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Funds Ok'd for marking cycle path to parks

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Cyclists will have a clearly marked path leading from Kings Mountain to the nearby state and national parks thanks to Board of Transportation contingency funding.

Representative Tim Moore received word last week from Speaker of the House Richard Morgan that he had approved \$2,500 for the signs.

Known as "Share the Road" signs, these are used to designate bike lanes. In addition to marking a trail down N.C. 161 and Woodlake Parkway, signs will mark a loop within downtown.

"We're really pleased," said Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey. "This fits right into downtown revitalization and the Gateway project."

No information was available at press time about when the signs would be installed.

KM group enthusiastic about plans for tourism

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

A Kings Mountain contingent returned home from a state travel and tourism conference in Charlotte earlier this month enthused about the city's potential as a cultural heritage destination.

Museums, performing arts, ethnic festivals, antiques and historic sites are all considered cultural heritage travel, according to Ellis Noell, city events coordinator.

He sees the town's proximity to Kings Mountain National Military Park as a big draw.

"It has a lot of important association with the turn of events in the Revolutionary War. Part of our victory was here in Kings Mountain," Noell said.

City Councilman Carl DeVane points to the Kings Mountain Little Theatre's work on a battle drama and plans to build walking trails between the city, the military park and two state

See Tourism, 2A

FIREHOUSE COOK-OFF



Thirteen-year-old Rob Fox of Lincolnton (above) enjoys barbecue ribs at the Firehouse Cook-off Saturday at the Kings Mountain Walking Track. Below, Paul and Connie Harrison purchased barbecue from Home on the Range BBQ.

JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

Hickory Knoll Cookers repeat as grand champion of cook-off

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

The Hickory Knoll Cookers of Franklin took their second straight overall win Saturday during Kings Mountain Fire Department's Firehouse BBQ Cook-off.

Team captain Roger Aydelotte credits luck and consistency for the win. He plans to return next year and hopes for another top finish.

The team has cooked for seven years.

Aydelotte was impressed with the contest and the sunny skies.

"It's run good," he said. "Ya'll ordered up the weather perfect this year."

Organizers were equally enthusiastic.

"It went real well, one of the best we've had yet," said Firefighter Eddie Parker who headed up the fund raiser.

He credited department members for making it possible.

"If it wasn't for all their work, we wouldn't have been able to pull this off. When it comes to crunch time, those guys step to the plate," he said.

He estimates the total

See Cook-off, 3A



County Caucus gives victory to John Edwards

Party hopes to convince John Kerry to choose Edwards as running mate

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Cleveland County Democrats who voted in Saturday morning's caucus overwhelmingly supported fellow North Carolinian John Edwards.

Of the 223 who voted at the county office building, 184 supported Edwards, giving him 82.5 percent of the local vote.

"I'm tickled to death about that," said party Chairperson Betsy Wells. She has worked on both the Edwards' senate and presidential campaigns.

During the afternoon county convention, delegates unanimously supported a resolution asking John Kerry to put Edwards on his ticket as vice-president.

Kerry got 31 votes at the county caucus; Howard Dean, four; Dennis Kucinich, three; Al Sharpton, 0. One individual voted as uncommitted.

Wells was pleased with the turnout given the good weather and the date being one weekend after Easter, a traditional time for family vacations.

"Kings Mountain was well represented, and Grover," she said.

Of Cleveland County's 29,352 Democrats, 0.8 percent voted Saturday. Statewide, one percent of North Carolina's 2.3 million Democrats participated.

Edwards took 51.1 percent of the state vote. Kerry was second with 27.2 percent; Kucinich, 12.2 percent; Dean, 5.7 percent; Sharpton, 3.3 percent; uncommitted, 0.6 percent.

All figures are unofficial and are from the state Democrat Party website at www.ncdp.org.

During the afternoon convention, Boiling Springs resident Kathryn Hamrick announced she will run for the 111 State House seat now held by Republican Tim Moore. He officially announced his bid for re-election Saturday. Prior to the Democrat convention, he was scheduled to make that announcement Tuesday.

Wells was enthusiastic about Hamrick.

"We're tickled to have her on the ticket," she said.

Democrat County
 See Caucus, 2A

Filing begins Monday for local, state races

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Election filing begins Monday and several area officials plan to seek another term.

Cleveland County Commission Chairwoman Mary Accor and Commissioners Tom Bridges and Ronnie Hawkins are running again.

Accor has served 7 1/2 years including both an appointed and elected term.

Bridges and Hawkins are completing their first four year terms.

State House members Tim Moore and Debbie Clary both plan to run again.

Due to redistricting, Debbie Clary will no longer represent the Gaston County portion of Kings Mountain where a new district has been created. Clary will represent Dallas, Cherryville, Bessemer City

and a portion of northern Gaston County.

Moore is seeking his second term.

State Senator Walter Dalton will seek a fifth term.

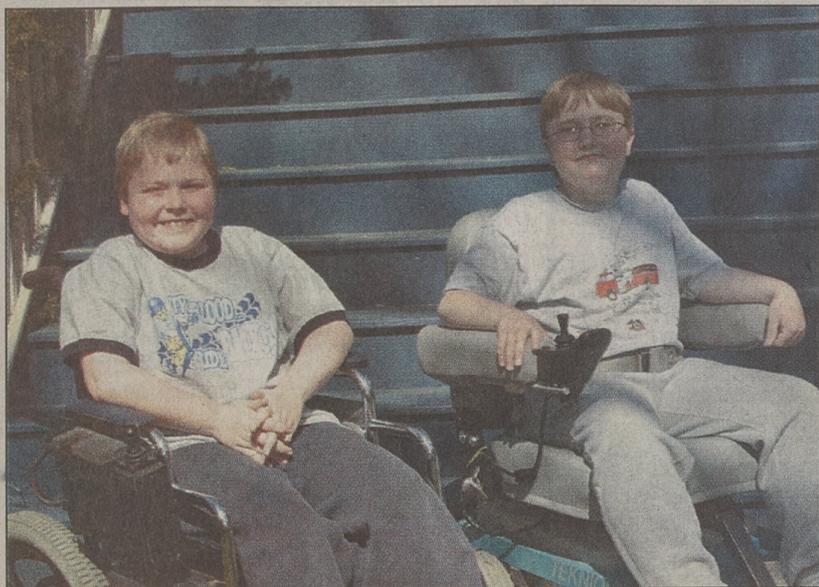
Register of Deeds Bonnie Reece plans to seek a third four-year term following a 1995 appointment.

District Court Judge Dean Black will run again. He has served a full four year term and finished an initial appointed term.

District Court Judges Larry Wilson and Anna Foster are up for re-election but could not be contacted at press time.

Cleveland County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor William Plonk's term is up. He could not be reached at press time.

Voter registration forms are available at the City Hall and Post Office, Mauney Memorial Library, KM High and Grover Town Hall and Post Office.



Brothers Paul and Nathan Ledford are battling muscular dystrophy.

GARY STEWART / HERALD

'This is a blessing'

Brothers with MD get van, handicap equipment

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

Saturday was a warm, sunny day; a good day to get outside.

Playing outside is one of the things brothers Paul and Nathan Ledford enjoy the most.

But it's difficult for them and those who care for them.

Paul, 11, and Nathan, 9, were born with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, one of the most aggressive forms of the disease. Paul has grown to the point that it is very difficult to walk. Nathan still can walk but at a very slow pace.

Saturday was a special day for both of them.

Through the efforts of family members and friends, they were presented a handicap-equipped van which will allow them to

get out more, and with less physical strain on them and those that care for them.

The van is equipped with a handicap ramp, and along with the vehicle came a wheelchair for Nathan and a Hoyer Lift which will lift them in and out of bed and the shower.

For a long time, they've had to be physically lifted in and out of bed and showers, vehicles and school.

Carl and Pat Champion, great-uncle and great-aunt of the brothers, made arrangements to purchase the van and have it handicap-equipped and painted. Many other family members and friends contributed to the cause, including Chris Champion, John Carlson and Artie Warren of Champion's contracting crew in Florida; Kevin Champion and John Grant of Kings Mountain who are working with the

See Brothers, 2A