

The Herald

KINGS MOUNTAIN Herald

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Jerry Morris to be
inducted into KM
Sports Hall of Fame

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Thursday, April 27, 2006

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Since 1889

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HOMEFRONT

Man seriously injured in incident at power substation

Approximately 60 percent of Kings Mountain's electrical customers lost power for two hours at 3:45 Tuesday morning when a white adult male obviously scaled the fence at the Duke Power substation on Gaston Street and made contact with electrical equipment.

Frankie James Dobbins, 25, was taken to a hospital in Winston-Salem for treatment of electrocution.

According to Kings Mountain Police, Sgt. S.M. Skinner was flagged down by a Duke Power employee about 4:15 a.m. The employee said he had received a call about a power surge and when he arrived at the substation he found the injured man inside the fence.

EMS arrived at the scene and rushed Dobbins to Cleveland Regional Medical Center in Shelby. He was transferred to the Burn Center at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, where he is listed in serious condition.

Police said the gate was intact and locked and there was no evidence of the fence being cut.

Shriners BBQ Saturday at East Gold-Highway 161

The White Plains Shrine Club will hold its annual spring barbecue Saturday beginning at 10 a.m. at the corner of East Gold Street and NC 161.

Barbecue sandwiches, plates and shoulders are available.

Proceeds go to Shriners hospitals and burn centers.

Infant immunization set at Health Department

Cleveland County Health Department is celebrating National Infant Immunization Week through Saturday with a variety of events and offerings to parents of young children. In the first 24 months of life children need more than 80 percent of their vaccinations.

This week, staff members of the Cleveland County Health Department will distribute educational information to parents promoting the importance of complying with recommended immunizations and well check-ups for children. Children who receive immunizations at the Health Department this week will receive goodie bags filled with a variety of items like tooth brushes, coloring books, crayons, tee shirts and food coupons. For more information call 484-5100.

On Thursday, April 27, the Child Care Health Consultant and the Health Access Specialists from the Health Department will present a workshop for child care providers on immunization laws and required immunization record compliance. The workshop will be held at the Cleveland County health Department second floor conference room from 6-8 p.m. with a light meal provided. Participants will receive renewal credits for attending the workshop. To register call 484-5142.

DEATHS

Willie Cable, 92, Kings Mountain
William Edward Stoner, 90, Valdese
Carl Davis, 90, Charlotte
Karen Bivins Ivey, 54, Gastonia
Dennis Edward Porter, 58, Shelby 2A

INSIDE



Read part II about retired Green Beret soldier Jeff Goode's experiences in training military in foreign countries. This week he talks about his experiences in Iraq. 10A

COMING NEXT WEEK



Retired Kings Mountain High basketball coach Larry Sipe talks about his upcoming induction into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame.

Primary election Tuesday

Candidates speak out Monday night at Woman's Club

ELIZABETH STEWART

Herald Correspondent

Kings Mountain voters got their chance Monday night to speak one-on-one with 19 of the 20 candidates for county offices on the ballot in Tuesday's Democratic and Republican Primaries.

The nearly two-hour Woman's Club sponsored forum attracted all six candidates for Sheriff, seven of eight candidates for county commissioner, all four candidates for Clerk of Superior Court and the two candidates for county coroner.

Club officials said they were

quite pleased with the turnout of candidates and other guests. After a five minute presentation by each of the candidates they mingled with guests at a reception in the parlor of the clubhouse.

Ann Bennett, forum moderator, said voters Tuesday will be using new voting equipment, explaining that voters should fill in on the ballot the oval to the left of their choice instead of connecting the tail of the arrow to the head. She invited each candidate to speak for five minutes and a time keeper alerted the speaker at the four minute mark. Bennett said if a runoff is necessary it would be

held May 30.

Two seats are up for grabs on the county board of commissioners where voters will choose from all new faces. On the GOP ballot are Ron Schaeffer, Kelly E. Hastings and Bill Chambless and on the Democrat ballot are Mike Putnam, Kenneth A. Ledford, Eddie Holbrook, Fast Freddie Ellis, and Jo Boggs. While the candidates pushed the need for new industry, jobs and working together, each outlined briefly a platform and gave qualifications which they all said voters should consider as they cast their ballots on Tuesday. Boggs, who was absent to attend a

school board meeting of which she is a member, sent prepared remarks read by Bennett.

Chambless suggested that the county's planning and zoning and utility boards meet for quarterly work sessions to discuss planned growth and alert legislative representatives of the needs of the county. "The Shelby Bypass is long overdue and we need to put a cap on expenses," he said.

Ellis, who withdrew from the race after suffering a brain tumor, said he's now running strong. "The Lord healed me," he said. Ellis listed a safe environment and

See Election, 10A

THREE COINS IN A FOUNTAIN



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

Donna White makes a wish and throws a coin into the fountain in front of Kings Mountain City Hall.

Grover approves saving money on sewer bonds

EMILY WEAVER

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Grover City Council met Monday night to discuss and vote on refinancing the town's current sewer bonds. The council agreed on a refinanced loan from First National Bank, which could save them about \$244,000 in interest over 12 years. If they choose to pre-pay, paying more than the minimum, it could cut up to 13 years off of their existing loan.

"We were offered a 12 year loan but since pre-payment is allowed, we hope to pay it off in 10 years," said Mayor

Robert Sides.

The First National loan carries a fixed interest rate of 4.75 percent. The town's current loan is for 23 years with the biggest portion carrying an interest rate of 7.65 percent. These high payments have increased water bills throughout the town.

The council sent out refinanced loan requests to six financial institutions. Out of the four that responded, the final decision came down to one offered by BB&T and First National.

"BB&T had a lower interest rate but didn't have a pre-pay option," Sides

See Grover, 11A

Council moving toward selling strip at Moss Lake

ELIZABETH STEWART

Herald Correspondent

City Council voted 4-3 Tuesday night to "move forward" on the sale of 651 square feet of property on the city owned control strip at Moss Lake to Harmon Properties.

The Moss Lake ad hoc committee chaired by councilman Keith Miller had not recommended an easement or the sale, nor did city attorney Mickey Corry.

Differences of opinion were expressed by Corry and Harmon attorney Rep. Tim Moore. Corry said the city is liable for any property it owns and questioned approving an easement.

Moore countered that the

city permits piers and docks to be built and the persons constructing them are liable. "We're not opening a precedent," said Moore, who said the owner needs a driveway and is requesting an easement lease for land locked property.

Councilman Dean Spears made the motion to proceed on sale negotiations and suggested that sale price be \$45,000, disagreeing with a suggested appraised compensation by Moore of \$1,500. Howard Shipp seconded the motion and Rodney Gordon and Jerry Mullinax approved. Miller, Houston Corn and Mike Butler voted "no."

Spears, in his motion, See Lake, 11A

KM council approves housing development

ELIZABETH STEWART

Herald Correspondent

By a vote of 6-1, Kings Mountain City Council Tuesday night gave the green light to a new 403-home planned PUD housing development on Countryside Road.

Although in recent months the proposal had sparked controversy and meetings of both city council and planning boards attracted a full house, there was no opposition expressed publicly from the large crowd at Tuesday night's second public hearing required because developers made changes from their first plan after meeting with concerned property owners. Councilman Jerry Mullinax cast the "no" vote.

He questioned consultant Walter Fields if all 30 families in the Countryside area had signed off on the added concessions by Mann Properties. "Are they satisfied?" asked Mullinax.

Fields said, "not 100 percent but we had a meeting of the minds and they feel comfortable with the compromise. This does speak well of all of us working together on this project."

Among the added changes were additional buffers, lighting changes to reduce intrusiveness, higher square footage of homes, and two-car garages intended to reduce on-street parking and traffic congestion.

Responding to a question from councilman Miller, Johnny Rankin said Mann

See Council, 11A

Relay for Life Friday at Walking Track

GARY STEWART

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The eighth annual Kings Mountain Relay for Life will begin at 6 p.m. Friday at the Municipal Walking Track behind the Fire Museum on Cleveland Avenue.

Thirty-five teams are registered for the annual fund raising event for the American Cancer Society. Almost \$50,000 has already been turned in by participating teams and campaign volunteers are hoping to surpass last year's grand total of \$92,000.

Opening ceremonies at 6 o'clock will be followed by the

always-emotional survivors lap at 6:30. Over 100 cancer survivors have already signed up and more are welcome to participate. Sixty-two attended the recent survivor's dinner at The Patrick Center.

After the survivors lap, the teams will take the track and someone will be walking at all times until the final lap at 8 a.m. Saturday.

Friday's activities will include singing and other entertainment, and all of the teams will selling food and tickets for drawings.

Sonic Doctors from Carolina ENT of Shelby will perform at 7 p.m. Friday. The Christian group

Betty Mitchell would rather just work behind the scene

ELIZABETH STEWART

Herald Correspondent

Working behind the scenes of the upcoming Kings Mountain Relay for Life is a volunteer role that city employee Betty Mitchell relishes. Co-chair of the relay effort a few years ago, Mitchell works on the city's team to raise money for cancer research and encourages her young granddaughter, Micah, an active member of the children's team.

See Mitchell, 2A



BETTY MITCHELL