

The Herald

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7A



ELECTION 2006

Sheriff's candidates respond to questions

THE CANDIDATES:

Democratic Primary -
Willie McIntosh, Gary Gold, Raymond Hamrick.

Republican Primary -
Woody Allen, Dennis Theis, Don Allen.

GARY STEWART

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The Herald recently mailed a questionnaire to the candidates running for Sheriff of Cleveland County. Their answers appear below.

SOME answers were edited because candidates far exceeded the 25-word limit.

1 - What qualifies you to be sheriff?

W. ALLEN - I have over 25 years serving as a Cleveland County Deputy Sheriff, Kings Mountain Patrol Officer, and Investigator with the DMV License & Theft Bureau. I have received specialized training throughout my career.

GOLD - 19 years in law enforcement; last four years as an administrator; approximately 1,700 hours of specialized training. Extensive training from the FBI National Academy, and the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Program in Management of Law Enforcement Personnel and Agency Leadership.

THEIS - My years of experience working with two sheriff departments, the Boiling Springs Police Department, the NC Department of Corrections and the ability to lead and interact with people.

MCINTOSH - 24 years in law enforcement; correctional officer with NC Dept. of Corrections for 6 years, lieutenant with Shelby Police Dept. 18 years. Supervisor in patrol, vice/narcotics, administration, criminal detective, undercover drug officer, police hostage negotiator, and NC Dept. of Justice Certified General Instructor/Defensive Tactics.

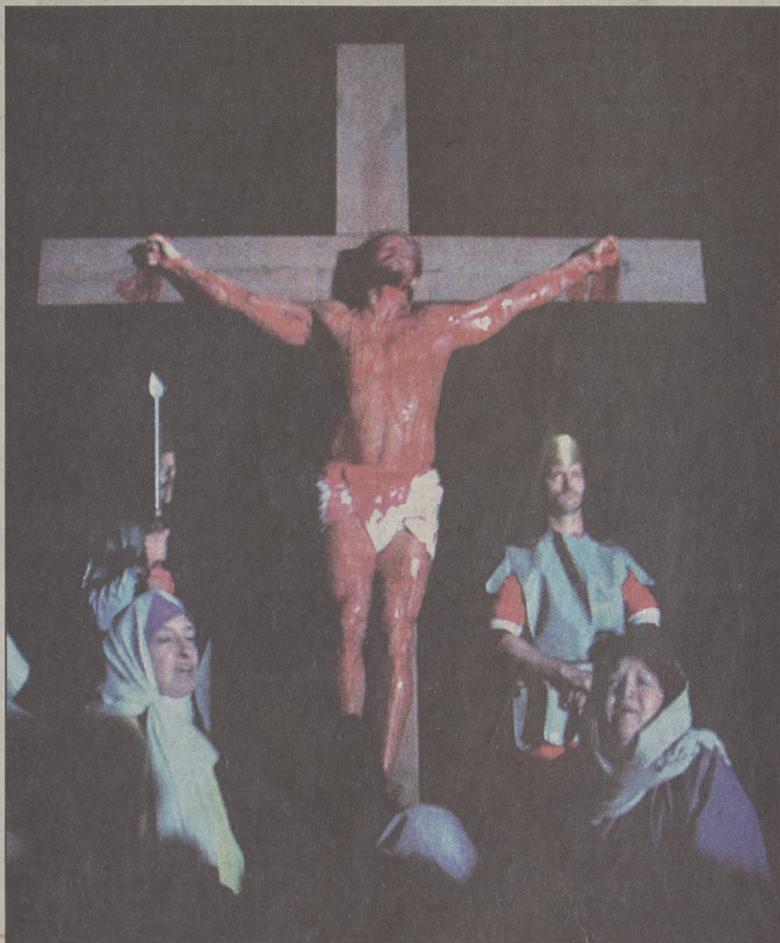
D. ALLEN - 34 years law enforcement experience and

HAMRICK - My years of experience working with two sheriff departments, the Boiling Springs Police Department, the NC Department of Corrections and the ability to lead and interact with people.

McIntosh - 24 years in law enforcement; correctional officer with NC Dept. of Corrections for 6 years, lieutenant with Shelby Police Dept. 18 years. Supervisor in patrol, vice/narcotics, administration, criminal detective, undercover drug officer, police hostage negotiator, and NC Dept. of Justice Certified General Instructor/Defensive Tactics.

D. Allen - 34 years law enforcement experience and

CROSS WALK



Jesus is crucified in CrossWalk passion drama to be held Friday and Saturday in downtown Kings Mountain.

Downtown passion play begins Friday

GARY STEWART

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Cross Walk, the downtown Kings Mountain Easter drama that is being billed as "the Southeast's most unusual street drama" will be held for the sixth consecutive year Friday and Saturday night.

Over 200 volunteers from Kings Mountain churches will help modern-day Christians experience the passion of Jesus in a way they never have before.

Tickets are \$5 and are available by calling Regal Ventures at 739-3838. Those who cannot purchase them in advance may purchase them downtown on the nights of the drama.

There will be three presentations each night, at 6 p.m., 7:10 p.m. and 8:10 p.m. More information can be found online at kmcrosswalk.com.

The presentation will begin at Senior

Citizens Park near Griffin Drug and will proceed through parts of Cherokee and Mountain streets and Piedmont Avenue.

Observers will follow the last steps of Jesus, beginning in a Jerusalem marketplace and include numerous scenes such as the Last Supper, His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, and His appearance before Pilate and ending with His crucifixion, burial and resurrection.

Rev. Dale Swofford, former pastor of Grace United Methodist Church, leads the walk and narration as Joseph of Arimathea.

Reg Alexander of Regal Ventures, one of the original organizers of the drama, said past performances have brought as many as 1,200 visitors to the city.

"The reports we hear from them is that it is an awesome awareness of what it was like to have been there over 2,000 years ago," Alexander said. "The thing that

See CrossWalk, 5A

She'd gladly go to war again KM woman home after third tour in Iraq

ELIZABETH STEWART

Herald Correspondent

T/Sgt. E6 Laura Palmer, 39, would give her life for the troops in the war against Iraq.

"Every time I went outside the wire around our bunker to search for bombs I didn't know if I'd get back," said the Kings Mountain woman, who's ready to return for a fourth deployment to the Middle East if in another six months she's called.

Palmer, daughter of Mary and Jim Zeunik, is home and enjoying every minute of her joyful reunion with her parents, sisters and

young nieces.

No one was happier than her Mom to open the door Monday and find her there. "I just didn't believe she

was here until I hugged her," said Mary, who prayed constantly and asked all her friends and neighbors like Bob and Sue Hayes to pray every day for Laura's safe return to the United States.

"I tried to call as often as possible but when the siren went off

during a couple of those times I had to get my gear and go," said the personable and dedicated member of the Air Force Air Guard who joined the Army National Guard of Michigan in 1987 and went on active duty in 1993.

With 18 years service in the military, Palmer learned to be aggressive but she said

See Palmer, 9A



LAURA PALMER

See Palmer, 9A

To sell or not to sell

Grover ABC vote Tuesday

EMILY WEAVER

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Alcoholic beverages can be consumed in a dry community but cannot be legally purchased in a dry community. The question to be answered in Grover Tuesday is not whether or not the people in town will drink but whether or not the people in town will sell alcohol.

"We get all the garbage, we get the drunk drivers, we get everything but the revenue," said Grover City Councilwoman Jackie Bennett. "We already have all of the bad things and now we just need to collect the revenue."

Bill Willis, former town councilman who opposes the referendum, wishes the decision was that simple.

"The citizens can buy beer already (just over the border). The real issue as I see it is the type of establishments that will be brought into this town," he said.

The sample ballot for the beer and wine referendum listed on Cleveland County's website (www.cncgov.com) shows that voters will not be voting for or against the sell of alcohol but for or against the sell and consumption of alcohol at places.

"It's already here for practical purposes," said Willis. His concern is not whether beer and wine will be sold in stores but whether or not beer and wine will be consumed at establishments. See Grover, 6A

Play here?

Don't bet on it NC lottery begins Thursday, but SC still has advantages

EMILY WEAVER

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"Play Here" signs are popping up across the state as merchants make last minute preparations for the Education Lottery which begins Thursday. But instead of signs that read "Play Here" stores close to the South Carolina border may need signs to read "PLEASE Play Here."

In Grover at a convenience store just across the South Carolina border, where cigarettes are cheap, gas is cheaper and smiles are free, there are no worries of lost revenue because of the North Carolina Education Lottery (NCEL).

"It's not going to affect my sales," said Amy Powers, the manager of Hickory Point. "We have cheaper gas and cigarettes than North Carolina and who wants to drive different places to get what you need when you can get it all in one place for less?"

A regular customer and North Carolina resident, Frank Allen, will continue to buy his Lizard Man tickets, which he calls "Squirrel Tickets" at Hickory Point. "He's not going anywhere," Powers said.

"We abuse our customers so they'll keep coming back," she said jokingly. Powers is on a first-name-basis with many of her regulars who appear to be more like extended family than customers. Lottery officials hope that NCEL will bring more money to North Carolina instead of residents going to states across the borders for their tickets. But lower gas prices across the state line might prove to be a determining factor in the future lottery sales of the region.

After much heated debate and years of rumors the NCEL is no longer a bluff, but a sure hand.

Rep. Tim Moore who lives in Kings Mountain and was

See Lottery, 6A

City Council tables Countryside rezoning

ELIZABETH STEWART

Herald Correspondent

City Council Tuesday tabled Mann Properties request for rezoning of Kings Crossing Development for a second public hearing slated for April 25 at 7 p.m. at city hall.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said the developers are offering adjoining property owners more concessions and it is necessary to hold a second public hearing to hear the additional changes.

Protesters in recent weeks successfully brought about changes to the proposed housing development on South Countryside Road, convincing the developers to lower the number of homes they are building from 483 to 430.

Other changes would include installation of two entrances instead of one, \$25,000 in playground equipment, buffers expanded to create even greater separation than the existing zoning would require in rear yards, a minimum square footage of 1,500 of finished living space exclusive of basements and garages, 80 percent of homes minimum square footage of 1,750 square feet of finished living space exclusive

See Rezoning, 5A