

The Herald

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Kids have
 fun at library
 Story Time



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Thursday, February 3, 2005

Vol. 117 No. 5

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AMVETS RAID



Kings Mountain Police and Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE) officers load up items that were seized from the Amvets Club during a raid last Wednesday. According to Det. Lisa Proctor of KMPD, search warrants were obtained because of a large number of complaints made to KMPD and the ALE. The main thing seized was alcohol. According to Det. Proctor, the club did not have a permit to sell alcohol. Possible charges are pending, she said.



First wintry blast kind to KM area

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

A weekend blitz of snow and freezing rain hit Kings Mountain though warmer temperatures melted most of the precipitation before Monday morning.

Public works crews were out early Saturday morning scraping roads and applying slag, a mixture of sand and salt. They worked through the night.

Police report no serious weather related problems.

No electric outages were reported, according to department head Nick Hendricks.

"We didn't even have to go out," he said.

Hendricks attributed this to the tree trimming program and regular maintenance and upgrading of utility lines.

Despite low temperatures, there were no house fires reported. Cold weather brings with it the chance of heater related fires. Fire Chief Frank Burns described the weekend as quiet.

To prepare for the weather, extra fire fighters were put on stand-by. Fire fighters also checked generators at public works and the Kings Mountain Red Cross. In the event of electric outage, a shelter would be set up in the Red Cross building located behind Kings Mountain Baptist Church.

More wintry weather may be on the way. The National Weather Service is calling for possible snow today and tonight with possible accumulations. Highs are predicted to be in the upper 30s with winds between 10 and 15 miles per hour.

"We didn't even have to go out."

Nick Hendricks
 Electric Director

Caring Kids

East students raise \$1,360 for tsunami victims

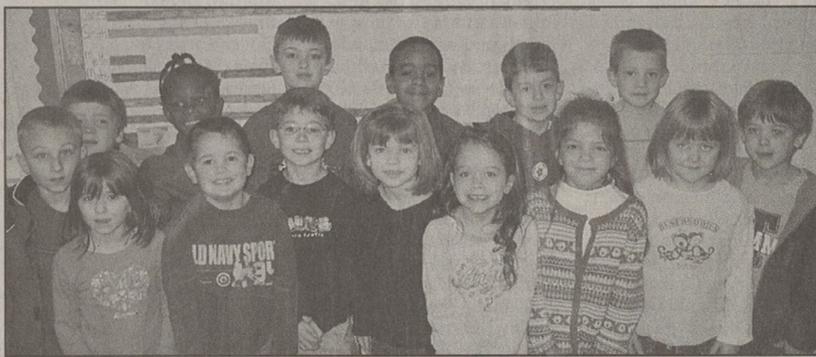
BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

East Elementary students are reaching around the world helping families in tsunami ravaged Indonesia.

The school launched a fund raising drive January 20. By Monday they had raised \$1,360.

"It's amazing," said first grade teacher Lee Howell. "They are so proud when they bring in their money."

Howell's brother-in-law Ben Howell is an engineer living and working in
 See Kids, 3A



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD

Students in Lee Howell's East Elementary first grade classroom are leading the school in a drive to raise funds for a water purification project in tsunami-struck Indonesia.

Citizens Academy

Seminars will educate public on city departments' functions

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Curious about how City of Kings Mountain departments work? A citizens' academy may answer those questions.

While no official dates have been set, seminars will begin either this month or in March, Mayor Rick Murphrey said.

The first academy will focus on the city electric department. Participants will learn about the city's purchasing agreement with Duke Power. The seminar also will explain the peak shavings plant and the SCADA system which enables the city to buy electricity at a reduced rate.

Natural gas, water and sewer academies will follow. Other departments like support services, Mauney Memorial Library and the police and fire departments may be scheduled, Murphrey said.

The academies are part of a nationwide trend among businesses and municipalities.

"I just want to get people more involved," Murphrey said.

In that vein, utility customers will find information about upcoming events in their monthly statements from the city.

2-year-old dies after choking on food

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

A two-year-old child living in a Kings Mountain foster home died Thursday after choking on a piece of food.

Christy Ann Lovelace's death was ruled accidental by Cleveland County Assistant Coroner Dwight Tessner.

A neighbor who is a registered nurse performed emergency aid on the child.

"They acted very appropriately," said Karen Ellis, program administrator with the Cleveland County Department of Social Services.

"Everything was done in an exemplary manner."

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

Retired Bible teacher Alexander credits God for keeping him safe

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Retired Kings Mountain High School Bible teacher William Alexander credits God for getting him home safely from World War II. First Lt. Alexander served with the 10th Engineer Battalion.

While leading a group on a bridge repair mission in Volturna, Italy, Alexander came close to injury or death. It was 3 a.m. and Alexander and his soldiers were riding in a convoy in an area claimed by neither Allies nor Axis forces.

Alexander was knocked from his truck when it was hit by a shell. He ran approximately 100 feet up the side of a mountain. As Alexander lay on the ground, he heard a helicopter-like noise. A mortar shell was headed toward him. Soon Alexander heard a thud. The shell had hit flat instead of on its nose.

"I said 'thank you Lord.'"

Another close call came in Anzio, Italy. Alexander and another man were stringing barbed wire around their encampment on a dark, starless night. The wire and metal was meant to protect against surprise

attack. As Alexander walked in a shallow, dry ditch, he felt something at his feet. Assuming weeds were impeding his way, he kicked. The explosion which followed may have damaged Alexander's hearing. Shrapnel flew but no one was injured.

"Again the Lord brought me through," Alexander said. "I had a lot of other narrow escapes."

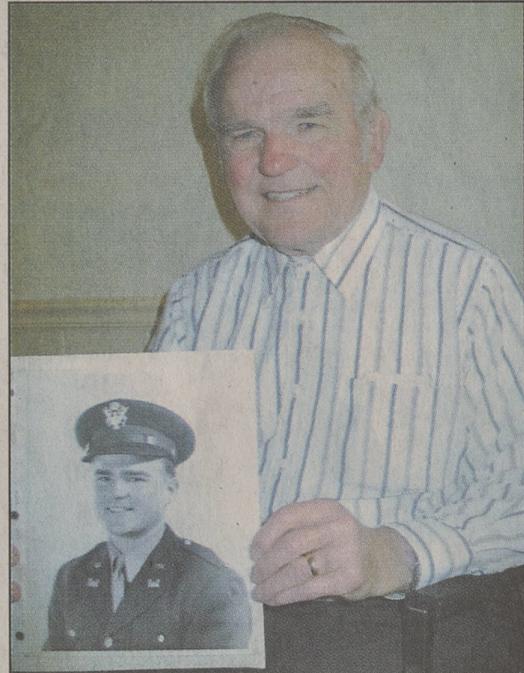
Later Alexander would land at St. Tropez, France on a mission to push the Germans back. That completed, the troops soon moved northward into the French interior. Mines needed disarming. The lieutenant slated to make that mission had not returned from an earlier assignment so Alexander along with a handful of men went in his place. On the road, the men encountered machine gun fire.

"I could hear those things 'zip, zip, zip' as they came by."

Soon they were forced to stop. German soldiers stood on both sides of the road. "We were surrounded."

Taken prisoner, Alexander and the other men were interrogated. A German officer told them "for you the war is over."

See Alexander, 3A



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD

William Alexander holds a photo of himself as a World War II Army soldier.