to the absentee vote. "We're glad we won. I want to thank my campaign," he said. See Council, 3A



Jerry Mullinax, top right, talks with Curtis Pressley after winning the Ward 3 race in Tuesday's Kings Mountain Council election. Left, Mullinax's sister, Kay Hambright, watches as the votes are posted at City Hall. Hambright edged incumbent Dean Spears by 10 votes in the Ward 4 race.

Photos by Joseph Brymer

Board to meet on video poker

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Video poker is coming under fire from one Kings Mountain woman as the town's planning board considers conditional use permits from three area businesses. Those permits would allow the machines at those locations. One video poker operator says the controversy is not fair. Becky Lineberger, director of the Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry, spoke out during last week's city council meeting, asking council to outlaw the machines.

In two interviews following that meeting, Lineberger elaborated on why she is opposed to video gambling. She has watched one family member lose two homes due to a video poker addiction. While other family members have kept their homes, they have lost money to the addiction, she said. "It's like taking money and throwing it out the window," Lineberger said. While the number of Crisis Assistance Ministry clients effected by video poker is small, the problem is still serious, Lineberger said.

Lineberger has worked with one man who admitted to being addicted to the machines, though it's usually the wives of addicts who seek out assistance with bills and food. Don Johnson, who operates machines at several Kings Mountain locations, and his wife Zena Johnson say it is not fair to single video poker out. They say individuals can become addicted to almost anything including drugs, shopping and golf. "Anything can be an addiction," Zena Johnson said. While state law limits video poker payoffs to \$10 paid off

either in store merchandise or gift certificates, Lineberger says she has watched the law being broken. She claims to have seen a cash payoff at a Kings Mountain establishment. This was before she had spoken out publicly against the machines. Lineberger's brother Danny Shirah, who now lives in Kings Mountain, told the Herald he formerly owned three bars in Charlotte which operated video poker machines. Shirah claims to have watched customers win between \$5,000 and \$7,000 only to continue playing and lose all See Poker, 3A

Grover 'Sides' with write-in for mayor

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

GROVER - A write in candidate won the mayor's race in Grover and two political newcomers took council seats away from incumbents. Robbie Sides, who served on the council from 1993 to 1997, was elected mayor after less than a week of campaigning. "I think everybody was ready for a change. They proved that tonight," he said. Some of those changes include bringing back a police department. Currently, Grover contracts with the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office for police coverage. Sides also plans to apply for water line and beautification grants. He cautions change won't come overnight. "It's going to take time," he said. Sides got 46 percent of the vote. He ran against Bill Ellis and Ed Pheagin. Incumbent mayor Bill Favell did not run. While Sides' ran a short campaign, top council vote getter Jackie Bennett says she has "campaign long and hard." Bennett got 36 percent of the vote. Bennett decided to run after getting involved in a petition drive to create more access to the town's park. She says See Grover, 3A

4 charged, investigation continues

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

What began as a suspicious fire in an unoccupied home on Morris Street now has state and federal investigators' attention focused on Kings Mountain. While investigating the Oct. 23 fire at 104 Morris Street, police and firefighters saw something suspicious in the yard across the street at 105 Morris Street. Initially they suspected a meth lab and called the State Bureau of Investigation. Instead, investigators discovered a weapons lab. They found potassium cyanide, according to Ellis Noell, city public relations director. So far, four men have been charged. Roger Carl McFarland Jr., 21, of Mary's Grove Church Road was charged with second degree arson in connection with the 104 Morris Street fire. He along with three other men also face felony breaking, entering and larceny and weapons of mass destruction charges. The three are Phillip Lee Lovelace, 19, of Amy Lane, Jonathan Adam Garrett, 21, of Amy Lane and George Marion Adams III, 25, of 105 Morris Street. Kings Mountain Police met with the district attorney's office Wednesday morning to determine if additional See Charged, 3A



Police suspect this home at 105 Morris Street was used as a lab to make weapons of mass destruction. ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD

<p>FIRST NATIONAL BANK <i>Celebrating 129 Years</i></p>	<p>Kings Mountain 300 W. Mountain St. 704-739-4782</p>	<p>Gastonia 529 New Hope Road 704-865-1233</p>	<p>Shelby 106 S Lafayette St. 704-484-6200</p>	<p>Bessemer City 225 Gastonia Hwy. 704-629-3906</p>
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