

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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Relay for Life is Friday, Saturday

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The 10th Annual Kings Mountain Relay for Life will be held Friday and Saturday, June 1-2, on the walking track at the Jake Early Sports Complex on Cleveland Avenue.

Opening ceremonies will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday and the always-emotional survivor's lap will begin around 6:30. The 98 survivors that attended the recent Relay Survivor's Dinner have signed up to walk the track in the survivor's lap. More are encouraged to join them. Registration for the lap begins at 5 p.m. Survivors will receive a free t-shirt to keep and wear in the walk.

A banner of hand-outlines of the 98 survivors, who attended the dinner, will lead the group around the track. After the survivors, the teams will take the course, which will be walked the entire night until the last lap at 6 a.m. Saturday.

Thirty-six teams have signed up for this year's Relay for Life of the American Cancer Society. The teams and volunteers have already raised around \$41,000 for the cause, inching closer to their goal of \$85,000. Last year, Relayers raised \$80,000, helping to put Cleveland County at number five in the nation, raising funds for cancer research.

Co-chairs for the event are Tammy Hogue and Tammy White. Hogue said that she is optimistic about reaching their fund-raising goal. "I would like to see \$100,000 raised but I'll take \$85,000," she said.

The luminary ceremony will start at 9 p.m., accompanied by the melody of "Amazing Grace," flowing from the bagpipe of a special guest sponsored by local Shriners. The Kings Mountain Police Explorers will serve as the event's honor guard. DJ Brian Clontz will be the emcee.

The womanless beauty pageant, hosted by Sarah Lee of Charlotte's 96.1 The Beat, will be held from 10-11 p.m. Music and mingling will follow the pageant along with a midnight movie. To fight off heavy eyelids, a scavenger hunt is scheduled for 2 a.m., followed by crazy hat and hula hoop contests at 3 a.m., low-impact aerobics and stretching at 4 a.m. and a closing ceremony at 5 a.m. Team sports will be held in the center of the walking track, including kickball, football, and soccer.

Bethware Elementary is having a mini-Relay for Life on Friday afternoon. "They are the first school in Kings Mountain to do it," Hogue said. "It gives children a chance to participate, most of whom can't come out on Friday night." The mini-Relay will be complete with a kick-off, survivor's lap, luminaries, and a release of 600 balloons. The laps will be walked on the school's own walking track. At least one student and several teachers will be walking the survivor's lap. Each child will have their own luminary bag.

Bethware Elementary Assistant Principal Jada Hardin is the school's team captain.

MEMORIAL DAY



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD
Ray Long, chaplain of Kings Mountain American Legion Post 155, speaks to the crowd during Memorial Day services Monday morning at Mountain Rest Cemetery. Below, Jane Gulden with the Loch Norman Pipe Band plays the bagpipes.

KM remembers its heroes

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Several people came out to celebrate the fallen and, often unsung, heroes of America's wars at the Memorial Day ceremony at Mountain Rest Cemetery on Monday morning.

Jane Gulden started the service with a reverent song on her bagpipe. KMPD Captain Jerry Tessner led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. Rev. Danielle Duncan gave the invocation. KMPD Officer Todd McDougal and the KM Police Explorers presented the colors.

"I want to thank everybody for coming out today for our annual service," said Mayor Rick Murphrey. "Today is a day to honor and to give thanks to all service personnel who were killed in wars and in defense of our country."

He said that the brave men and women who gave their lives for America and for Kings Mountain, did so freely, "believing in duty, honor, family and a commitment to freedom...They put on our country's uniform and they stood fast to the threat to our home and to our country and our freedom."

"Kings Mountain is a grateful community. We will always remember the personal sacrifices made by so many that we may enjoy our way of life today," Murphrey added that the American flags next to the graves, "mark the final resting place of men and women of all services and they remind us that we are all equal under the eyes of God and are united by the love of country. We are also reminded that freedom does not come without a price."

The angelic melody of the "National Anthem," sung by Shana Adams, floated over the patriotic valley, pricking the hearts of veteran spectators.



Veteran and Chaplain Ray Long of the American Legion Post 155 gave the Veteran's Address. "For most of us it has been instilled since the time we were born to be free, not thinking of the sacrifices we might be called upon to bear," he said. Those who have made the extreme sacrifice are remembered today, he added.

"Some were well known for their heroics, but the unsung ones you don't hear about are of equal importance," Long said, adding that every time we pass their resting place we should pause in gratitude and in remembrance of their sacrifice.

After his address, Gulden piped in with the soft, reverent tune of "Amazing Grace," as Murphrey and Long placed a wreath of flowers on the war memorial in the cemetery. Paul Fulton provided the finale with the call of "Taps" on the trumpet. "God bless Kings Mountain and God bless the United States of America," Murphrey said.

More charges filed against former KM cop

David Coburn accused of text messaging obscene picture

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Former Kings Mountain Police officer David Coburn was arrested Friday afternoon at his home on three felony counts of disseminating obscenity. "The 15-year-old victim's mother brought her daughter's cell phone to us and said, 'I think you need to look at this' about two weeks ago and so we started our investigation," said Cleveland County Sheriff's Capt. Bobby Steen.

On her daughter's cell phone was a picture of Coburn's genitalia that he had allegedly "pix messaged" or sent to her from his cell phone.

Steen said that shortly after the mother came forward, another 18-year-old victim came into the station with a second candid shot Coburn had also allegedly sent to her phone. "She didn't know that we were already investigating him," he said.

Coburn reportedly became familiar with the 15-year-old victim when he worked as a school resource officer and D.A.R.E. officer at Kings Mountain High. His connection with the 18-year-old is unknown.

Steen said that the usual penalty for this type of offense varies. "It depends a lot on his record," he said. "I've charged three or four people (with this type of offense in the past) and it varies anywhere from six months to two years to probation."

Coburn resigned from the Kings Mountain Police Department about two weeks ago after he

See Coburn, 5A

Council approves \$30 million budget

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The Kings Mountain City Council Tuesday night unanimously adopted a \$30.4 million budget for fiscal year 2007-08.

The budget includes no increase in property taxes, water rates, sewer rates and gas rates for residential customers, but does include a 7 percent increase in electric rates across the board. The rise in electric rates is the first increase in 14 years.

"We have a contract and we buy wholesale from Duke (Energy) for our electricity," said Mayor Rick Murphrey at the State of the City Breakfast Tuesday morning. "Nick (Hendricks) and his staff (at the city electric department) have for 14 years absorbed all of the different costs that have derived from, for an example, the increase of utility poles from \$295 last year to \$493 this year. Just in a transformer, the cost was \$2,777 last year and now it's at about \$3,400 this year."

He said that all costs go up. "We're real proud that we've been able to hold down those costs and

See Budget, 5A

Rumanians visiting KM

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Kings Mountain's foreign friends and sister city delegates will be visiting this weekend for a six-day stay and many activities await their arrival.

This weekend is set to be full of excitement with KM's 10th annual Relay for Life and the 2007 Over the Mountain Triathlon. The community is encouraged to extend their hospitality, support and a Kings Mountain welcome to these special guests.

Delegates from the sister-land across the pond, Stei, Romania, will be flying into Charlotte International Airport on Friday afternoon. Greeted by Kings Mountain's welcoming committee, Mayor Rick Murphrey, KMPD Chief Melvin Proctor, Special Events Director Ellis Noell, City Manager Marilyn Sellers, and Information Technologist Todd Moore.

It is uncertain whether or not visiting officials will be up for attending KM's

Relay for Life after their long flight from Romania. But they will be front and center at Moss Lake for the start of 2007's Over the Mountain Triathlon.

After the athletes have cleared the waters, the visitors are planning to take a boat tour around Moss Lake. Then it's off to Patriot's Park to watch the athletes finish up the last leg of the three part race.

The rest of the afternoon and evening will be filled with fellowship, parties and receptions.

On Sunday, their itinerary details that they will attend the worship service at First Baptist Church and take a stroll through the city's namesake at the Kings Mountain National Military and South Carolina State parks.

On Monday, they will tour Lowe's Motor Speedway's "Feel the Thrill" and enjoy a favorite American pastime, baseball, game between the Greenville Drive and the Kannapolis Intimidators.

On Tuesday, they will enjoy a sister city community breakfast at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Center, followed by a tour

See Visiting, 2A

Triathlon is Saturday

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Hundreds of contestants will pour into Kings Mountain this weekend to compete in the 2007 Over the Mountain Triathlon.

A three-part challenge of strength, endurance, and agility will be undertaken by about 400 athletes, but only a select few will cross the finish line victorious.

Over the Mountain Competitors must swim 1,500 meters (almost 1 mile), bike 27 miles, and run 6.2 miles in less than 4 hours and 15 minutes to even qualify in this USA Triathlon (USAT) sanctioned race.

Signed up to represent Kings Mountain in the 2007 Over the Mountain Triathlon, is 36-year-old Bryan Dellinger, 34-year-old Erin Johnson, 16-year-old Alan Riggs, 56-year-old James Sotelo, Michael and Rosemary Suess, 46-year-old Gene Summey, 36-year-old Virginia Ware, and 24-year-old Jordan Wollak. Graham Wehmiller, 32, is traveling all the way

from New York, NY, to compete. Vann Simmons, 40, is traveling from as far south as Amelia Island, Fla., and Darrin Rohr, 42, is traveling from as far west as Reno, Nev., to compete in the 2007 Over the Mountain Triathlon.

A pasta dinner packed with carbs to fuel the athletes will be held on Friday at 6 pm at the Kings Mountain Woman's Club at 108 E. Mountain Street. The dinner is free to all participants and their guests. Race packets will be available for pick-up at the dinner and a USAT representative will be present to go over rules and safety regulations.

The race will begin at 8 a.m. on the beach at Moss Lake near the Moss Lake Park Department and boat ramp. At the sound of the horn, swimmers will cut through the L-shaped course in the water until they reach the swim finish at the boat ramp near New Camp Creek Church Road. Coming out of the water, the swimmers must conquer a steep hill to the first transition area where they will trade their goggles and swim caps for

See Triathlon, 2A