

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

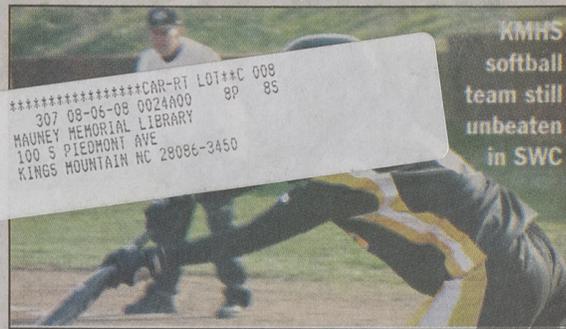
SPORTS - 1B

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Since 1889

50 Cents



KMHS softball team still unbeaten in SWC



John Yarbro leaving KMHS to become assistant superintendent of Cleveland County Schools.

Allen retiring, Yarbro taking his place

Yarbro ending 7th year at KM High

EMILY WEAVER

In a unanimous vote Monday night at the Cleveland County School Board meeting Kings Mountain High School Principal John Yarbro was named the new assistant superintendent of operations for Cleveland County Schools. He will be stepping into the role as the last

remaining Deputy Superintendent Dr. Larry Allen makes his retirement departure on July 1, 2007.

In charge of operations, Yarbro will oversee the district's facility maintenance, transportation, food service and after-school programs.

Superintendent Dr. Bruce Boyles said that he has received and interviewed See Yarbro, 9A

Allen has over 40 years in education

EMILY WEAVER

Dr. Larry Allen, who is retiring at the end of the current school year after over 40 years as an educator, did not plan to go to college and definitely did not consider going into the field of education when he was in high school.

"I was planning for the military or to drive a truck," he says.

But one day his course was redirected. When he was a senior in high school, his English teacher asked him to stay after class. She closed the door and asked him if he was planning to go to school. He told her that he had not planned to attend college. "She said 'You need to See Allen, 9A



Dr. Larry Allen is retiring at the end of the school year after more than 40 years in education.

Friday wreck kills 2

Child only survivor in U.S. 74 accident

EMILY WEAVER

A "tragic accident" that happened on U.S. 74 Friday night took the lives of two Kings Mountain residents, Wendy Jones Evans and Timothy Alan Walker, and forever altered the lives of two sons. KMPD Capt. Derek Johnson said that Evans was traveling east on 74 when she entered the grassy median and came back onto the road, causing her car to flip more than six times, according to witnesses. The car came to rest at the top of the Bessemer City exit on Highway 74.

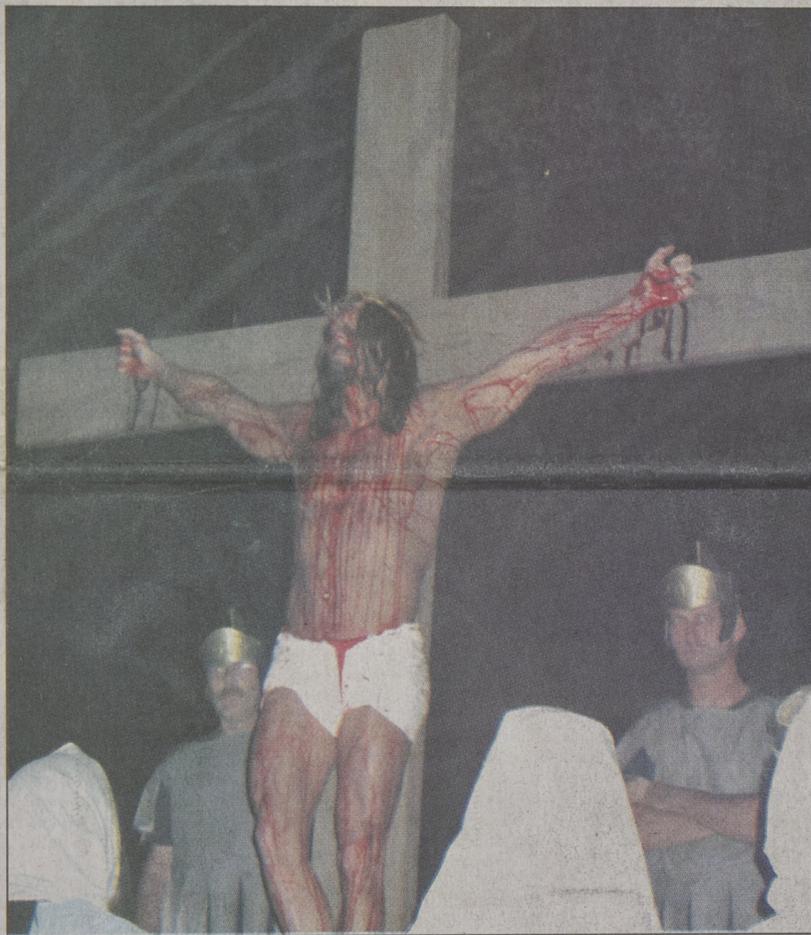
During the accident, Walker was ejected from the vehicle. Another tragic result of the accident happened in the back seat, where Evan's and Walker's 4-year-old son, Trevor, was strapped into a car seat. All three were transported to Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, where Walker and Evans were pronounced dead. Trevor has been released from the hospital, but is probably far from being in "good condition" as he is, at such a young age, dealing with the loss of his mommy and daddy.

"It's a miracle that baby is alive and it is all due to the child restraints he was wearing," Capt. Johnson said. "This just reinforces the use of seat belts and child restraints. They really do save lives."

It has been reported that Evan's former husband drove past the wreck on his way home, not knowing the mother of their 16-year-old son, Derek, was involved.

Although the exact cause and specifics of the accident are still under investigation, Johnson said that when a vehicle travels from a hard surface (like the road) to a soft surface (like grass) and back, and especially if the driver overcorrects his or her steering, there is a good chance the car will "barrel roll" or flip. The exact speed was not known at the time, but Johnson said the speed limit on that stretch of U.S. Highway 74 is 65 mph.

CROSSWALK 2007



EMILY WEAVER / HERALD

Jesus, played by Eddie Parker, is crucified in the Easter drama Crosswalk, which opened last week and is scheduled for a last run Friday and Saturday in downtown Kings Mountain.

Downtown drama set for final '07 showings on Friday and Saturday

EMILY WEAVER

One weekend a year for the past seven years, streets in downtown Kings Mountain are transported back over 2,000 years ago to a different place, a different time - to the land of Jerusalem. But this year the opportunity to travel back through time has been extended to two weekends. The Passion adventure Crosswalk continues Friday and Saturday at 7 pm and 8:15 pm. Tickets for \$5 can be purchased at Regal Ventures or at the start of each show on Mountain Street.

Hundreds of spectators showed up Friday night for Crosswalk's first holy trip through time. When asked who was visiting Crosswalk for the first time, almost everyone raised their hands.

Cross Reference, a local group, began the program singing Christian tunes and hymns in a common area next to Griffin Drug. At about 7:35 p.m. Rev. Reg Alexander, director of the play, introduced the program. Over 200 volunteers came out to help bring the streets of "Jerusalem" to life, he said.

The first person he introduced was the journey's guide, Joseph of Aramathea. Through a set of archaic-looking wooden doors Joseph welcomed the travelers to the land of Jerusalem, See Cross Walk, 9A



EMILY WEAVER / HERALD

Joseph of Aramathea (Rev. Dale Swofford) leads crowd through the streets of Jerusalem in Crosswalk.

Council approves overlay districts by split 4-3 vote

ELIZABETH STEWART

Herald Correspondent

Kings Mountain City Council voted 4-3 Tuesday night to approve the creation of five inside-city overlay districts but not before opposition by three York Road residents and concerns by some council members that they needed more time which resulted in a lengthy meeting by a board split on the issue.

The vote came after Mayor Rick Murphrey suggested the outside area of York Road-161 be deleted from the text amendment. Voting against the amendment were Councilmen Rodney Gordon, Howard Shipp and Jerry Mullinax. Voting for the amendment were Councilmen Dean Spears, Keith Miller, Houston Corn and Mike Butler.

The changes would affect future development in the four major arterial areas leading into the city and also the downtown district.

Planning Director Steve Killian presented the recommendations from the Planning & Zoning Board which he said came after six months of study and hundreds of surveys by mail and telephone to people in the affected areas. "We responded to all concerns and had no

negative feedback," he said.

Council voted 4-3 to amend the zoning ordinance map creating overlay districts for Shelby Road, King Street, Cleveland Avenue, York Road and the downtown area stipulating inside city only, and again eliminating from the map the outside-city section of York Road. Mullinax left the room as the vote was being taken so his vote was counted as a "yes" along with Spears, Miller and Corn. Voting "no" were Shipp, Gordon and Butler.

"I'm not opposed to overlay districts but this plan needs some fine tuning, if we pick up the ETJ on York Road we need to be consistent and I am not prepared to vote tonight," Gordon said.

"Let's table the entire issue for 30-90 days, we're split on this issue" said Mullinax.

Miller said he had seen the benefits of overlays and also the problems but "we can fix the problems," he said.

Spears said, "It's really not set in stone for these outlying areas," referring to Norman Bumgardner's complaint that according to the new ordinance he would have to build a brick building to store his tractor. Ann Bennett, also of York Road, was See Overlay, 2A

5th high school on the horizon?

EMILY WEAVER

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A fifth high school unlike any other in the county and most in the state could be on the horizon for Cleveland County Schools.

Administration is trying to get an average \$25,000 planning grant to develop a strategy and receive a five-year implementation grant for an Early College High School (ECHS) on the campus of Cleveland Community College (CCC).

There were many questions on this approach to a hyper education alternative, but most of the Board members at the Cleveland County Board of Education meeting Monday night expressed support. Cleveland County Schools (CCS) is working with CCC for the grant proposal to the North Carolina New Schools Project in Raleigh, part of Governor Mike Easley's initiative to establish ECHSs in all NC counties.

"We hope that it will provide funds for us to plan the implementation of such a school," John Goforth told the board. "The school in question will be small, with a maximum of about 200 students. It goes for five years. Students earn a high school degree and an AA (Associate's of Arts), AS (Associates of Science) or ASA degree in that five-year period. After those five years they will have two years of college and will be able to transfer to another university in the North Carolina system."

He said that the concept of ECHS is not a new one, but North Carolina is the first state in the union to put the idea into action. There are 33 ECHSs currently operating in North Carolina and about another dozen are scheduled to open next year, Goforth said. The oldest ECHS in North Carolina is three years old.

See New School, 9A