

LOCAL

Friday fire blamed on candle

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Fire destroyed a home at 113 Dixon School Road Friday.

A lit candle sitting too close to the bed and an open window caused the fire, according to the Cleveland County Fire Marshall's Office.

A mother and her daughter were home when the fire happened. No one was injured. Red Cross assisted the family, according to Deputy Fire Marshall Perry Davis.

Bethlehem, Grover, Oak Grove and Kings Mountain fire departments responded.

A December 13 fire at Kings Mountain International was accidental, according to Dewey Cook of the Cleveland County Fire Marshall's Office.

The fire at the 1755 South Battleground Avenue metal fabrication plant started around 10 a.m. in a container that held titanium, officials say.

Grover Fire Department was the first on the scene. Grover,

Bethlehem, Oak Grove, Number 3, Cleveland County and Kings Mountain fire departments fought the blaze that Cook describes as "intense" at times.

Following the blaze, the fire marshall's office issued the business a temporary certificate of occupancy to start repairs, Cook said.

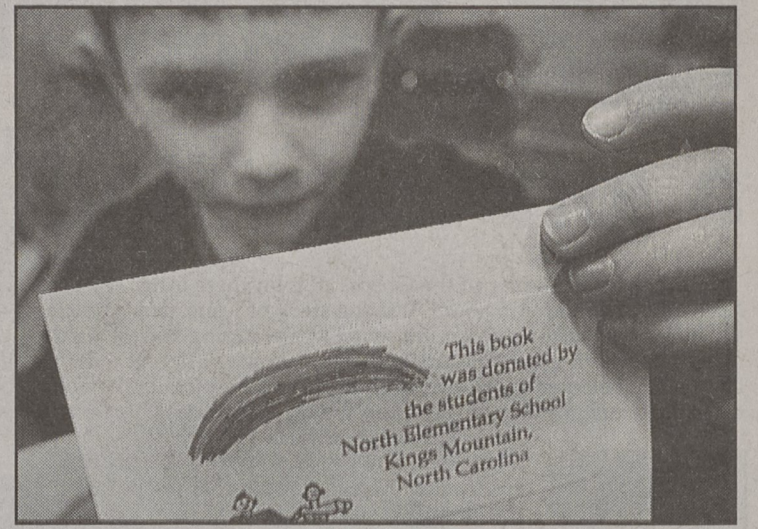
The company has offered little comment. A person answering the telephone Monday said the company was "getting

there" when asked about repairs.

"That's about all the comment they'll make," she said.

In Grover the investigation continues of two fires at Minette Mill. The first blaze was July 10. A second fire followed on Aug. 4. The first blaze was considered the largest in Grover in the last century.

Officials consider the Minette fires suspicious.



JOHN HARRIS

Harris drawing dedication plate for book going to Mississippi

A drawing by John Harris, a kindergartner at North Elementary School, has been selected as a dedication plate for books being donated to a Laurel, Mississippi library.

Students at North Elementary donated books along with the Scholastic Book Company. The school library sponsored the book drive. Each book going to Mississippi will have a dedication plate in the front reading, "This book was donated by the students of North Elementary School, Kings Mountain, North Carolina."

library as "wrecked" and says he would be sad if that happened to his library.

John drew a photo of two people holding hands beneath a rainbow. He describes it as a "happy day now" and says his mother helped with the concept.

John won a gift certificate to McDonalds, free ice cream at school and a special pencil. He is a student in Susan Goforth's classroom.

John is the son of Johnny and Ashley Harris and has two younger sisters, twins Layla Harris and Abbie Harris.

John describes the Laurel

Mrs. Gore's son dies in plane crash

A Kings Mountain woman's son died Monday, Jan. 2 when his airplane crashed in Summit County, Montana.

Thomas Mark Harmon, 50, was a native of Shelby and the son of Joan Gore of Kings Mountain. He was the son of William Harmon of Bessemer City and stepson of the late

Harley Gore of Kings Mountain.

He is also survived by his wife, Wanda; son Chris; daughter Amanda; five grandchildren; brother, W. Norman Harmon and wife Dottie; sister Lisa Ryals of Belton, Texas; stepbrothers Keith and Carson

Gore, and stepsister Kay Lee. A memorial is planned here at a later date.

According to a report in The Salt Lake Tribune, Harmon was flying alone from Billings, Mont., to Spanish Fork to work on a power plant. Police blamed the crash on heavy

snow and poor visibility.

The single-engine plane reportedly crashed into a hillside and was spotted later by a motorist who pulled off the side of the highway to scan for wildlife. The man was using a spotting scope and saw the broken fuselage of the plane.

Hamrick joins staff of Cleveland Chamber

Shelby resident Adrian Hamrick has been hired as Manager of Marketing and Communications for the Cleveland County Chamber.

Hamrick's aspiration to work in the marketing field originated from her father's dirt track racing career. She quickly

learned the importance of consistent communication through sponsorships and promotions for her father, as well as began designing the schemes of his race car.

Hamrick recently graduated Summa Cum Laude from Appalachian State University

with a Bachelor of Science degree in Advertising, along with minors in both marketing and political science. Through her internships, previously held marketing positions, and experience working for her father, she will be joining the Chamber staff with the knowledge and

ability needed to execute tasks allocated to her position.

Chamber President Stuart Gilbert says, "We are excited about Adrian joining our Chamber team. Her references were excellent, she has a great professional background in marketing."

Shelby Heating & Air to receive award

Shelby Heating & Air will receive the Chamber's December "Small Business of the Month" award at a recognition ceremony on Thursday, January 12 at 11 a.m. at their business, located 1990 Eaves Road in Shelby.

Conditioning opened for business in the fall of 1977. President Daryl Hopper and his parents, Jimmy and Faye Hopper, operated the business out of the basement of their home. In 1978, Shelby Heating opened a fabrication shop and warehouse adjacent to their res-

idence and continued to operate the office from the basement of their home.

Three years later, they built a 1200 square-foot office and continued to operate from that location until 1991, when they moved into a new 11,000 square-foot facility, which is the

company's present location.

In 2003, Shelby Heating & Air expanded into Kings Mountain with the purchase of Childers Heating and Cooling upon the retirement of Bill Childers.

HUFFMAN From 1A

fewer homes however they must do so for subdivisions with six or more homes. To get around the regulation a developer may create different businesses to develop several minor subdivision adjacent to one another.

"What Mr. Huffman is trying to do is get around the law under different corporations," Favell said.

Cleveland County Zoning Administrator Bill McCarter admitted there is a loophole.

"There are examples out there where that's happened," he said.

The county planning board is working to close the loophole, according to McCarter.

"We've got a proposal ready

to go," he said. John Harry argued that development would devalue property adjoining Huffman's land.

"All my neighbors think their property will be devalued with what we think Mr. Huffman plans to do," Harry said.

Former commissioner Max Rollins criticized the current council.

"There is no use for me to say anything. These people aren't going to listen to anything. It's a done deal," Rollins said.

In other business, Mayor Robert Sides said that the town's water treatment plant had incurred a "small fine" of \$350. However, the citation is not all bad news. Being fined often makes towns eligible for state assistance with water

treatment operations. "I believe that will help us," Sides said.

Commissioners voted unanimously to build a six inch water line leading to Cherokee Fireworks just across the South Carolina state line. The business will pay for construction. The town will own and maintain the line. Cherokee Fireworks needs the line to provide water to a sprinkler system. This is required by South Carolina law before they can rebuild the structure.

An ordinance prohibiting unauthorized open burning was approved unanimously. Police Chief Shane Davis asked for the law so he could enforce the North Carolina fire code. Without the law he was forced to ask the Cleveland County Fire Marshall to come to Grover and cite offenders. There have

been problems with inebriated individuals burning brush, according to Mayor Robert Sides.

Davis told council he would like to start an Explorer Post which would introduce individuals ages 14 to 21 to law enforcement careers. There would be no expense to the town, he said. Exploring is a Boy Scout program but is open to both genders.

In other police business, there will be a neighborhood watch organizational meeting Tuesday, Jan. 17 at the Town Hall at 7 p.m. Grover Women's Club will serve refreshments.

A town Easter egg hunt has been tentatively scheduled for April 8 at 2 p.m. at City Park, Davis said.

He called it a "way to bring people together."

ARNOLD'S Gift Gallery advertisement featuring jewelry items like Sterling Silver Heart CZ Pendant, Circle of Love CZ Pendant, and ARNOLD'S Jewelry store information.

"YOUR ONE STOP MEDICAL SHOP!" advertisement for MEDICAL ARTS PHARMACY, offering home delivery and in-home demonstrations of medical equipment.

GROVER From 1A

in Grover if the referendum passes. Heath owns the Lucky Diamond, a convenience store located just over the state line. The store sells 6,000 cases of beer each month, according to Heath.

South Carolina state law forbids alcohol sales on Sunday. Heath said he hopes that Grover will approve Sunday sales.

During the public comment period at the end of the meeting Max Rollins, a former town commissioner, questioned

whether the referendum can be held on an even numbered year. Wells said it was his understanding that the election could be held in 2006.

After the meeting Toney said that he did not think the vote would cause strife among council members.

"We'll agree on other things," Toney said.

Alcohol sales can come about three ways. A council can approve sales outright, call for a referendum and put the issue before the voters or 35 percent of the registered voters may petition for a referendum.

In April Commissioner Bennett made a motion that the

council approve a referendum; however, that motion died for lack of a second. Three of the commissioners on the board then lost their seats in November.

Last year Calvin Huffman and other supporters attempted to collect the required 35 percent of signatures but failed. Supporters got approximately 115 signatures but needed 144. They say that some residents declined to sign the petition because it would become an open, public record. However, they said those people said they would vote for sales during a referendum, which like all elections is confidential.

RELAY From 1A

The sound system will be set up on a stage at the center of

the half-track. Participants may use camper trailers at any campsite.

New teams are especially encouraged to attend team captains' meetings for ideas on fund raising and other aspects

of Relay. For more information, call Hogue at 692-1086 or Tammy White at 739-3601.

The next meeting is Feb. 13 at 6 p.m. at the Patrick Senior Center.

Sprouts a green cafe advertisement featuring fresh juices, smoothies, and daily soups. Includes address 1012 S. New Hope RD, Gastonia, NC 28054 and phone (704) 864-0605.

Fidelity Bank advertisement with the slogan "RIGHT BY YOU" and the text "It's where we are. It's what we do." Lists services like FREE Business Checking and provides the address 403 S. Battleground Ave., Kings Mountain.