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The Herald

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Thursday, August 5, 2004

Vol. 116 No. 32

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Teacher killed in accident on US 74

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Doree Light Williams' new co-workers at Kings Mountain High School were excited about working with the young woman they described as joyful, vibrant and beautiful inside and out.

Robin Spicer, who had known Williams for years, was sure the Pennsylvania native would have a positive impact on students.

All that was gone in an instant. Williams, 35, was killed Friday night in a two-vehicle car crash on U.S. 74 a few miles west of Kings Mountain. Kimberly Benjamin Boykins of Shelby attempted to pass the late model Volkswagen Beetle Williams was riding in when she swerved into the car. The Beetle hit a ditch on the right side of the road and flipped several times. Williams, who was not wearing a seat belt, was thrown from the vehicle, according to the North Carolina Highway Patrol. Boykin's car struck a guard rail in the median. She was not injured.

Williams' mother-in-law, Teresa Hammett Williams, who was driving the vehicle, was hospitalized with injuries. She was wearing a seat belt. Doree Williams' two children, Jonah Williams, age 6, and Abbie Williams, age 2, sustained minor injuries. They were strapped into child restraint devices.

Boykin was charged with misdemeanor death by vehicle and driving without insurance. She was not injured, a highway patrol spokesperson said. Boykins' speed was estimated at 70 miles per hour and Teresa Williams was driving approximately 50 miles per hour.

Williams and her husband Greg Williams moved
 See Teacher, 2A

BETHWARE FAIR



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD
 Seven-year-old Samantha Varnadore, left, and four-year-old Cheyenne Watts check out the rides at the Bethware Fair Tuesday night. The annual event continues each night through Saturday. Admission is free.

KM councilmen want to make deal with Hicks

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Will Gary Hicks remain as Kings Mountain's interim city manager? If not, who will replace him? City council will meet in closed session tonight to try and answer those questions.

Council members voted 4-3 last week not to pay an approximate additional \$450 a week to keep him. Hicks, a retired Gastonia city manager, has worked for the city since late February on a week-to-week basis until a permanent manager is hired.

Hicks' \$1,538 weekly salary is now interfering with his retirement benefits. He asked

council last week to pay him through a temporary agency which would protect his retirement. The agency would collect the approximate additional \$450 each week.

Council members Howard Shipp, Carl DeVane, Rick Moore and Jerry Mullinax have all said they hope an agreement can be reached to keep Hicks until a replacement can be found. Shipp, DeVane and Houston Corn voted to pay the additional money, however Moore and Mullinax voted against it along with Kay Hambricht and Brenda Ross.

In an interview Monday afternoon, Moore said he would like to see Hicks stay. When
 See Hicks, 2A

Gaston Board takes no action on KM parents' school request

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Parents, students and community advocates brought their fight to keep all Kings Mountain students in Cleveland County Schools to the Gaston County Board of Education's front door Monday night.

Board members were greeted by protesters holding yellow signs reading "Mountaineers say no to Gaston County Schools." More signs lined the sidewalk.

Inside, two parents and one grandmother asked board members to allow per pupil funding to follow Kings Mountain's Gaston County students who want to attend Cleveland County Schools.

"The money was good before the merger. Why can't you all release it?" parent Carolyn Neely asked the board.

Prior to the January merger of Kings Mountain District Schools with Cleveland County and Shelby City, Gaston County allowed per pupil funds to follow students living in the Gaston County portion of Kings Mountain.

"They have built a foundation where they are at," Neely said.

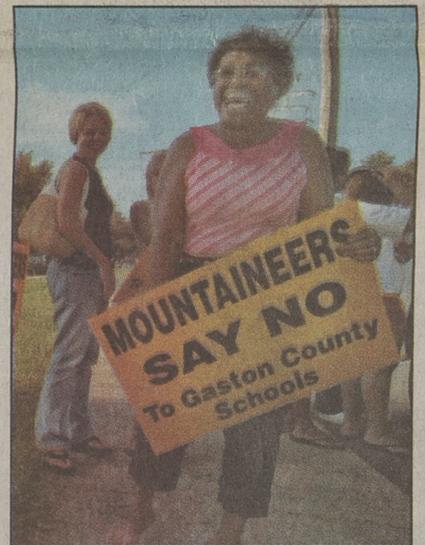
Neely lives minutes from East Elementary. Unless she pays \$1,414 in tuition per child, her five children will have to attend schools in Gaston County. After the Gaston County Board refused to allow the funding to continue following Kings Mountain students, Cleveland County School Board voted to levy the \$1,414 tuition. Board members Shearra Miller and Terry McClain, both from Kings Mountain, voted against the tuition.

Grandmother Ella Leach told Gaston County School Board members she "could not pay 50 cents in tuition. I'm unemployed." Leach said she prefers schools in Kings Mountain which have had higher test scores. Leach is con-
 See Parents, 2A



JAMES DAVISON

Ella Leach, a Kings Mountain resident whose grandchildren live with her, protests tuition outside of Gaston County School Board meeting Monday.



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

Crime didn't stand a chance

200 attend Night Out event in KM

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Crime didn't stand a chance Tuesday night. Neither did hotdogs and hamburgers. Two hundred area residents, law enforcement and public safety agencies attended National Night Out hosted by the City of Kings Mountain's Police Department.

Police Captain Jerry Tessneer kept the food coming off the grill assisted by secretary Shirley Payne. Music by top 40 band Honey Child filled the air. Soap bubbles floated through across the municipal walking track at Jake Early Sports Complex.

Kings Mountain Police Sergeant Lisa Proctor showed off the department's arsenal of technology. She explained that night vision glasses, sophisticated finger printing powders and sprays
 See Night Out, 9A



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD
 Six-year-old Leighann Gibson blows up a balloon at Tuesday's National Night Out celebration at the Cleveland Avenue walking track.

Parker's service Friday

A memorial service for retired Kings Mountain High School basketball coach Donald L. Parker will be held Friday at 3 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church.

Visitation is from 1-3 p.m. at the church.

Coach Parker, 91, died on Saturday, July 24 at his home in Bloomington Springs, TN after a lengthy bout with pancreatic cancer.

He came to Kings Mountain High School in 1943 as coach of the boys and girls basketball, football and baseball teams. He held the boys basketball coaching position for 23 years, compiling a 247-139 won-lost record. He retired as basketball coach after the 1966-67 season and served as assistant principal and later as director of the Title I program. He retired in 1975.

Coach Parker continued to live in Kings Mountain until 1998 when, because of his age and declining health, he moved to the
 See Parker, 2A