

KINGS MOUNTAIN

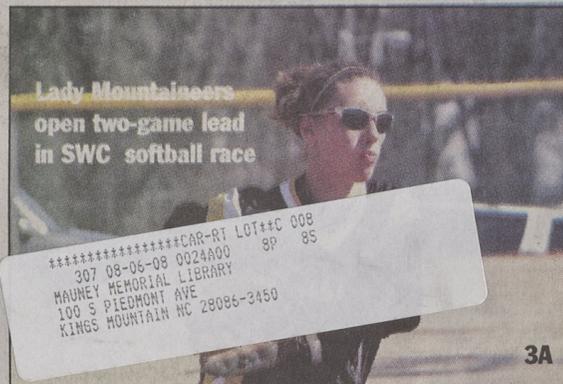
The Herald

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Since 1889

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McDonalds robbed Sunday

Kings Mountain Police needs information in regards to an armed robbery that occurred at 11:30 p.m. Sunday at McDonald's at 725 York Road.

According to Det. Sgt. Lisa Proctor of KMPD, a suspect displayed a long gun - possibly a rifle - and stole an undisclosed amount of money.

Proctor said the suspect vehicle is a burgundy colored van that appeared to be driven by a heavy set black female. The suspect is described as a black male, approximately 6'2" tall with a slim to medium build. He was wearing a long camouflage coat with a hood attached, and Army type camouflage cap and jeans.

Police are also interested in information on another vehicle at the scene. It is a white colored - possibly a newer model Ford Expedition - with rims and dark tinted window. The vehicle was parked in the back parking lot during the robbery and remained there until the suspect vehicle left the scene. It was seen leaving the parking lot and traveling south on Highway 161 (York Rd.).

Anyone with information on the suspects or vehicles is asked to call KMPD at 734-0444.

SUNRISE SERVICE

The Community Easter Sunrise Service will be held on Easter Sunday morning at 7 a.m. at the cross in the Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Dr. Jeff Hensley, pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church, will deliver the message and other pastors and community members will be participating in the service.

In the event of rain, the service will be held at Kings Mountain Baptist Church, located at the corner of Mountain Street and Piedmont Avenue in downtown Kings Mountain.

EASTER CLOSINGS

Friday, April 6

All Cleveland County offices.

Banks.

Monday, April 9

Mauney Memorial Library. H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Center.

All Kings Mountain City offices (City Hall, Public Works, Police Department). Garbage pickup schedule for Easter week will be delayed one day. Monday's trash will be collected Tuesday; Tuesday's on Wednesday; Wednesday's on Thursday; and Thursday's on Friday.

Monday, April 9-13 - All Cleveland County Schools closed for Spring Break.

BLOOD DRIVE AT Y

The Kings Mountain Family YMCA is hosting a blood drive Wed., April 11, from 3-6 p.m. in the Board Room at the Y. All eligible donors are encouraged to give blood.

Free T-shirts will be given to all donors. For appointments, call the YMCA front desk at 704-739-9631.

Pipe bomb found at Bethware School

EMILY WEAVER

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Have terrorists found their way to Bethware Elementary School or was it a prank? A pipe bomb was found by the janitorial staff Monday morning near the flagpole in front of the school where two children every morning raise the American flag.

The only thing the bomb lacked from making it the real deal was gunpowder, a reliable source said. One end of the pipe bomb was not secured when the

janitor picked it up, leading one to wonder if powder was on the way.

Letters were sent out to parents stating, "While we believe this incident was a hoax designed to create fear rather than harm our students and staff, we are taking it very seriously."

The pipe bomb appeared to be more of a statement of hate than a threat of action, the source said, as on the bomb was inscribed the dooming letters "KKK" and "VB," the principal's initials.

KMPD Det. Corp. Shane

Shockley said police are still investigating the incident and could not say whether it was more of a hate crime or a prank.

The source said that near Principal Valerie Boyd's car was found other markings protesting the school's female African-American leader. Batteries and wires were attached to the outside of the pipe bomb.

"I haven't been here long enough back to know if (this is) a hate thing or if it is a prank," said Superintendent Dr. Bruce Boyles. "We're going to have to rely on

the police department to figure this out."

But, he said, "we're taking it serious because we have to. We have to protect the children and the staff and keep them safe."

Boyles said that he spoke to Principal Boyd on Monday and they had a principal's meeting on Tuesday morning to talk about the incident. He said that she seems to be doing o.k.

The school seems to have cranked back up to normal, said Assistant Superintendent Dr. Larry Allen. He said that to his

recollection, schools in Kings Mountain may have had bomb threats over the years, but "I don't recall a device being found before." He added that it was unfortunate someone chose to do something like this.

Det. Shockley agreed, saying "I can't even remember the last time we (KM schools) had a bomb threat... We hope it's an isolated incident. We don't know the reason why this person would do something like that." He said that they are working

See Pipe Bomb, 7A



Resurrection Lutheran Church in Kings Mountain is framed by numerous blooming Dogwood trees, a Carolina blue sky and manicured green grass. Resurrection and other churches will be celebrating the resurrection in special Easter services Sunday.

JOSEPH BRYMER/HERALD

Easter activities slated for children

The Easter Bunny will be making his yearly rounds today, visiting preschoolers in Kings Mountain.

Escorted by the Kings Mountain Fire Department, Mr. Cottontail will visit the children at Boyce Memorial ARP Church around 9 a.m. At 9:30 a.m. he will be at White Oak Manor for an egg hunt with little ones from Amazing Kids.

After that, he will hop to Katie's Small Wonders, Resurrection Lutheran Church and Carpenter's Clubhouse at Central United Methodist Church.

Friday, bunny will start his Hop Around Town tour at Bolin Day Care at 9:15 a.m. At 10 a.m., he will visit It Takes a Village and around 10:30 will enjoy his last stop at Summit Place.

The big day for all little ones and the big bunny will be on Saturday. Around 3,000 eggs will be hidden on the playground of the Jake Early Sports Complex beside the Kings Mountain Family YMCA on Saturday morning.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 10 a.m. on the playground. It will include a petting zoo, games with Mauney

Memorial Children's Librarian Christy Conner, a bunny hop relay race and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. Children, ages 3 and under, will hunt for eggs first. Children ages 4-6 will hunt second and ages 7-11 will hunt last. The Easter Bunny will hide three golden eggs for each age division to find. Inside these coveted eggs are \$25 gift cards to Toys-R-Us.



Aaron Holmes pumps gas at Little Dan's on NC 161 at I-85 in Kings Mountain.

JOSEPH BRYMER/HERALD

Temperature isn't only thing going up

Gas prices approaching \$2.70 a gallon

EMILY WEAVER

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Gas prices are on the rise and may continue to be for a while. Prices of regular gas in Kings Mountain Tuesday ranged from \$2.59.9 to \$2.69.9 per gallon. Prices just across the state line in Grover were running \$2.42.9 to \$2.45.9.

Manager of AAA Carolinas Jayne Cannon said that this time of year is typically when gas prices will start their painful climb. A lot of factors play into the hike at the pump, she said.

As the weather starts warming up more people want to hit the road and explore the land. This time of year travelers swell the market. Supply goes down as demand goes up. Cannon said that is one of the main reasons why the price at the pump increases.

Another reason could be the situation in Iran, Cannon said. "Iran controls much of the crude oil in the world today," she said, adding that the country is sensitive to sanctions and they will react to those sanctions.

See Gas, 2A