

## INSIDE

### City gets ready for Gateway Festival

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## SPORTS

Mountaineers head to Shelby Friday  
Brooks 1st American to catch fish in World Classic  
Dremiel Byers 2nd in world

# Kings Mountain

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## ELECTION 2009

### Candidates speak out at open forum

By ELIZABETH STEWART

Staff writer

The redrawing of school district lines and the student drop out rate were major concerns of school board challengers at Monday night's Woman's Club-sponsored political forum in which nine of 14 candidates in the Nov. 3 city municipal and board of education election spoke out.

"Why are students being bused by Shelby High in their neighborhood to attend Crest High?" asked Eddie Benton of Lawndale. He also called for more discipline in the schools and said the drop out rate should be addressed immediately.

Kathy Falls, a parent of three sons in the school system, sees her service as a liaison between parents, teachers and staff. "I will not be a yes man," the Grover homemaker added, "I will question every decision. The new math program was an unnecessary expense. We cut teacher positions and to hire teachers we should have postponed the math program, a waste of funds," she added.

"I love Kings Mountain," said Yvette D. Grant, who moved with her family from New York four years ago. She and her husband have four children in four different schools. A former Middle School teacher and retired nuclear medical technologist, she said she would be a "voice for your child from a parent, teacher and business owner perspective. Grant called school drop outs the

See CANDIDATES, 3A

## Green cash for 'green' project



photo by LIB STEWART

**NEW KILO LAB** - Chemetall Foote President Ronald A. France are pictured in the new kilo lab at the Kings Mountain Foote operation. Chemetall Foote has received a \$28.4 million grant to build a lithium hydroxide plant in Kings Mountain to produce next generation transportation batteries.

## Chemetall gets \$28.4M federal grant

Plant to be built to manufacture 'smart' batteries

By ELIZABETH STEWART

Staff writer

Chemetall Foote Corp., of Kings Mountain has been awarded stimulus funds of \$28.4 million from the US Department of Energy, almost 50% of which will be used to build a lithium hydroxide plant to produce very high purity lithium materials for

next generation transportation batteries. President Ronald A. France said construction will be completed over the next two years at the Kings Mountain site.

The total grant is \$28.4 million, a 50/50 matching grant which also includes \$13 million to expand and upgrade the production of lithium carbonate at the Company's

See GRANT, 3A

## LIFE SAVING TOOLS

# Fire department gets AEDs

By EMILY WEAVER

Editor

The number one killer of firefighters is not fire or even smoke. It is heart attacks.

In fact, coronary heart disease is considered to be the number one killer among all Americans. Firefighters are equipped to handle fires. They have water to battle flames, breathing apparatus to stand the smoke, and turnout gear to shield them from the heat. But one thing the Kings Mountain Fire Department did not have was an automatic external defibrillator in case of emergency.

Now they do.

Back in April, when the city was planning the budget for this year and teams were setting up for the annual Firehouse Cook-off, a heart attack on the walking track got everyone's attention. Cookers came to the rescue with an AED and CPR. Gary Lowery, who had come to the track for his regular exercise, was brought back to life.

"I think he kind of struck all of our interest a little bit that it would be wise to look into some of these AEDs," said Mayor Pro-tem Rodney Gordon. "So I got to thinking, I checked with the chief and I asked, 'do you have it in the budget' and he said, 'no.' We're planning on putting it in and applying for some grants and stuff like that to be able to get some of these on our trucks."

Gordon, who was a fireman for 14 years, felt like something had to be done.

"Rodney started off at age about 14 as a junior fireman with us," said Fire Chief Frank Burns, who led the junior firemen when Gordon joined.



KM Fire Chief Frank Burns demonstrates how an AED works as Mayor Pro-tem Rodney Gordon looks on.

"I know that heart attack is the number one killer of a firefighter. It's not getting killed in fires, it's not getting hurt so if nothing else we need them to be on the trucks to be on the fire scenes for the firefighters," Gordon said.

"Number one, it's going to protect our firefighters that are out there protecting us. Number two, if they're on a fire scene or something and they need to use it for a citizen or a victim of a fire or a car accident or any type of an emergency that they're responding to, that they've got it and they're

able to use it. The third thing is, this puts one here at the city hall" in case of emergency.

The stress level of a firefighter can shoot through the roof, straining the heart.

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## INSIDE

### City thanks customers over breakfast

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Keep up with The Herald's 'tweets' at [twitter.com/kmhe](http://twitter.com/kmhe)

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## No visitors under 18

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Staff writer

Until the flu incidence rate has significantly decreased, visitors under the age of 18 are restricted from visiting patients at Kings Mountain Hospital and Cleveland Regional Medical Center effective Thursday, Oct. 1.

"We're asking for the public's support not only for the health of our patients but for the health of their children," said Dotty

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