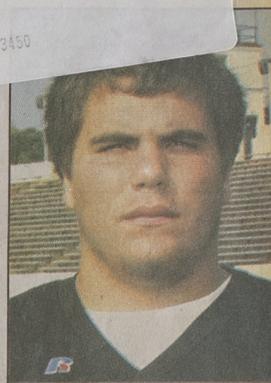


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Thursday, January 18, 2007

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Since 1889

50 Cents

4A

King's dream is still alive

Large crowd attends tribute at Joy Performance Center

EMILY WEAVER

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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream, although not fully realized in today's society, was kept alive in Kings Mountain on Monday night at the Joy Performance Arts Center. Nearly 100 people were in attendance and were reminded that even though society is more color-tolerant, we are far from color blind. Five students from Kings Mountain High School helped drive that point home in the essays contest.

Two KMHS students tied for third place in the contest: 16-year-old Christopher McCorkle and 14-year-old Bryan Moffitt. The main theme of the speeches was for the writer to explain how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech has influenced their lives. Third place carried a prize of \$50.

McCorkle said he grew up in the gang-related side of Shelby before he moved to Kings Mountain. He said that he did not know much about Dr. King then, but he is glad that he knows about him now.

"Martin's speech has encouraged me to achieve anything I want and not care about what other people try to say or do to me. His speech has taught me that I shouldn't judge anyone by the color of their skin, but by their character," he said.

Moffitt said, "Although we Americans have made progress since 1963, we still have a long journey ahead of us."

He said that Dr. King's speech spoke of the importance of equality and the hope of total equality in the future. "Without hope we have no future. Without hope we don't have a chance." He said that even though our journey is not over "the finish line is becoming visible on the horizon."

KMHS freshman Daniel Wooten, 14 of Kings Mountain, won second place. He said that since Dr. King's assassina-

tion there have been several laws written to give racial equality. But with the prejudice that still exists in society the laws are just words on a piece of paper.

"Now in America, races are no longer separated by government, and all people are considered to be equal. However, the races are not really separate due to groups of individuals that stand out together."

He said that we are all guilty at times of "negative labeling," or assigning one race or group of people to a certain profession or music genre. "In order to continue moving toward a world like the one Rev. King envisioned, society will have to stamp out racism and prejudice," Wooten said.

First place and a grand prize of \$100 went to Hannah McDougal for her essay "Are we the America that Dr. King Dreamed?"

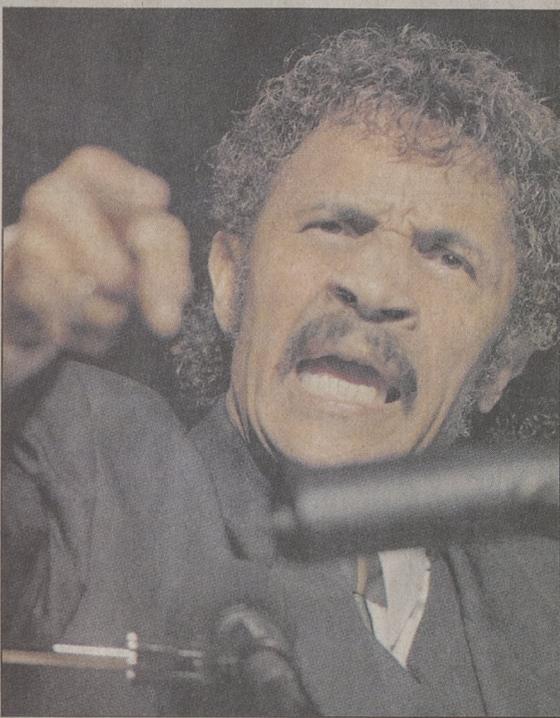
"Some people think that the dream is still alive. However, if they open their eyes and pay attention to what is going on around them, they will see there is nothing in our world today that fits the description of Dr. King's dream," she said.

McDougal told the audience that America is not united in democracy or in support of our troops who leave their families to fight for our country. She said that we were united briefly after the twin towers came crashing down, but even that did not last.

The thing that unites us now is fear, she said, fear fueled by terrorism. "We need to be a nation that does not judge or hate, but that stands behind its military and its government," she said, explaining that unity is the only way to keep the dream alive.

Dr. King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech was read by Lester Williams, mirroring the same passion and eloquence as when it was first delivered in 1963 at the Lincoln Memorial. The "amens" and the "that's right" that were shouted during King's first deliv-

See King Day, 5A



Rev. James Robinson, above, delivers keynote address at Martin Luther King tribute. Daniah Wilson, left, watches essay contest won by Hannah McDougal, below.

Photos by Joseph Brymer



KM teen faces charges in break-in at church, house

Bessemer City youth also faces charges in Sharon Drive incident

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Joshua Brian Hoppes, 16, of Kings Mountain faces an array of charges after allegedly breaking into a home on Sharon Drive and Oak Grove Baptist Church.

Sheriff Raymond Hamrick said that Oak Grove Baptist was broken into twice on January 9, 2007. The Cleveland County Crime Scene Unit investigated the scene and found many readable fingerprints, he said. The suspects allegedly stole various items from the church and damaged property.

Two days later, KMPD Officer R. B. Putnam said that Joshua Brian Hoppes and Justin Prine, 16, of Bessemer City, were found hiding in a closet at a house on Sharon Drive after a tip came in that runaway juveniles were at the location. Putnam alleges that subjects had painted the walls, cabinets, several appliances, all entry doors and windows, and caused an estimated \$11,150 damage. They were arrested and confined to the Cleveland County Detention Center under \$10,000 secured bonds. Detectives with the Sheriff's Department said they were able to match at least one of the prints from the Oak Grove crime scene to Hoppes.

Hoppes is charged with one misdemeanor count each of breaking and entering and damage to property in the Sharon Drive case and two counts each of breaking and entering, felony larceny, and possession of stolen goods, two misdemeanor counts of injury to real property and one misdemeanor count of injury to personal property in the Oak Grove Baptist Church case.

The Oak Grove case is still under investigation.

KM Crime rate shows decrease of 30 percent

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A lot of strides have been made in Kings Mountain over the past year. New businesses have decided to call this city their home and new houses are being built for new residents. But with all of the growth and increases, one thing has shown a decrease - the crime rate.

The crime rate in Kings Mountain was down over 30 percent last year, but KMPD Chief Melvin Proctor said although that is great, he can't focus on that too hard.

"What you have to do to get a true picture of how effective you are (dealing with crime) is you monitor (the crime rate) for at least a five year period," he said. "So when you see the trend of the up or the down, that's when you start looking again."

According to the crime index, Kings Mountain's peak in crime was between 2002-2003. During 2002, there were 996 crimes in total that were committed within the city. In 2003, the number was up to 1,030. In 2004, the peak came back down to 938 crimes.

"So that right there is giving you the peak period, that's where you start watching from. From '04-'05 we started looking at what was going on, trying different things with the crime and seeing how it affected the numbers," Proctor said.

In 2005, the total crimes committed dropped from 938 to 688, an incredible decrease of 27 percent. But be very cautious when looking at the numbers, he said. Because the true effectiveness is not accurately shown in one year's numbers on the crime index but from a broader comparison. After the peak in crime from 2002 and 2003, the numbers in 2005 began to fall. "Now we'll start watching from '05 to 2010 and we'll see how we stack up (against the previous five years). By 2010 we'll see where we're really at," he said.

Until September 2006, the total crime rate for this year was 438. "If we held true, we're at least going to be where we were at last year or less than again," he

See Crime, 5A

Making a difference

Relay for Life kicks off its 11th year with party at Patrick Center

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Relay for Life celebrated its 10-year anniversary and kick-off with a birthday party at the Patrick Senior Center on Thursday night. Fatz Cafe catered the event. Snowflakes hung from the ceiling and a Frosty the Snowman chilled with his wintery friends on the wall at the back of the room. But the decorations that really set the theme were at the center of every table - a birthday cake glowing with number ten candles, a balloon, and goodies for the guests.

Tammy Hogue, co-chair for Kings Mountain's 2007 Relay for Life, said that there was more attendance this year than for any other kick-off they have had so far. Over 50 people filled the room. Hogue and Co-Chair Tammy White thanked every one not only for coming out to kick-off Relay 2007, but also to celebrate the past 10 years they have all struggled to make a difference.

Amy Hutchison, incomes manager for the American Cancer Society, told the crowd that Kings Mountain raised \$80,155.83 last year, putting

See Relay, 11A



Morgan Hogue helped hand out goody bags to some of the guests that were drawn at the Relay for Life 2007 kick-off at the Patrick Senior Center.