

**OUR
OPINION**

Pearson will be missed

The death of Roy Pearson earlier this week took from Kings Mountain one of its best friends.

Throughout his lifetime, Roy was a strong advocate of youth sports, as evidenced by his long-time service as Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Kings Mountain.

But even before Roy assumed that position, he was very active in youth baseball and softball.

He played on numerous "mill" softball teams during his young adult years and helped coach and volunteered in the little league in supervisory capacities as far back as the league's beginnings in the early 1950s.

As recreation director, Roy helped organize a number of sports which kept kids and grown-ups alike busy year-round. Under the guidance of Elmer Ross, and later Roy, the recreation department grew from a few little league and pony league teams to one that included activities for hundreds of people a year.

In 1966, Roy, Bob Moore and Bo Goforth coached one of the best baseball teams to ever come out of Kings Mountain - the VFW Teener League All-Stars. That team won the North Carolina and Eastern Regional championships and finished third in the Teener World Series in Hershey, PA. Three years later the members of that team led Kings Mountain High School to its first-ever state baseball championship.

Roy always had the best interests of young people at heart, and he was very cooperative with this newspaper. He made sure that all of the games were reported to The Herald because he knew there are a lot of proud mommas out there that love to see their children's names in the paper.

Roy was one of a very few people to be elected to the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame the first time he was nominated. It usually takes several years after nomination to get the number of votes necessary to be elected, but everyone who has ever known Roy or saw him work on behalf of youth knew that there was no one more deserving of the honor.

Roy will be missed by a lot of people. Elvia, Butch, Margaret, Linda, Billy, the grandchildren and the rest of his family and friends have our sympathy and best wishes.



Gary Stewart
Editor

**YOUR
OPINION**

Shoe box collection big success

To the editor:

The Christian people and churches of the greater Kings Mountain and Cleveland County area made the Easter shoe box collection a big success.

God blessed us with 417 shoe boxes, donations of \$150 which went to purchase fishing nets, a case of T-shirts, and a bag of stuffed toys. Give God the glory for all of this. His people really came through!

These were delivered on Saturday, April 2, 2005 to Samaritan's Purse in Boone.

I personally want to say thank you to all who helped with this project for the Tsunami Relief effort. God told us that we are to reach out to our fellow brothers and sisters when they are in need. We did just that and once again, thank you to my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

I also want to thank the members of my church who so kindly opened our doors as a collection point. Thank you, Macedonia Baptist.

I also want to thank the following. Without their help we could not have done this task: Cheryl, Dean, Michael, David Creighton, and also little Noah, my brothers and sisters in Christ.

God tells us to plant the seed and he will water and fertilize it. We will never know this side of heaven how many people we reached during this effort.

God bless each of you who helped with this great cause.

Steve Wilson
Kings Mountain

Opinion Page Policy

The Herald welcomes your letters to the editor for publication in each Thursday's paper. All letters must be signed, and for verification purposes include the address and phone number. Letters should be limited to 500 words.

Mail your letter to Editor, The Herald, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086; fax to (704) 739-0611; or e-mail to KMHLetters@kingsmountainherald.com. Letters sent by fax and e-mail must also include name, mailing address and phone number.

For verification purposes.

Letters may be edited. Letters to the editor and columnists who appear on the editorial page do not necessarily represent the views of the Kings Mountain Herald.

LOCAL

Spectrum closes Hickory plant, part of production moved to KM

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Spectrum Dyed Yarns has closed its Hickory plant and moved that portion of production to the King's Mountain facility, officials say.

The Hickory plant closed in November leaving 140 people out of work, according to state officials.

"Many were laid off. They all had the opportunity to apply and bid on positions here and in Marion," said Rick Kilpatrick, Spectrum director of human resources.

Some opted to come to Kings Mountain while others enrolled in the Trade Assistance Act. That program extends unemployment benefits, makes health insurance available and pays tuition for retraining, according to Kilpatrick.

Five salaried positions were elimi-

nated at the Kings Mountain plant, according to Kilpatrick. In the last few weeks eight to 10 hourly workers were hired. Some of those hires were due to turn over others were new positions, Kilpatrick said.

U.S. Department of Labor records indicate that the Kings Mountain plant filed for Trade Assistance Act designation in 2002. The Labor Department determined that sales and production declined from 2001 to 2002 and from January through May 2002 and 2003. The drop was due to "increased imports of dyed yarns during the relevant period." The TAA designation expires July 29.

The purpose of the consolidation was to increase production, according to Kilpatrick. He says it has done that. The plant is operating six to seven days a week.

Rick Murphrey, who is both mayor

of Kings Mountain and vice-president of sales at Spectrum, said he didn't want to speak for the company but is confident it will continue operating here.

Gene White, a former city councilman, isn't so sure. He says during his tenure on City Council that Spectrum's water usage dropped from 2 million gallons to 1 million. White went off city council at the end of 2003. He wants the city manager to write a formal letter to the plant asking if it plans to stay in Kings Mountain.

According to the company's website, it is headquartered in Kings Mountain with production facilities here and in Marion and through a partnership with Elcatex, operates a facility in Honduras. Sales offices are located in Kings Mountain, Marion, Greensboro and New York.

KM Middle School soccer team wins conference with 10-0 mark

Kings Mountain Middle School's girls soccer team defeated Lincolnton 6-1 last week to win the Tri-County Conference championship.

Meagan Reynolds scored three goals, Ramey Kerns had two goals and Jordan Doty had one goal.

Alex Edwards, Ashley Witherspoon, Chelsea Champion, Mallory Mansfield and Megan Loftin all had great games as the Lady Patriots completed their season with a perfect 10-0 record.

For the year, the KM ladies scored 82 goals and allowed only two. They became the first team in the Tri-County in seven years to finish the season undefeated.

Coach Bryan Feldman gave credit to eighth graders Jordan Doty, Alex Edwards and Ashley Witherspoon for providing leadership.

"I asked them to lead by example on the field and they certainly achieved that goal," he said. "Without their leadership things would have been tougher."

"So much can be made of the goals that we scored that we forget how good our defense was," he added. "Destiny Pitman, Chelsea Champion, Mallory Mansfield and Taylor



Kings Mountain Middle School's girls soccer team recently won the Tri-County Conference championship. Front row, left to right, Miranda Davis and Brittany Rodden. Second row, Mallory Mansfield, Ramey Kerns, Kelisha Goodson, Brittany Baucom, Chelsea Champion, Erica Moore, Megan Loftin and Courtneigh Bumgardner. Third row, Victoria Greene, Alex Edwards, Meagan Reynolds, Brooke Hayes, Taylor Niesler, Jordan Doty, Ashley Witherspoon, Destiny Pitman and Rachel Perkins. Back, coaches Bryan Feldman and Donald Bell.

Niesler all started and Brooke Hayes, Rachel Perkins and Brittany Baucom came off the bench. They took pride in not letting teams score and they along with our keepers Brittany Rodden and Miranda Davis had eight shutout games and two one-goal games. They worked great as a unit and I am very

proud of them." Feldman said he has a "dynamic" group of seventh graders that will return next year to make KMMS a contender again.

"Meagan Reynolds, Megan Loftin, Ramey Kerns, Mallory Mansfield, Chelsea Champion and Taylor Niesler all started for us and Erica Moore, Courtneigh

Bumgardner and Victoria Greene all came off the bench and contributed to our success," he said.

"This was a great group to work with and I had a lot of fun with them," Feldman added. "They played so well together and they enjoy the game so much. They were a joy to watch on the field."

Living Will eliminates guesswork

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

After Terry Schiavo gained national attention in March and early April, the Florida woman's name came up frequently in conversations people had with Cleveland HealthCare Chaplain Len Byers.

When Byers talked with people about living wills and other advanced directives he often heard, "I don't want to end up like the

woman in Florida." Byers advice is simple. "Talk to your family," he said. "If we don't know we have to guess."

Byers defines family as the people who would be at the hospital if something happened.

"All the loved ones, the young, present family and family of origin," he said. "(Those) who would feel like they had a part in the decision."

In addition to talking with

family members, a living will gives people a chance to put their wishes in writing. After spending years counseling families who struggled with whether to discontinue life support or not, the creation of living wills 20 years ago was an answered prayer for Byers.

The Schiavo case has generated controversy about when to discontinue life support. Some believe that to remove ventilators or stop tube feeding of someone in a

persistent vegetative state is a violation of God's will.

Byers looks at the matter differently. He questions if for those who are in a persistent vegetative state only kept alive with medical intervention, did the initial medical intervention violate God's will. Was it not then time for that person to die.

To avoid the dilemma, again Byers recommends conversations with family and advanced directives. In See Will, 5A

**SIDEWALK
SURVEY**

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
THE HERALD

Do you think Kings Mountain can become a tourism/vacation destination?



Yes I do. We've got the battleground and all.
Kathy Costner
Kings Mountain



Yes.
Shannon Allen
Shelby



Sure. Anything is possible. We've got the state park, Crowders Mountain and the national park. We need a water slide.
Larry Laws
Blacksburg, S.C.



Highly unlikely.
Shirley Pearson
Kings Mountain



I think Kings Mountain is all right with what it is. It's quiet, peaceful.
LaDonna Taylor
Kings Mountain