

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

Thursday, May 3, 2007

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Since 1889

50 Cents



L'Tisha Bell has great college softball career

11A

HOMEFRONT

National Day of Prayer services today at FWC and City Hall

Two National Day of Prayer services will be held in Kings Mountain on Thursday, May 3.

Family Worship Center, 1818 Shelby Road, will host the fifth annual Kings Mountain Mayor's Prayer Breakfast Thursday, May 3 at 8 a.m. in the FWC Youth Center. Featured speaker will be Gary Newell, a political consultant from Westville, FL. Musical guest is Danny Wolfe, master trumpeter.

For more information call 739-4520.

The annual community prayer service is scheduled for 12:15 p.m. at the water fountain outside of City Hall on East Gold Street. Special prayer will be offered for the city, state, nation and world.

For more information call Rev. Eddie Gray at 739-4266.

Photos, information needed for Honor, Glory & Pride section

The Herald and other Republic Newspapers in the area will publish a special section on the men and women who are serving or have served us in the military.

"Honor, Glory & Pride" will publish on June 21. Deadline for stories and advertising is June 11.

The Herald is soliciting pictures and information from the public on anyone who is currently serving in the military; and also on persons who have served in the military in the past. There is no charge.

Send your photos and stories to The Herald, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 or bring them to the editor's office at 821 East King Street, Kings Mountain. You may also Email them to gstewart@kingsmountainherald.com.

Photos will be returned after the publication date. For more information call The Herald at 704-739-7496.

Romney to speak at GOP meeting May 14

The Cleveland County Republican Party announced today that Tagg Romney, Senior advisor to and son of Mitt Romney, Republican Presidential Candidate, will be the keynote speaker at the Cleveland County Republican Party monthly meeting Monday, May 14, at 7 p.m. at the Cleveland County Administrative Building County Commission Chambers 311 E. Marion Street in Shelby. For more information call Wayne King at 704-689-2000.

RADAR WATCH

Sun., May 6 - Cleveland Ave.

Mon., May 7 - Margrace Rd.

Tues., May 8 - Shelby Rd.

Wed., May 9 - Fulton Dr.

Thurs., May 10 - York Rd.

Fri., May 11 - Waco Rd.

Sat., May 12 - Kings Mountain Blvd.

Oak Grove rezoning debate ends in stalemate

EMILY WEAVER

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A heated public hearing ensued at the Cleveland County Commissioners meeting Tuesday night over a parcel of land at the intersection of Oak Grove and Stoney Point roads. It ended with a stalemate.

The Denton family, owners of the disputed land, had requested that their property, bordering Oak Grove Baptist Church be rezoned from residential to gen-

eral business. Planning Director Bill McCarter presented the amendment to the board. The Isothermal planning board requested, by a vote of 9-2, the land be rezoned.

But the Tuesday night crowd stood in stout opposition. Seven people spoke against the zoning amendment, citing various reasons. One opposer brought with her a petition bearing 160 signatures from members of Oak Grove Baptist, who also are

against the amendment. Thomas Brooks, owner of adjoining property, said, "I've lived there 10 years and I never thought there would be an opportunity for a business to get between me and the church."

Gene Lovelace of the Isothermal planning board approached the microphone and before he was shooed away from speaking at the hearing, he put in his say, "I'm against it."

"We the people don't want,

don't need a dance hall, a video store, a pool room or any other business in the area," said another opposer Wayne Butler. "Special interest groups can go elsewhere."

Fred Lovelace agreed, continuing the argument that the community does not need a pool hall that would "bring out the drunks."

But his son, Mike Lovelace, jumped to his feet in opposition. He was the only one who spoke

for the amendment, citing that a business should be allowed on the property if for no other reason than to diminish the monopoly of Brooks' mini-marts.

The public hearing resulted in a standstill. Some of the commissioners were on the fence about how to vote. Commissioner Ronnie Hawkins said that the 2005 estimate of the intersection having about 30 percent traffic should be recalculated. "It is one See Oak Grove, 2A

CRUISING MIDPINES



GARY STEWART / HERALD

The Ginn blimp, possibly enjoying the sites of Kings Mountain while on its way to Charlotte for this week's Wachovia golf tournament, was flying just over the tree tops on Margrace Road near Midpines early Monday evening.

Truck flips, spilling fuel and blocking Interstate 85

EMILY WEAVER

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A tanker truck caused motorists traveling northbound on I-85 to be re-routed Friday night, after it jackknifed and spilled about 125 gallons of diesel fuel onto the interstate.

Michael Davis was driving his Colt Petroleum Inc. tanker truck Friday around 7 p.m. when the accident happened. State Highway Patrol Trooper D. P. Howell said that Davis was talking on his cell phone when he veered off onto the right shoulder near the 4 mile marker. He tried to correct his steering, hit a guard rail and overturned, stretching out across both lanes. His load of diesel fuel started to flow out onto the road.

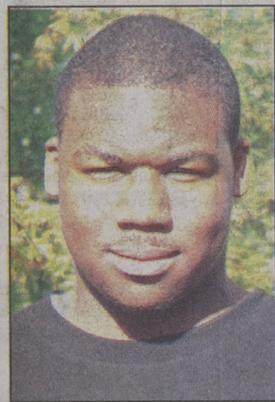
The Grover Rural Volunteer Fire Department, Bethlehem VFD, Cleveland County Haz-Mat team and Emergency Management rushed to the See Truck, 2A

Help score one for the team

Burriss overcomes open heart surgery to excel in sports

EMILY WEAVER

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SHARIF BURRIS

Sharif Burriss has the chance to represent his home town of Kings Mountain, KMHS, Cleveland County and state of North Carolina in the USA Junior Nationals Basketball competition in July. But he needs

your help to get there.

He is no stranger to overcoming obstacles. At the age of 18, he has had open heart surgery. He went under the knife last year in February, two months before his 17th birthday.

"We didn't know he had it (this condition). He was actually born with it and all this time it never showed up," said his mother Yolanda Burriss. "With him playing sports as long as he

has, it never showed up until one day we went to the Y. He was practicing for a (basketball) game that he was going to have Friday and he just collapsed. We took him to the hospital from the Y to Cleveland Regional Medical Center and when we got there the doctors ran a lot of tests but they couldn't tell what was wrong with him."

The doctors contacted his pediatrician who sent him to a

pediatric heart specialist at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. They went straight from CRMC to CMC and she said, "Dr. (Donald) Riopel had run a bunch of tests on him and came back and told us he had a heart defect."

He was born with only one coronary artery instead of the normal two. The defect is so rare that it hasn't even been given a See Burriss, 12A

Students SAVE school courtyard

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Students in S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violence Everywhere) at Kings Mountain Middle School are using their talents to save their courtyard.

With shovels, brooms, soil, and flowers they are transforming this once glum, forgotten enclosure into an inviting sanctuary. "We thought this place was becoming an eyesore so we wanted to clean it up," said eighth-grader Lauren Miller.

"We have to walk by it every day and we were tired of seeing it look so run-down," added S.A.V.E. president Abbie Lynch, 8th grade.

Club members got down to the nitty gritty a couple of weeks ago pulling up weeds, sweeping up the patios and cleaning the area thoroughly. When they returned last Thursday to start planting the pretty flowers and plants, they found that the pesky weeds they pulled had returned. "We're going to try to get some weed killer to See SAVE, 2A



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

The S.A.V.E. team at KMMS is saving the school's secret garden, infusing it with life and beauty. Left to right: the club's mentor KMPD Officer Angela Moore, Tia Duncan, Lauren Miller, club President Abbie Lynch, Tianna Wilson, Emily Smith, Laura Bowles, and Michelle Lynch.