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KMHS band performs tonight, KMMS band June 2
Grover Elementary flies new flag with Memorial ties



Bob and Kevin Bridges

City Auto marks 50 years in KM Page 3A

Kickers host Marvin Ridge in regionals tonight Page 1B

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Kings Mountain Herald 50¢

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Relay for Life



Contributed photo
 Three children stop frolicking in the pool to pay respect to the survivors as they come around the track.

'Will you walk with me?'

Relayers raise \$10,000 Friday night to combat cancer



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD
 On right, Tammy Hogue leads cancer survivors on their first lap Friday night with her father Johnny Hutchins.

By EMILY WEAVER
 Editor

Twelve years ago, Tammy Hogue walked in Kings Mountain's first Relay for Life. She walked that night for her mother, who had been diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 45.

Her mother lost the battle in 2000. Hogue has continued to walk in memory of her mother in every Kings Mountain Relay since.

Council okays higher lake fees

By ELIZABETH STEWART
 staff writer

Bowing to concerns from Moss Lake Property Owners Association, Kings Mountain City Council Tuesday night turned down the original budget recommendation of City Manager Marilyn Sellers to up annual pump permit fees from \$50 to \$400, cutting that amount in half.

Council Chambers at City Hall was packed. "I have looked at all the concerns regarding the lake fees and I am recommending that we proceed with the fees presented by staff except for the pump permit fee," said Sellers.

The pump fee will increase from \$50 to \$200 for fiscal year 2009-2010 but Sellers said the staff will take a look at another increase next fiscal year and possibly put a meter at each pump. With 182 pump permits on file, the projected revenue would have totaled \$72,800, however the reduction to \$200 will make a revenue shortfall of \$36,400. Sellers said, adding that the Moss Lake budget will have to be reduced or fund balance appropriated to balance the budget. Sellers said the only place to cut the Moss Lake budget would be the roof repairs and/or Environmental Impact Study/withdrawal permit/Ogee Spillway.

Said Sellers, "I haven't had a lot of calls from Lake residents but I have spoken with Stephen Perry, a director of the Moss Lake Property Owners Association and a member of the Moss Lake Commission, and Association President Keith Wherry, both of whom attended the recent budget workshop." Wherry said after that meeting he was not opposed to an increase in user fees but not 700 percent. For 12 years lake property owners have irrigated their lawns from raw water without an increase. Perry and other members of Moss Lake Commission had recommended slight increases for recreational uses but the city staff's recommendations for some of the fees were higher.

After Tuesday's action by Council, leases will go out to property owners and permits will be issued to lake users for the new fiscal year beginning July 1.

Several council members told the Herald before Tuesday's meeting that "\$400 is a big jump and particularly in this economy."

"I think we will find a happy medium," said Mayor pro tem Rodney Gordon prior to the Council meeting.

Wherry said Lake homeowners were upset because of "a whopping jump" and some had indicated they wouldn't use the city's raw water for irrigation next year. They may have to go to wells, he said, adding that he had contacted hundreds of lake offices in the Carolinas and found that no charges are made for raw water.

In his presentation at Tuesday's council meeting he talked of the many improvements that lake property owners had made to the recreational assets of the city of Kings Mountain-owned lake, noting that Moss Lake residents have invested money in shoreline stabilization, docks, boat lifts, and landscaping.

Wherry and his wife moved to Kings Mountain from Buffalo, New York and Wherry ran a business for 10 years in the area. He enhanced his property, he said, building a wall around it so that not only did his property values increase but no dirt can get in the water, he said. "We all get benefits from Moss Lake." He said he and his family loved the area. "When the five kids come home for a visit they love the recreational aspects of the lake."

See new lake fees, Page 3A

500 to compete Saturday in annual KM triathlon

By EMILY WEAVER
 Editor

Five hundred athletes will travel to the shores of Moss Lake Saturday morning to compete in the 10th annual Over the Mountain Triathlon, a Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship event.

In different groups, distinguished by various colored swim caps, they will dive into the water for a 1,500-meter swim from the boat launch area near the lake offices to the park area off of New Camp Road.

Then, the tri-athletes will race up the hill to their bicycles. Pedaling away with all due haste, they will embark on the 45K bike course, which winds from the lake through South Carolina state and national parks to Patriot's Park in downtown Kings Mountain.

Here, they will trade their wheels for running shoes in a foot race to the finish line. The 10K race will lead runners from Gold Street to a turn-around on Phifer Road and back. The challenge is to finish the entire course in four hours and 15 minutes.

Motorists are reminded to make way for the cyclists and runners, who will be on Kings Mountain roads Saturday to tackle that challenge.

City Events Director Ellis Noell said that the city has repaved and widened portions of two of the roads used in the bike course.

Crews have widened and repaved about a 3.5 mile portion of Stony Point Road, which will be used by bikers Saturday. Another 1.75 miles on Kings Mountain Boulevard, near I-85, has also been smoothed with fresh pavement, according to Noell.

The Over the Mountain bike course is considered a feature element of the race.

"They (North Carolina Triathlon Series officials) did a poll of all triathletes (who participate in the state series) and our bike race was number one," Noell said, adding proudly that the swim course was voted number three. "It's great to be a part of it."

He is seeking additional volunteers to help out at the

'Leave no man behind' Community rallies to wed war hero

By EMILY WEAVER
 Editor

"Leave no man behind." That's the Marine motto.

Marine Pfc. J.R. Nicholson did just that when his squad came under attack in Iraq.

He pulled five of his fellow soldiers out of the ambush and was wounded in the process. While he was getting his men to safety, he was shot in the head.

Laurie Mancuso, owner of Bellus Tu Spa and wife of a Marine Vietnam veteran, remembered that creed when she heard that this soldier would be left without a proper wedding.

J.R. and Nikki Nicholson were set to exchange vows on a cruise ship May 23. But with the outbreak of swine flu the trip was canceled. No minister. No aisle.

It appeared as if the "I dos" would have to wait.

Nikki, who works as a nurse at the Ervin Clinic, asked Mancuso (a client at the clinic) if she knew of a place where they could get married. She helped Nikki get in touch with her friend Wanda Jones, who has rented out her property on Paradise Lane for weddings.

As a wedding gift, Bellus Tu Spa gave Nikki a facial and a massage about a week before the nuptials.

During the facial, Mancuso learned about J.R.'s bravery in Iraq.

"It touched my heart," she said. "Here there is a war hero at our back door and we don't even know it...I felt like I had to do something."



MR. AND MRS. J.R. NICHOLSON

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BANK ROBBERY
Police seek suspect in Tuesday's Fidelity Bank robbery

Fidelity Bank at 403 S. Battleground Avenue was robbed Tuesday morning at 11:05 a.m. by a suspect who exited on foot and left in an unknown direction. The Kings Mountain Police Department is asking anyone with information to call Det. Todd McDougal of the Criminal Investigation Division, 704-730-2119 or Crime Stoppers at 704-484-TIPS.

Kings Mountain Police responded to the scene and were told that a black male entered the bank and demanded money from a clerk. Bank tellers complied with the request. The suspect was described as a 6 feet tall black male weighing 200 pounds and wearing a tan baseball hat, blue long-sleeved shirt, and tan or khaki style pants. The individual had on possibly bedroom shoes or low-cut shoes.

The Faces of Hometown Banking