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Thursday, January 20, 2005

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MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY



Tasha Feester, above, performs a lyrical dance during the Dr. Martin Luther King Day Oratorical Contest. Mistress of Ceremonies Donna Huie Brooks, left, hugs contest winner Nicole Moore.

JOSEPH BRYMER/HERALD

Nicole Moore wins oratorical contest

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Kings Mountain High School students spoke about the influence of mid-20th Century civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King during an oratorical contest Monday night at the Joy Performance Center.

First place winner Nicole Moore, an 11th grader, credited King and other civil rights activists for assuring she had "the luxury of receiving an education without having to have so

much conflict and controversy surrounding me."

Moore said she carried King's torch of peace and tolerance by befriending people of different cultures.

Second place winner Spencer Erwin, a junior at KMHS, spoke about a children's tutoring program he and his mother started. Erwin described working with a first grader who could neither read nor write.

The boy surprised Erwin when he
 See King, 5A



KM Council expected to act on 10-year pact with YMCA

Mullinax opposed to idea, others lean toward approval

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

The Kings Mountain Family YMCA's request for a 10-year contract with the city is expected to appear on the city council agenda next Tuesday.

In December council voted five to one to adopt a resolution of intent to enter into the agreement. Councilman Jerry Mullinax who cast the lone dissenting vote said Monday he continues to oppose the contract.

Mullinax praised the YMCA but said he opposes any 10-year contracts. Long range contracts could put a burden on future council members who are bound by terms they did not vote on, according to Mullinax.

Council member Howard Shipp had not made up his mind. "I'm still praying, pondering, thinking," he said. Shipp called the contract a "big change from what we've been doing."

At-large council member Houston Corn had not made his final decision either but appeared to lean toward approval.

"I don't really have any problem. A lot of people use the Y," he said.

Rick Moore, the city's other at-large council member, said he did not have a problem with the 10-year lease and said the YMCA had done a good job. Moore did say he wanted to be sure everyone could use the YMCA regardless of finances.

The YMCA's We Build People campaign raises funds for individuals who cannot afford membership dues.

Mayor Rick Murphrey hopes the council will give the YMCA the 10-year contract. The current contract, signed in 1999, bound the city and the YMCA until 2002 then gives automatic renewals for the next seven years unless one party opts out. Murphrey said the stability of the contract would help the YMCA expand.

Since 1999, the city has paid the YMCA \$300,000 annually to manage its recreation program. The contract would lock-in that rate for the next 10 years.

David Ozmore, associate director of operations for the YMCA, called the cur-
 See YMCA, 2A

Hospital construction nearing end

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

A \$12 million building and renovation project at Kings Mountain Hospital is expected to be complete by year's end, officials say.

The first phase, a new 4,000-square-foot physical therapy department, is slated for completion in March. It will be housed in the former administration department located in the front of the building.

The second phase, 27,000 square feet in emergency and surgery space, should be occupied by June. This portion of the project also includes another 6,000 square feet in remodeling.

The new surgical department is located above the new emergency department for quick transfer of patients. The rooms will be bigger.

"It brings them up to current standards for operating rooms," said Alex Bell, KMH vice-president.

The emergency department will include a separate entrance for patients using an ambulance.
 See Hospital, 5A



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD

Construction continues on new emergency and surgical departments at Kings Mountain Hospital.

Last Shot

Restriction lifted on flu vaccine

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Come Monday the restrictions on flu vaccine will be lifted. The Cleveland County Health Department has 350 doses.

Late last year health officials across the country limited access to the shots because of short supplies due to manufacturing problems. Initially only the very old, very young, those with immune compromising conditions and health care workers were eligible.

On Jan. 24 anyone can get the shot. Despite the timing,

it's not too late to be immunized.

"We haven't gotten to our peak (flu season) yet," said Gay Melton, adult health supervisor.

The shot confers immunity after 10 days. As of Jan. 13, state officials have verified 24 cases of influenza.

The vaccine is free though the health department will bill Medicare and Medicaid for administering the dose.

The shot is available at the Kings Mountain satellite office. It is open from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 704-730-1371.

Board to vote on video poker next Thursday

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Kings Mountain Board of Adjustment will vote on two video poker permit renewals next Thursday.

The board held a public hearing on the two applications late Tuesday afternoon.

Board members quizzed applicant Ken Hamrick why the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Department had signed off on one of his video poker machines. He will bring appropriate documentation to the meeting next week. The machines are owned by Mountain Associates and located at 606 East King
 See Poker, 2A

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

'A Wonderful Life' for Lena McGill, 99

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

At age 99, Lena McGill can look back with contentedness and say "I've had a wonderful life."

The Kings Mountain native continues to be a vibrant member of the Summit Place Assisted Living Community.

Mrs. McGill was born and raised in a downtown home behind the old Plonk Brothers Store.

"I had wonderful parents," she said. "Especially my mama. She was beautiful, calm, serene. People liked her."

Mrs. McGill met her husband John McGill at Boyce Memorial Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

"We grew up together."

Though early marriage was common then, Mrs. McGill's mother encouraged her to wait a few years. She took her mother's advice and majored in home economics at Erskine College.

"I had a lot of friends. We had fun. We followed the rules."

After graduation she worked in South Carolina before returning to Kings Mountain.

The McGills married in 1933 in a lawn ceremony at her parents' home. The newly married couple built a home across the drive from her parents.

Mr. McGill worked as a pharmacist at Kings Mountain Drugstore which he
 See McGill, 5A



Mrs. Lena McGill, a Kings Mountain native, turned 99-years-old in December.