

The Herald

*****CAR-RT LOT**C 008
307 03-24-07 0002A00 8P 85
MAUNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY
100 S PIEDMONT AVE
KINGS MOUNTAIN NC 28086-3414

program on
Battle of Kings
Mountain 225th
anniversary



(Insert)

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Vol. 117 No. 40

Since 1889

50 Cents

Problems continue for mill

Minette cited for asbestos related violation

ANDIE BRYMER

abrymer@kingsmountainherald.com

GROVER - A mill which burned twice this summer is causing controversy. Minette Mills contains asbestos and is being blamed for possible loss of economic development.

Cindy Pruitt with Cleveland County Solid Waste confirmed Tuesday morning that there was an asbestos related violation at the mill but would not elaborate.

"He knows there's a violation and he's been very cooperative," Pruitt said of property owner Clyde Huffman.

Pruitt said that the asbestos complaint came from the Cleveland County Fire Marshall's Office. The building burned in July and again in August.

Pruitt said she could not provide a date when the asbestos would be removed. The asbestos would be tested by the state to determine how it should be disposed of in the Cleveland County Landfill. Pruitt said there was no fine levied.

According to the county Fire Marshall's Office, the investigation of the fire continues in conjunction with the Grover Police Department. In mid-August the Fire Marshall's Office said the fires were arson.

During Tuesday night's Grover Council meeting, Commissioner Max Rollins expressed safety concerns regarding the asbestos.

"The wind blows all over Grover," he said. "I'm not pleased with it."

"I'm not either," said Mayor Robert Sides. "It looks terrible."

Commissioner John Harry blamed the appearance of Minette Mill for jeopardizing the sale of his mill, Grover Industries. Harry said that in mid-September a real estate broker brought a potential buyer to look at Grover Industries. After driving by Minette Mill the potential buyer told the agent "I don't care what the price is. I don't like the neighborhood," Harry said.

Huffman could not be reached for comment.

SALUTE TO BILL BATES



Coach Bill Bates, right, is reunited with 1963 running back Mike Huffstickler at Thursday's Salute to Bill Bates at the Patrick Center. Below, Bates listens from the audience as former players speak about his impact on their lives.

Dinner, dedication of field house honor former coach, administrator

GARY STEWART

gstewart@kingsmountainherald.com

Kings Mountain returned to some of its football glory days Thursday night when approximately 200 former players and supporters honored retired coach and educator Bill Bates with a Salute to Bill Bates dinner at The Patrick Center.

Bates served on the KMHS coaching staff from 1957-70 and was head football coach and athletic director in the 1960s when most of the current KMHS and KMMS athletic facilities were built.

The Gamble Stadium field house was named in honor of Bates during half-time of Friday's game with East Gaston.

"It is a very humbling experience to be honored by those you have dealt with," Coach Bates said in response to the special night at the Patrick Center in which numerous former players and officials from Cleveland County Schools and Gardner-Webb University recalled his positive impact on sports and the community.

A special committee consisting of former players and members of the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame planned the Thursday and Friday events. At the dinner, GWU president Frank Bonner

announced that the special committee had endowed the Billy G. Bates Scholarship which will go to KMHS students attending GWU.

"A good event like this takes place because of good leadership," Bates told the crowd. "Kings Mountain has been blessed with good leaders."

Bates urged the current school system to return the "ideals of discipline in athletics" to the classroom and urged everyone in the crowd "to keep your eyes upon Jesus. That's all that really matters."

Prior to his remarks, former player Steve Baker introduced a host of former players who spoke of Coach Bates' influence on their lives.

Baker, the leading rusher on Bates' championship 1964 team, said Bates was his first male teacher and "always set high standards and great expectations." He recalled that the reason he came back home after graduating college was so he could coach on Bates' staff.

"When I first approached him about joining his staff he said he'd like to have me but couldn't pay me," Baker recalled. "The fact that I was on his staff was pay enough for me."

Ken Baity, KM's first 1,000-yard rusher in Bates' first year here in '57, said no one

See Bates, 4A



DeVane out, Ballew in Council race

Ward 5 councilman withdraws due to Lou Gehrig's disease

ANDIE BRYMER

abrymer@kingsmountainherald.com

Ward 5 incumbent Carl DeVane has withdrawn from the Kings Mountain City Council race while another resident has announced her candidacy.

DeVane announced Tuesday that he is withdrawing due to health problems.

"It is with great sadness that I am withdrawing my name, effective immediately, from the ballot for the November 8, 2005 election to the Kings Mountain City Council due to health concerns.

"I feel that my decision is in the best interest of myself, my family, and the residents of Ward 5 as I intend to focus all my energy on fighting the disease of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, which I was diagnosed with this past spring.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the citizens of Kings Mountain and in particular Ward 5 since 1999. I wish nothing but the best for this city that I love so dearly, and ask only that you keep me and my family in your prayers as we face the journey ahead," DeVane wrote in a press release.

Mayor Rick Murphrey praised DeVane for his service to the city.

See DeVane, 2A



DEVANE



BALLEW

Wreck kills woman, driver faces DWI and other charges

ANDIE BRYMER

abrymer@kingsmountainherald.com

A woman died in a single vehicle crash Tuesday night on Longbranch Road.

Her name has not been released pending notification of the family.

The driver, Jonathan Funderburke, 26, of New Haven Drive, Gastonia, has been charged with failure to stop for a stop sign, driving while impaired, driving left of center and driving while license revoked, according to the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

Charges are probably pending in connection with the passenger's death. That would go through the District Attorney's office, according to the Highway Patrol.

Two other passengers were in the vehicle, Barry Holland of 200 Pinewood Dr., Grover and Wendy Catterton of 318 Queens Road, Gastonia.

The wreck happened at 7:48 p.m. A Cleveland County Sheriff's Officer saw the car run the stop sign on Bethlehem Church Road onto Longbranch Road. Before the deputy could make the traffic stop the car had run off the right side of the road, hit a driveway culvert and overturned, according to the Highway Patrol.

New exhibit ready for KM Battle celebration

ANDIE BRYMER

abrymer@kingsmountainherald.com

Kings Mountain National Military Park is slated to unveil a new exhibit during this weekend's 225th anniversary celebration.

Staff from Southern Custom Exhibits have been working since June. The exhibit features a "forest." Visitors can walk inside eight giant "trees" including a white oak, red oak, poplar and hickory for audiovisual history lessons. Lighting has been designed to project shadows onto the floor like those seen in the woods.

A cabin also is part of the exhibit. Using a scrim, visitors first see the image of an Overmountain Man bidding his wife goodbye as he leaves for Kings Mountain. As the lighting changes, visitors see inside the cabin where a woman holds a baby.

There is a topographical map showing troop movements during the battle. Inside



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD

Joey Iverson of Southern Custom Exhibits prepares to mount a rifle owned by Major Patrick Ferguson.

artifact cases are swords, muskets, shoe buckles and a rifle belonging to Major Patrick Ferguson.

The National Park Service has contracted

See Battle, 5A

Communication tower to be built on Piedmont

ANDIE BRYMER

abrymer@kingsmountainherald.com

Communicating will get easier for emergency responders across Cleveland County once an 800 megahertz system is put in place. Police, fire fighters and local officials and staff held a ground breaking ceremony for the first of three towers Thursday at the Kings Mountain Public Works Department on North Piedmont Avenue.

Cleveland County Commissioner Willie McIntosh called it an "historic occasion." The movement to improve communications started in 1999 when deputies told the newly elected official that there was a serious problem. The county's new system also will be connected to the North Carolina Highway Patrol's VIPER communications network.

Kings Mountain Police Chief Melvin Proctor said Cleveland is the first county in

See Tower, 2A



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD

Shelby Police Chief Tandy Carter, left, Kings Mountain Police Chief Melvin Proctor, Cleveland County Communications Engineer Joe Cherry, Sheriff Raymond Hamrick and Highway Patrol First Sgt. David Allen break ground on a new communications tower at Kings Mountain Public Works Department.