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Man dies, revived at BBQ

By EMILY WEAVER
Editor

Friday morning brought death and life to one local man on the walking track next to the YMCA.

Competitive cooking teams and vendors in the 13th annual Firehouse Cook-off started migrating to the walking track next to the YMCA on Thursday. After little sleep from a midnight fire the night before, Kings Mountain firemen worked hard to get everything ready for the competition.

On Friday morning, though, they had not planned for the "kick-off" that was about to ensue. Gary Lowery and other seniors had come to the walking track for their regular morning exercise.

Just as they passed in front of the cooking station of "Big Mo and the AHO BBQ" around 10 a.m., Lowery fell to the track, lifeless. He had suffered a heart attack.

"Big Mo," who had seen the man collapse, remembered that Joe Amore of "Smoky Mountain Smokers," at the other end of the track, had an automatic external defibrillator. He called him and told him to bring it quick.

"I thought he was joking at first," Amore said. But he grabbed it from his truck and ran down there anyway.

When Amore got to him, Lowery was not breathing. There was no pulse. But he knew what

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WELCOME HOME SOLDIERS



WWII veteran Edward Campbell shakes the hand of a supporter.

'FLIGHT OF HONOR'

Local WWII veterans returned Saturday night on a 'Flight of Honor' from a memorable trip to the war memorial in Washington, D.C. They were greeted at the Charlotte airport by a crowd of cheering fans and loved ones.



Sidney Dixon is welcomed home.

Read more about their adventures in next week's Herald.

Photos by EMILY WEAVER

Voices raised on LBTD issue

By EMILY WEAVER
Editor

Voices on both sides of the upcoming mixed beverage vote in Kings Mountain are being raised just 13 days before the election.

On lawns throughout the city, signs have sprouted in protest to the extra availability of liquor. Reg Alexander is offering the signs to citizens at his Regal Adventures office.

Some proponents of liquor by the drink have hit the phone lines, calling citizens to see where the vote may stand.

But another group of business professionals have stepped forward to voice their concern — the hotels.

Melissa Mott, owner of Holiday Inn in Kings Mountain, reportedly voiced her grievances in a recent Tourism and Development Authority meeting. City events like the Firehouse BBQ Cook-off should bring in the business of new guests to KM hotels.

But that has not always been the case, she reportedly told the board. City Special Events Director Ellis Noell remembered her saying that the hotel owners in Shelby love the special events KM holds, because they get the business.

Janice Thrift is the second shift front

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First Street fire destroys home

Family mourns the loss of pet, sentimental possessions

By EMILY WEAVER
Editor

11:30 Wednesday night — a restless Ricky Carroll, Jr., 23, who needed a few things from the store, decided he would make a trip to Walmart.

His longtime girlfriend, Jessica Bowen, was tired. She said that she just wanted to watch TV and curl up with their infant son, Levi Chase Carroll, and sleep. Ricky convinced her to bring the baby and come along.

An hour later, their home at 800 First Street was fully engulfed in flames. There would be no rest for Ricky or Jessica that night.

Kings Mountain Police Cpl. Danny Davis was making his regular patrol through the neighborhood after midnight when he saw the flames.

Richard Green, who was staying next door with Ricky's sister Tangie Carroll, had gone to the bathroom about the same time. He noticed that the window of the house next to him was glowing a bright orange. He quickly dialed 9-1-1.

Cpl. Davis called it in too. Tangie came outside. She knew that there was a special family member still inside her brother's house. She wanted desperately to get him out.

But flames had barricaded the front door. She and a police officer went to the back of the house to see if they could gain entry. They kicked the door open.

She crept up the steps of the back porch, carefully, trying to peer inside under the heavy smoke. But with the sudden escape of heat the 60" television inside exploded as the officer pulled Tangie back.

They couldn't go in. The fire, which investigators determined was caused by a faulty light fixture, was too ferocious.

The Kings Mountain Fire Department arrived around 12:43 a.m. They couldn't go in either. It was too dangerous.

"It was a bad fire," said KM Fire Chief Frank Burns.

The fire had consumed the house and morphed it into a raging inferno. Not only



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

The charred and scattered remains of a house were all that stood after a bad fire early Thursday morning at 800 First Street.

had it practically devoured Ricky's home, it had also begun to get a taste of Tangie's house at 802 First Street, just a few feet away.

KM firefighters were assisted by Bethlehem and Oak Grove volunteer fire departments, the State Bureau of Investigation, Highway Patrol, KMPD and the Red Cross.

Firefighters worked to contain the blaze and to prevent it from doing any more damage. Ricky and Jessica's cell phone rang with the news while they were at the store. Hearing of the fire, they rushed back. Ricky was frantic. They both were.

The two arrived ready for action only to stand and watch as nearly everything they had went up in flames. Burns said that they had the fire out in about 20 minutes.

The one they lost

Somewhere inside that inferno, while it raged though, was their chihuahua, "Pee-wee." They had raised the dog for three years. They had tried to have a baby before, but Jessica had gone into labor prematurely. The infant was stillborn.

Ricky had recently survived a horrible wreck that broke both of his legs and put

him out of work. When he recovered, he found employment only to be laid off because of decreasing orders in the struggling economy.

Their dog, for many months, was like the baby they couldn't have. He was their constant companion. Ricky tried desperately to get into their burning home to save "Pee-wee." But it was too late.

Ricky, Jessica and their one-month-old son were safe. The late night trip they all took to Walmart had helped them escape what the family believes would have been a terrible fate.

"I think the whole family was sent away for a reason," said Linda Carroll Ernst, Ricky's grandmother and owner of the house they rented.

The value of the few things they had purchased that night were in no comparison to the houseful of items they had worked and saved for years to obtain.

"How am I supposed to provide for my family now when everything is gone?" Ernst remembers her grandson Ricky asking early Thursday morning. "You save for years and within minutes everything you've worked for is gone."

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Early voting for LBTD ends May 2

By EMILY WEAVER
Editor

Only 11 and a half hours into the One-stop early voting site at the Cleveland County Board of Elections office in Shelby, Director Debra Blanton excitedly said Friday morning that they already had 18 voters to cast ballots in what has been a controversial issue.

Early voting on the quest of mixed beverage sales within city limits began Thursday. It will continue at the BoE during normal business hours up until three days before the election. One-stop absentee voting will end at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 2nd.

The election will be conducted on Tuesday, May 5, at two polling sites. All registered voters who live north of U.S. Hwy. 74 will vote at the Kings Mountain YMCA. All who live south of U.S. Hwy. 74 will vote at the Mauney Memorial Library.

The ballot asks if a voter is "for" or "against" the following: "To permit the sale of mixed beverages in hotels, restaurants, private clubs, community theatres, and convention centers."

There are no qualifications to vote early and avoid the lines on election day. Any voter may go to the Board of Elections office in Shelby before May 2nd to cast a ballot.

Voters, who may not feel up to the drive, can also request a ballot be mailed to them, Blanton said.

To have a ballot mailed to you, citizens must write a "letter of request", including the name of the person requesting a ballot, the election date (May 5) in which the person wants to vote, the resident's address in

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