

The Herald

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OVER THE MOUNTAIN TRIATHLON



Above, a triathlete bikes through Kings Mountain National Military Park. Below, local boy scouts manned a water station during the Over The Mountain Triathlon on Saturday.

Triathletes conquer Kings Mountain

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Over 200 athletes took on Moss Lake, steep hills, rural countryside and city streets Saturday morning during the city-sponsored Over The Mountain Triathlon.

A local three-man team took second place in relay division competition finishing in 2 hours and 31 minutes.

Dallas Stacey rode the bike portion of the event. George Patterson ran and Michael Allen, a member of the Kings Mountain High School and the Cyclone swim teams, did the aquatic portion. Stacey and Patterson work together at Universal Manufacturing. The team formed soon

after last year's triathlon. All three members have competed before in single sport events. Saturday was their first triathlon.

Other Kings Mountain residents participated.

Gene Summey finished first in the novice masters category with a 2 hour and 56 minutes time.

In the 40 to 44-year-old division, William Shipley of Kings Mountain finished with a three hour and 35 minute time.

Robert Reid in the 16 to 19-year-old division finished in three hours and 47 minutes.

In the novice category Brad Gardner finished in four hours and three minutes.

Overall winner Daniel

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Joseph brymer/herald

Resident petitions for clinic

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

A local woman is asking the Cleveland County Health Department to keep its Kings Mountain satellite clinic open.

Mary McKinney has presented The Herald with a petition containing approximately 150 signatures.

McKinney said it took her about a week to get the first 100 names and a day to get 50 more signatures.

Earlier this year Health Department Director Denese Stallings said the clinic was closing in June because it was not serving enough patients to be cost effective. The clinic averaged 157 patients a month or eight patients a day, according to

a Tuesday email from the health department. Some days there were no patients.

It costs the health department \$189,632 annually plus travel expenses for staff to operate the clinic, according to the email. This includes a \$21,000 to \$22,000 contribution from the City of Kings Mountain.

McKinney said she would like the clinic to stay open because it serves the uninsured especially those who do not have transportation to the main office in Shelby. The Health Department uses a sliding fee scale based on income for patients paying out of pocket and accepts Medicaid, Medicare, Blue Cross and most other

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Red Cross seeks aid

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Natural disasters across the globe, the war in Iraq and local economic slow-downs are taking a toll on the Cleveland County Red Cross.

The agency needs to raise \$35,000 to start fiscal year 2005-06 off with its budget in the black.

Local folks donated over \$47,000 through the Cleveland County chapter this past year for hurricane relief in Florida, flood assistance in the North Carolina mountains and aid for the Asian Pacific Tsunami. Assistant Director Sandi Bolick speculates that many of those donors typically only give once a year to the Red Cross. This year their dollars went to the national and international Red Cross.

At home, the Cleveland County chapter has spent more of its resources on Armed Forces Emergency Services this year. During FY 2003-04 the chapter helped over 50 military families. Through May of this fiscal year the agency already has served 71 families. Bolick attributes the increase to the war in Iraq.

Part of the Red Cross' congressional charter mandates that it notify and bring home military personnel with a family emergency.

The agency provides emergency assistance after house fires including temporary lodging and help with food and clothing. Lay-offs and plant closing mean fewer families can afford renter's insurance meaning they need more help after a fire, Bolick said.

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Election filing opens July 1

Entire KM Council up

Who is running for Kings Mountain and Grover council seats? Answers will begin to be available July 1. Filing opens at noon on July 1 and runs through noon on August 5 for the Nov. 8 election.

All seven Kings Mountain council seats and the mayor's office are up for reelection. In Grover, the three seats occupied by John Harry, Max Rollins and Bill Willis are up.

Cleveland County denied funding for a project which would have established a satellite early voting site in Kings Mountain.

The Elections Board has appealed to the City of Kings Mountain to fund the satellite early voting site, a request which would cost between \$6,000 and \$10,000 funding, according to Chairman Steve Wells.

The city does not have an adequate space to hold the election, according to Mayor Rick Murhprey. While churches are used for most voting sites in Kings Mountain on election day, rules prohibit this during satellite early voting.

Registration forms are available at Kings Mountain City Hall, Grover Town Hall, Mauney Memorial Library and all post offices and high schools.

Voters must be registered by Oct. 14. Absentee voting by mail begins Oct. 7. One-stop absentee voting begins Oct. 20. For more information, call 704-484-4858.

KMHS BAND MAN

Doggett takes director post

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Gil Doggett will lead Kings Mountain High School's band this fall.

The assistant director has stepped into the position left open by Chris Cole's retirement.

Doggett says he is "appreciative and humbled by the town's support." Both alumni and others come out for concerts.

Administrators at both KMHS and KMMS have given the program "top notch support," according to Doggett.

"It's awesome. We couldn't ask for better," he said. "I consider it a privilege to be able to teach and work here."

Doggett first played the drums in fifth grade. He participated in the East Rutherford High School band program and majored in music education at Appalachian State University. After student teaching at KMHS, he worked for three years at Rockingham Junior High. In 1991, he



joined the Kings Mountain faculty as assistant director.

Some of the songs for the upcoming year will have a Spanish and Latin theme, Doggett said. There will be no changes to uniforms.

Kings Mountain has several bands

including the marching band, the by-audition-only Blazer Band named for the gold blazers the musicians wear and seventh, eighth and ninth grade bands. KMHS also offers a music theory class.

"That's been a fun class to work with," Doggett said.

In seventh grade the band is divided into three classes - brass, woodwind and percussion. The group unites for a spring concert. In eighth grade they are combined into one class. Ninth grade is the first year students play at the state band concert festival.

Doggett likes having students for six years.

"It's rewarding. You see them through middle school to graduation," he said.

He has watched students sometimes struggle through middle school then hit their stride in high school. Consistent practice is his advice to all students.

Doggett says the high school band will have around 100 members this year.