

KINGS MOUNTAIN

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ROAD WORK

NC 161 bridge replacement and Dixon Rd. extension under way

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Motorists should not expect any major delays during a bridge replacement project on N.C. 161, state Department of Transportation officials say.

The state has contracted with Taylor and Murphy, an Asheville firm, to replace the bridge over Interstate 85 and realign its ramps. The realignment will create a safer interchange, according to DOT engineer Larry Clinton.

The completion date for the \$6.5 million project is Oct. 15, 2005.

"That's subject to change depending on the contractor's work progress," Clinton said.

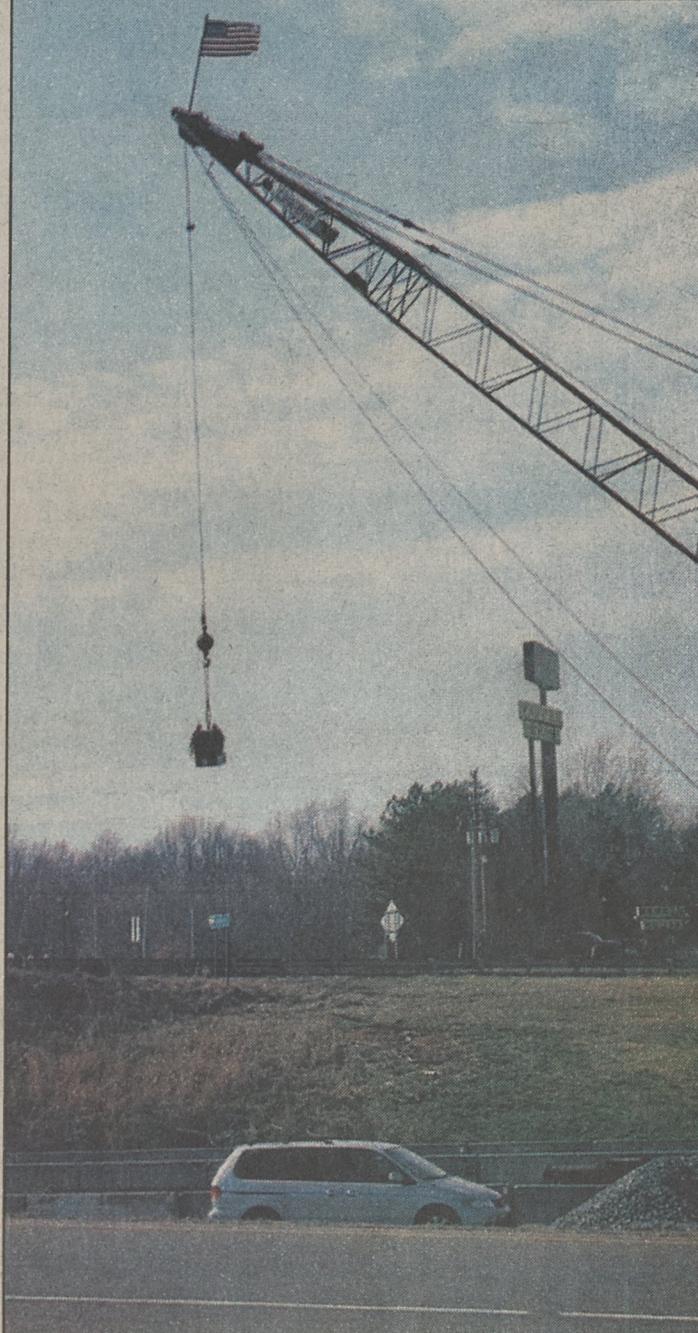
A portion of the bridge will be built then traffic will be rerouted onto it while the old bridge is demolished, according to Clinton.

The project will require a detour getting onto I-85 southbound. When that detour will be in place is not yet known.

Subcontractor Boyd Utility Boring is currently working on a storm drain that will run beneath I-85 just north of the current bridge. That will not affect traffic.

A \$5.8 million project will extend Dixon School Road to Phifer Road. Dixon will shift less than 100 feet at its intersection with N.C. 216. A bridge will take Dixon over the Southern Railway tracks.

Contractor Geymont Construction has begun clearing and grading. The completion date is November 2005, according to state DOT engineer Lex Garey.



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
Work has begun on a bridge replacement project at N.C. 161 and Interstate 85.

TAKING A RIDE



Cleveland County School Board members Mary Evans, left, and Jo Boggs joined other local leaders on a tour of a neighborhood whose children may be forced to attend schools in two counties.

No Gaston representatives attend East tour, bus ride

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

As a school bus carrying local officials headed down Boyce Street Friday afternoon, East Elementary Principal Jerry Hoyle explained that students living on the left side of the roadway will attend Cleveland County Schools next year. Those on the right will go to schools in Gaston County.

The county line separating Gaston and Cleveland runs down the middle of Boyce Street. Other nearby residential streets lead into Gaston County though all are still within Kings Mountain city limits and all dead end in Gaston County.

Hoyle calls the neighborhood "landlocked." Students will have to travel

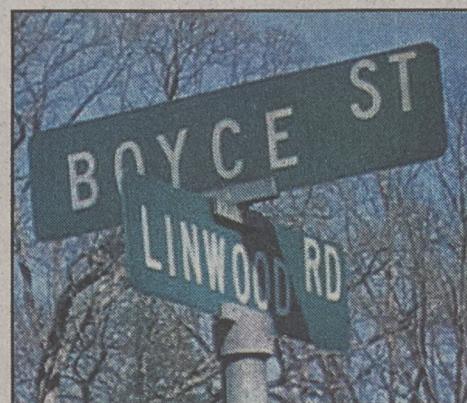
into Cleveland County before getting onto a roadway which will take them back into Gaston County to go to school.

Hoyle and other school administrators invited school board members and commissioners from both Cleveland and Gaston counties, local legislators and Kings Mountain's city council on the tour of East Elementary and a portion of the community it serves.

"We ask each of you to do what you would want done for your children and grandchildren if they lived in this community," Hoyle said.

Before the bus tour, the group gathered in the school's library. PTO President Lori Holland described East Elementary from 10 years ago. Test

See Ride, 3A



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
The line dividing Gaston and Cleveland counties runs down the middle of Boyce Street. Residents on the east side of the street may be forced to attend school in Gaston County.

KM woman's sister killed in Iraq attack

Jean Elliott, husband were on mission trip

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

A Cleveland County native was following what she believed God wanted her to do - spreading the love of Christ - when she was killed in Iraq Monday.

Jean Dover Elliott, 58, her husband Larry T. Elliott and two other Southern Baptist missionaries were killed in a drive-by shooting. A fifth woman has apparently survived.

The group was in Iraq with the Southern Baptist International Missions Board to develop a water purification project, the Associated Press reported.

Ronnie Wilson, a brother-in-law to Jean Elliott, said the family was taking comfort in their Christian faith.

"They (family) are doing much better than you would think. We know they (the Elliotts) were doing what they were called to do," Wilson said late Tuesday afternoon.

While the couple called Cary home, they were well known in Cleveland. Wilson said people had called and visited him and his wife Mary Wilson's home today.

"We're overwhelmed with people reaching out in love," he said.

While the couple were members of First Baptist Church in Cary, they had a serious impact on First Baptist in Kings Mountain.

KM Hospital breaks ground for expansion

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain Hospital officially broke ground on an \$8 million addition Wednesday morning.

Hospital officials, area leaders and other local folks gathered on the hospital's front lawn for breakfast and a groundbreaking ceremony despite chilly temperatures.

Hospital CEO and President John Young called it an "exciting moment" and paid homage to past administrator Grady Howard and former Kings Mountain Mayor John Henry Moss.

See Hospital, 3A



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
Kings Mountain Hospital Administrator Alex Bell, right, helps break ground on an \$8 million expansion.

KM teens killed in Tuesday wreck

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Two Kings Mountain women were killed in a single vehicle accident Tuesday.

Subrina Nellie Louise Jones, 16, of 304 Fairview Street was driving a 2002 Ford south on Rollingbrook Road when she ran off the right side of the road, came back on the road and ran off the left side going down an embankment. The vehicle landed on its top on a rock in the creek.

Shannon Lorie Hamilton, 18, of East Grace Street was

a passenger in the vehicle.

According to the North Carolina Highway Patrol, Jones was driving approximately 65 miles per hour in a 45 mile per hour zone. There was no indication alcohol was involved. Neither woman was wearing a seat belt.

The accident happened at 8:03 p.m. 2 8/10th miles north of Kings Mountain.

Both women were transported by Cleveland County EMS to Gaston Regional Medical Center's emergency department.