

# The Herald

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Childers turns  
in two more  
pitching gems

6A



**INSIDE**



**Children enjoy  
Easter egg hunt**

Kings Mountain area children hunted eggs, had their picture made with the Easter bunny, and petted animals at a petting zoo during the City's annual Easter egg hunt Saturday morning at Jake Early Sports Complex. 1B

**Laura Bingham  
to speak in KM**

Kings Mountain native Laura Carpenter Bingham, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Carpenter and President of Peace College in Raleigh, will speak at the 100th birthday celebration of the Woman's Club in Kings Mountain on Saturday, April 9. 2B

**'Miss Julia' to  
speak in KM**

Ann Ross, author of the 'Miss Julia' book series, will speak Tuesday at 4 p.m. at Mauney Memorial Library for a benefit for The Friends of the Library. 3A

**Dutch couple  
love the U.S.**

Leo and Lily Smeijsters have seen more of the United States than some Americans. The Dutch couple have visited several states and are currently visiting in Kings Mountain, which they say is just like home. 2A

**Mounties win  
in tournaments**

Kings Mountain High's baseball team defeated East Mecklenburg Tuesday in the opening round of the Shelby Easter Tournament, and the Lady Mountaineers' softball team won a doubleheader over the 2003 Ohio State Champions in the Spring Break Tournament in Florida. 7A

## 127 sex offenders in county

Sheriff's Office Captain says they move around frequently

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

After police used a sex offender registry to find the alleged murderer of nine-year-old Jessica Lunsford, more attention has been paid to how offenders are tracked.

In Cleveland County 127 offenders are registered; 33 of those have a Kings Mountain address and two are listed as Grover residents.

Cleveland County Sheriff's Captain Bobby Steen says the registry is useful to officers "when it

works."

Steen and Detective Debbie Arrowood are responsible for keeping the registry updated in addition to their other duties. Steen says a full-time position is needed so that monthly home visits could be conducted.

He wishes North Carolina's registry worked like the one in New Jersey. There officers go door-to-door notifying neighbors when an offender has moved in. They are barred by statute from doing that in North Carolina.

In North Carolina, the registry can be placed on the internet and that same information is available at local Sheriff's offices. In Cleveland County, the information is available in the second floor lobby of the court house.

Kings Mountain Police Chief Melvin Proctor says the registry is a useful tool for his investigators.

Offenders must notify the Sheriff's office within 10 days of moving or release from prison. Failing to do so is a felony. Officers typically find out  
See Offenders, 5A

**"Watch them  
for any kind  
of unusual  
activity."**

Captain Bobby Steen

**KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE**



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD  
Bess Phifer with memorabilia from her Red Cross service during World War II.

## Bess Phifer served Red Cross in WWII

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Bess Hambright Phifer's World War II scrapbook is filled with pictures and mementoes of her Red Cross service.

The Kings Mountain woman worked with the American Red Cross, running recreation camps for soldiers during WW II. Phifer and her co-workers organized ball games, horseback riding and cycling for 500 soldiers at a time. Archery and golf were also on Phifer's itinerary.

A fellow teacher at Waco School convinced Phifer to apply for the Red Cross assignment. She's convinced it was her basketball coaching experience that got

her the coveted job.

First stationed at the Kilauea Military Camp in Hawaii, Phifer was within walking distance of an active volcano. Initially frightened, she was reassured that lava from the smoking mountain would flow in the direction opposite the camp.

When Phifer first arrived on the island, she spent a few nights at a convent. From there she could see the damage done to Pearl Harbor.

Phifer says the soldiers treated the Red Cross workers with the upmost respect. One soldier, a young man from Kings Mountain, was particularly fond of  
See Phifer, 5A

## NC lottery vote slated next week

Moore, Clary to oppose,  
Dalton does not respond

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Two area legislators say they'll vote against a lottery bill which is slated to come up in the state House next week.

Both Debbie Clary and Tim Moore oppose a state sponsored lottery for much the same reasons.

Moore said it would create a double standard where gambling would be legal for the state but friendly wagers on a ball game would be against the law. He called it "hypocritical."

Financially troubled people make the majority of lottery ticket purchases, according to Moore.

"It preys on the poorest of our citizens," he said.

Lottery proponents say the state is losing money to Virginia and South Carolina, both of which have lotteries. Moore calls that a "convenient argument." According to Moore, South Carolina does not regulate its alcohol or firework sales like North Carolina, though no one is pushing to change laws those laws. He also argues that North Carolina loses money when people buy gas in South Carolina where fuel taxes are lower.

Education funding has been the biggest argument for establishing a lottery. According to Moore, the budget is written in a way which would allow education funding to be cut by the amount a lottery brings in, creating no net gain.

Estimates on what a lottery would bring in range from \$100 to \$300 million. Moore believes \$300 million could be saved by eliminating duplication of services in Raleigh.

If the proposed legislation passes, the lottery will be a reality. Moore said Monday that the bill does not currently have enough votes to pass. He said that if the legislation had been designed to bring the issue to voters in the form of a referendum, it probably would have had more support.

Representative Clary believes that if the bill passes in the House, it will have no problem in the Senate. That legislative body has approved lottery bills in the past, she said.

Clary said she has opposed a lottery for the last decade. "I don't believe putting the state in the gambling business is the answer to funding education," she said.  
See Lottery, 3A

**"It preys on  
the poorest of  
our citizens."**

Rep. Tim Moore

**"I don't  
believe  
putting the  
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gambling  
business is  
the answer to  
funding  
education."**

Rep. Debbie Clary

## Enforcing ordinance not easy

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Sometimes helping your neighbor can mean helping yourself. That's the case when the lawn next door grows too high, city officials say.

A city ordinance mandates property owners keep grass under 12 inches, though enforcing the rule can get expensive. Once the city receives a complaint, a codes officer investigates. If the blades of grass, not just the seedlings, are over 12 inches, the homeowner is notified by certified mail that he or she has three days to correct the problem.

"If you get a citation, call us," said Codes Director Holly Black.

If it's raining when the notice comes, the city can extend the three days.

Black said she realizes some people, especially the elderly or someone suffering illness, cannot always take care of their own lawn maintenance. The city can recommend people who cut grass at an inexpensive rate.

When property owners don't correct the problem, the city then has to pay to have the grass cut. Recouping that money means going to small claims court, though often court fees are as costly as getting the grass  
See Ordinance, 3A

## City could lose CDBG money

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain Councilman Howard Shipp encouraged his cohorts on city council to help save a federal program which has benefited over 200 local residents.

During Tuesday night's meeting Shipp asked the council to write letters to legislators on behalf of the Community Development Block Grant program. The federal budget for fiscal year 2006 eliminates the program. Instead, 18 federal programs would be combined meaning nearly \$1 billion less in funding for CDBG alone.

In Kings Mountain the program has rehabilitated 16 homes, laid 10,665 feet of sewer lines serving 78 homes, and laid 19,905 feet of waterline to serve 124 homes.

"It will be a disaster for not only Kings Mountain but all towns," Shipp said.

Mayor Rick Murphrey has written letters to federal representatives and now council members plan to follow suite.

In other business, Councilman Jerry Mullinax asked for a public awareness campaign on the leash law. According to Mullinax there are too many dogs running loose. The city's ordinance is similar to a  
See City, 2A