

BRIEFS

Fisherman drowns at Chemetall lake

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

A fisherman drowned Saturday afternoon at an industrial lake located behind a southbound welcome station along Interstate 85, according to Cleveland County Emergency Management.

The drowning victim, Troy Parrish, 36, was fishing in a lake owned by Chemetall Foote Corporation. Parrish was from Shelby.

Personnel from emergency management, Kings Mountain Rescue, Grover Rescue, North Carolina Department of Transportation, Cleveland County Sheriff's Department and several volunteer fire departments responded.

Parrish was located using an underwater video camera, according to

Dewey Cook of emergency management. The murky water was 53 degrees, he said.

Parrish's funeral was Wednesday at New Way Baptist Church in Kings Mountain.

Library announces Easter schedule

Mauney Memorial Library will be closed for Easter, Saturday, April 10 through Monday, April 12. The library will reopen Tuesday, April 13.

For more information call Sharon Stack at 739-2371.

Teams needed for KM Relay for Life

Kings Mountain Relay for Life needs additional teams. To get involved, call

Tracy Bledsoe at 704-937-3249 or Melissa Davis at 704-739-9655.

So far the project has raised \$17,000. The next team captain's meeting will be April 12 at 6 p.m. at the Patrick Center.

A representative from each team must attend bank night April 26 at 7 p.m. at the Patrick Center to pick up team t-shirts.

Relay is April 30 and May 1 at the walking track adjacent to the Kings Mountain YMCA.

Lindsey Gaffney on Erskine Dean's List

Lindsey Alana Gaffney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael C. Gaffney of Kings Mountain, was among students named to the Erskine College Dean's List for the fall semester.

The dean's list honors full-time student who earn a GPR of at least 3.70.

KM POLICE REPORT

ARRESTS

Troy Thompson, 42, larceny, \$200 secured bond.

Mark Russell, 41, 508 Crescent Hill, larceny, damage to property, resist/delay/obstruct, obtain controlled substance by fraud/forgery, assault on government official, \$6,200 secured bond.

Reeco Turner, 27, 400 W. Parker St., felony breaking, entering and larceny, felony possession of stolen goods, possession of marijuana, \$25,000 secured bond.

CITATIONS

Sherice Byers, 340 Crocker Rd., driving while license revoked; child restraint violation.

Craig Lewis, 600 Lee St., expired registration plate. David Allen, Shelby, speeding 68 in 45 zone.

Michael Jordan, 1013 Mary's Grove Church Rd., driving while license revoked, no insurance.

Richard Griffin Jr., Bessemer City, no insurance, fictitious registration number plate.

Howard Nickles, 1812 Alpine Dr., expired license.

INCIDENTS

KM Pharmacy, 1106 Shelby Rd., reported that someone obtained a controlled substance by fraud; and KMPD officer R.B. Putnam reported being assaulted at KM Pharmacy.

Paul Coleman, 1230 Second St., reported a break-in and larceny of a color TV valued at \$200, DVD player valued at \$263, three fishing rods valued at \$400, and 50 CDs valued at \$100.

Food Lion, Shelby Rd., reported larceny of eight cases of chewing tobacco valued at \$192.

Winn Dixie, Spring St., reported larceny of a color TV valued at \$99.99.

Food Lion, Shelby Rd., reported larceny of medicine.

Pizza Hut, Spring St.,

reported forgery and uttering of a stolen payroll check.

Badcock, Inc., 1314 Shelby Rd., reported \$200 damage to a mirror, \$200 damage to stereo speakers, and \$100 damage to a dresser.

Wayne Worcester, 401 Chestnut St., reported a lost hand gun valued at \$393.94.

A 16-year-old girl reported receiving telephone threats.

Southern Convenience Shell, 511 Linwood Rd., reported larceny of gasoline.

Lloyd Grissom, Bessemer City, and First National Bank, Kings Mountain, reported that someone obtained property by false pretense (forgery of check).

Mary McAbee, 825 Second St., reported that someone used a blunt object to cause \$400 damage to her vehicle.

James Creighton, 965 Lavender Rd., reported that someone broke into his vehicle while it was parked on Monta Vista Dr. and stole a CD player valued at \$125, 200 CDs valued at \$200, a boom box valued at \$60 and an adapter valued at \$75.

Pamela Thompson, 2017 Redwood Cir., reported that someone poured an unknown type of liquid in the gas tank of her vehicle.

Joel McMahan, Dallas, reported that someone broke into his vehicle while it was parked on W. King St. and stole a wallet, credit cards, driver's license and currency, and damaged the driver's side window.

Phillip and Justin Bolen, 105 Lovelace Rd. #4, reported being assaulted on First St.

WRECK

Vehicles driven by Darrell Thornburg of Kings Mountain and Lewis Warlick III of York, SC struck on NC 161 at Interstate 85. Damage to the Thornburg vehicle was \$5,000 and damage to the Warlick vehicle was \$3,000.

COUNCIL

From 1A

during the internal investigation.

Mullinax said the State Bureau of Investigation should investigate. He plans to ask District Attorney Bill Young to contact that office.

A consent agenda item which would have raised the rent on a city owned building was moved to the regular agenda at the request of City Councilman Howard Shipp.

The item was then deferred until council could agree on an appropriate increase. According to Hicks, some council members had questioned whether the increase which went from \$275 a month to \$325 was large enough. The building is leased to Horn & Associates.

The council unanimously accepted a report from HDR Engineering recommending it began the watershed protection and acquisition processes which

would enable the city to build a reservoir on Muddy Fork Creek.

The approval will allow the city to apply for grant funding from the Rural Center.

Council approved six to one preliminary plans for an east side sewer pump station and improvements at City Lake dam. Mullinax cast the dissenting vote. The preliminary plan would allow the city to apply for a loan for the project. Before the money is borrowed or an engineer is contracted, the council would have to give its approval.

Murphrey said the pump station would mean "tremendous savings" for the city. The station would allow Kings Mountain to treat more of its own waste water instead of paying the City of Gastonia to do so.

Council gave its blessing though it did not take a formal vote on a bell tower project at Mountain Rest Cemetery. James Belt Ministries plans to build a bell tower by Christmas. The

ministry is known for the holiday luminary display it produces at the cemetery.

According to Belt, the bell tower will cost between \$60,000 and \$70,000. He promised to raise all the funds.

"This project will not cost the city one red cent," Belt said.

Kings Mountain High School senior drafting student Brian Styers created a rendering of the bell tower which Belt displayed at the meeting.

Several city employees were recognized for service. Police Sgt. Derek Johnson was honored for 15 years; Codes Director Holly Black, five years; Meter Readers Brandon Bolin and Christopher Swink, five years each.

Murphrey announced the formation of a youth council. Two representatives will be selected from grades seven through 12. The youth will provide the city with their perspective, he said. Guidance counselors will select who serves.

BOWLES

From 1A

insurance for the 44 million uninsured Americans.

"Healthcare is something I spend a lot of my time thinking about," he said. "The healthcare delivery system needs a lot of work."

Many of the uninsured get their

healthcare through hospital emergency departments, according to Bowles. He said this is five times more expensive than a visit to a physician's office.

Audience member John Young who is Cleveland County HealthCare System president asked Bowles to work toward keeping hospitals and medical practices profitable enough that they can provide a safety net to the uninsured.

Some of the other individuals participating in the tour included Betsy Wells, Curtis Pressley, Sally and David Royster, Life Enrichment Center Architect Roger Holland, Denese Stallings and Marion Carpenter.

Bowles is a Charlotte area native and has worked in banking for 30 years. He served as Chief of Staff and headed up the Small Business Administration under the Clinton administration.

TESTA

From 1A

said.

Testa called the current period of unemployment unprecedented.

Testa owns and operates Roadside Truck Plaza, Inc. which has locations in Cleveland and Mecklenburg counties. He said the fact that his business operates video poker machines should not hurt him with conservative voters.

"I don't see that as an issue," Testa

said.

He is active in the Kings Mountain Rotary and the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce. He is an elected member of the National Board of Directors of America's Best Truck Stops.

Testa graduated from Northern Illinois University with a degree in business administration.

He and his wife Sandra have four children and four grandchildren. They are active members of St. Michael's Church where they support outreach

programs and building and maintaining a church and school in Nicaragua. Testa served for several years on the church board.

Testa has been in business in Cleveland County for 32 years. He has previously owned Jim Testa Chevrolet, Jim Testa Lincoln Mercury and Jim Testa Jeep.

He will face off against incumbent Walter Dalton. That primary is tentatively scheduled for July 20. The filing period runs from Monday, April 26 to Friday, May 7.

GAS

From 1A

Honda Insight gets 70 miles per gallon, Wilson said.

The hybrid car starts with gasoline then switches to electric. The car charges as it is driven.

"They (hybrids) seem to be doing better and better," Wilson said.

Gas prices across North Carolina average \$1.674, according to AAA. In the Charlotte metro area the average is at \$1.636, a record for the region. Asheville's average is \$1.70. The average for South Carolina is \$1.618, a record high for that state.

"We've been breaking records for several weeks," said Sarah Davis, AAA spokeswoman. A record was broken

every day last week, according to Davis.

No relief is in site, she said. OPEC plans to cut production in April which will exacerbate the low supply, high demand cycle though there is some indication that group is reconsidering reducing the supply.

Asians markets are using an increasing amount of gas adding to the demand.

Across the country, there are 15 blends of gasoline in use. This is due to varying state regulations. Making that many blends decreases efficiency at refineries further driving up the price, according to Davis.

During the summer months, more fuel efficient blends of gasoline are required which also adds to the price.

Some experts are calling for a delay in when the switch over to those blends takes place though Davis doubts there will be any change in the date.

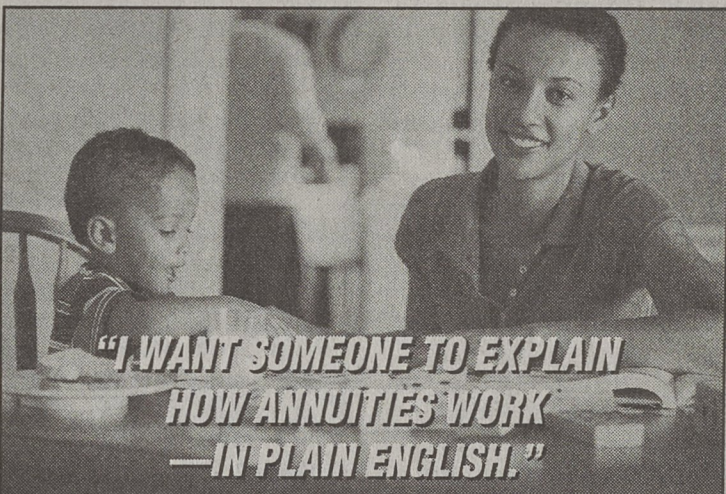
Davis says prices could reach \$1.80 a gallon.

"It's definitely a possibility," she said.

In Kings Mountain that has already happened at one gas station near Interstate 85. High test gas is at \$1.93.9 per gallon.

The average gas price in town is \$1.75 with the lowest known price at Petro Express at \$1.47.9.

Davis predicts the high prices will mean families opt for vacation destinations closer to home like Myrtle Beach and Asheville instead of trips to western states.



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Studio J Photography
Shooting Prom Pictures
Saturday, April 3rd *Capture the Moment*
1:00-10:30 pm (or later)
At our location
102-1 Cash Road
Hwy 74 Business
Kings Mountain, NC
Mike and Susan Johnsonbaugh
704-739-9113



BENEFIT CAR WASH FOR PROPHETESS KATHY JACKSON
Date - Saturday, April 3
Time - 9:00 - 2:00
Place - Royal Praises Ministries
2055 Shelby Road
Kings Mountain, NC
Donations Greatly Appreciated
For More information Contact
Bishop Brady Jackson
704-739-2895
or visit www.royalpraise.com