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The Herald

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Since 1889

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Mounties win
two games on
10-run rule

2B



INSIDE



KM kickers lose to R-S

Kings Mountain High's women's soccer team, a perennial power in 3A, is off to a slow start in conference play. Monday night, the Lady Mountaineers lost their second straight conference game to defending champion R-S Central, 3-2. 1B

Patriots win fourth straight

Kings Mountain Middle School got a 3-hit performance from pitcher Jeffrey Howell and defeated county rival Shelby 10-0 on the mercy rule Monday afternoon at Lancaster Field. 3B

Jack Greenfield paints like a pro

Jack Greenfield calls himself an "amateur" artist, but it would be hard for him to convince those who have seen his work at Kings Mountain Art Center that he is not a professional. 3A

Computers will help ministry

The donation of computer equipment by FMC Lithium to the Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry will help the Ministry and other agencies in Cleveland County better serve people in need. 7A

Seniors gear up for Games

Senior citizens are getting ready for the annual Cleveland Senior Games. Already, one dance group has taken first place in county competition and others are preparing for sports competition which will be held in April. 9A

Election talk heating up

Kyle Smith to run for mayor, Buddy Smith for council

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

A former Kings Mountain mayor is vying for the job again. Kyle Smith has confirmed that he will run in the November mayoral race.

After launching a write-in campaign two years ago, Clarence "Buddy" Smith has announced he will make a bid for city council.

Kyle Smith served a four-year term as mayor from 1987 to 1991.

Smith, who was mayor when the council hired its first city manager, said he believes in

giving managers room to work.

He doesn't believe the town should annex areas which it cannot provide services like water and sewer.

"Westover still hasn't gotten it," Smith said. "The law says you're suppose to furnish that."

Smith opposes liquor-by-the-drink. Potential businesses look at schools, tax rates and utility prices, not availability of alcohol, Smith said.

Smith opposes giving money to the Cleveland County Economic Development Commission. Instead he

believes the chamber of commerce should handle recruitment. Smith said Kings Mountain's proximity to I-85, railroad and the airport make it the best location in Cleveland County.

While Smith said he would not try to stop a unionized industry from coming to Kings Mountain he did say he preferred non-unionized industry.

Smith is a native of West Virginia. He graduated from Marshall University. After retiring from the Navy, Smith worked in personnel. He also retired from Combustion

Engineering.

He has been active in the Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis clubs and is a Red Cross volunteer. Smith served on the United Way board for 28 years and the Kings Mountain District Schools board for 10 years.

Smith is a member of First Baptist Church where he teaches men's Sunday school, drives the vacation Bible school van and sings in the senior choir.

Clarence "Buddy" Smith said he will either run as an at-large candidate or in Ward Five. Carl DeVane, who now

represents that ward, hasn't decided if he will seek re-election. The filing period runs from July 1 to Aug. 5.

Budget cuts are at the top of Smith's platform. "I think there's still a lot of fat that can be cut," he said.

Smith does not support cutting existing positions but did say workers should be used to their maximum capacity.

Liquor-by-the-drink would not get Smith's vote. He claims pro-liquor forces may work to elect candidates who support the issue. Smith See Election, 5A



K. SMITH



B. SMITH

CROSS WALK



"Crosswalk," a passion play held in downtown Kings Mountain, ends with the singing of "Amazing Grace."

JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

Easter drama draws 1,500

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Organizers say at least 1,500 people watched the passion play "Crosswalk" staged in downtown Kings Mountain this weekend.

Three performances were held on both Friday and Saturday nights. Thursday night performances were cancelled because of rainy weather. Reg Alexander, one of the organizers, said most people who had purchased tickets for the Thursday performance were able to reschedule. Thursday performances traditionally attracted more of an impromptu audience than the weekend shows, he said.

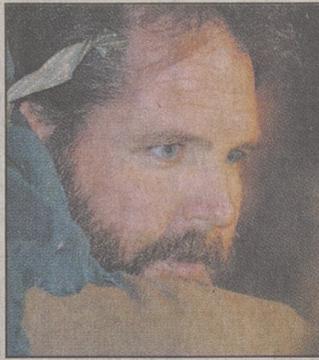
A majority of Saturday night's audience members were from out of the area, according to Alexander. He credits this to advertising placed in regional Christian publications. Money for advertising came from a Kings Mountain Tourism Board grant.

Alexander believes the play is good for the city's economy.

"It had to have had an impact on local restaurants and gas stations," he said.

Alexander hopes more area businesses will want to get involved with supporting the drama.

The weekend performances marked the fifth year for the play See Cross Walk, 10A



Jesus, played by Eddie Parker, agonizes in the Garden of Gethsemane

County budget requests coming in

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Cleveland County Manager David Dear is meeting with department heads regarding budget requests for fiscal year 2005-06.

So far over \$3 million in new requests have come in, according to Commissioner Ronnie Hawkins. That is contrasted with \$1.2 million in new revenue. Medicaid will take \$400,000 of the \$1.2 million, leaving \$800,000, Hawkins said.

Two percent of that figure will be consumed by cost of living raises and six percent in health insurance increases, Hawkins said. Fuel and energy costs will take another chunk.

Hawkins said he hopes the county will be able to give a portion of the \$1.2 million to the schools.

Hawkins is confident that the county will not raise taxes but will continue to offer the same level of services.

North Carolina is one of two states which require counties to pay into the Medicaid system along with the state and federal governments. Legislatures are working to repeal the requirement, Hawkins said. In Cleveland County most of the Medicaid money goes to nursing homes, according to Hawkins.

Department heads will make formal requests to the board in April. No meeting dates have been set yet. Those meetings are open to the public.

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KM High's renovation request going to board

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain High School officials will present a renovation plan to Cleveland County Schools' board members in April.

The school hopes to move its vocational program into a building across Phifer Road which formerly housed a textile mill. The property was purchased before the three county systems merged but renovation work had not begun.

The board asked during Monday afternoon's meeting for the plans to be presented in April. The building would free up space around the crowded campus. Currently 15 mobile classrooms are in use.

In other business, board members learned that Head Start will no longer be able to provide transportation to its pre-school age participants. Guidelines for the federal See KM High, 5A

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

Norma loves to serve

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Norma Bridges opened the way for women in local politics. The Kings Mountain native was the first female to win election to city council.

Bridges was elected in 1988 and served 12 years.

"I'm glad the citizens gave me a chance to serve them," she said.

The wife, mother and grandmother of a sports-minded family ran in hopes of being a voice for recreation.

"I wanted to do something for the kids," Bridges said.

She accomplished that goal. During her

tenure, the city built a walking track and improved ball fields. A road which ran through the city park was closed for safety reasons.

The city's 10-year lease with the YMCA, entered into this year, was a smart move, the long time recreation advocate believes.

Constituents at the other end of the age spectrum were also high on Bridges' list of priorities. She served on the city's aging committee while a council member.

"I love older people, now I'm one of them," she jokes.

Bridges won a seat as a political novice. While she campaigned friends advised her to run again if she didn't get in office on

See Norma, 2A



NORMA BRIDGES