



photo by LIB STEWART

CANDIDATES - Pictured are candidates at Monday night's political forum at the Woman's Club. Front row, from left, Gina Collias, Tommy Hawkins, Dean Spears, Yvette Grant, and Kathy Falls. Back row, from left, Jerry Mullinax, Mike Butler, Curtis Pressley and Eddie Benton.

CANDIDATES

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No. 1 issue facing schools and said that from her experience as a middle school teacher in Brooklyn, NY that kids are dropping out in middle school. She is an avid tutor.

"I take my job seriously," said Butler, who like Jerry Mullinax, Ward 3 incumbent councilman, and Dean Spears, incumbent At Large commissioner, running on their record, said they represent and listen to "all the people, not just the ones in our wards" and pledged, if reelected, to continue the successes of the present administration.

Ward 3 Challenger Tommy Hawkins opened his remarks by asking the 50 people in attendance to applaud all elected officials, which also included Mayor Rick Murphy and Mayor pro tem Rodney Gordon in the audience.

Ward 3 Challenger Tommy Hawkins called for cuts in spending, new employee opportunities, and said if he didn't know the answer to questions that he would get them. "I will be a voice for every citizen," he said.

Challenger Curtis Pressley, a candidate for the Council At-Large seat, said he is running because he wants to address the issues. He cited the need for more affordable recreation for youth and pledged to work to keep taxes low and to listen to individuals and those in the business sector.

"I want to be a voice for the people," he said.

"I am passionate about Kings Mountain," said Challenger for the At-Large seat on council Gina Collias. A volunteer in numerous downtown improvement programs, Collias would urge council to focus on safe places for teenagers, mentioning refurbishment of the YMCA (the former community center) and boys and girls club. She also said the city badly needs a place to recycle.

Ann Bennett, chairman of the Public Affairs Department of the club, was moderator. Each of the candidates gave a three minute presentation and were invited to mingle with club members and guests as refreshments were served.

Incumbent school board members Phillip Glover, George Litton and Connie Phifer Savell were attending a board of education meeting in Shelby at the same time of the forum. Their letters were read. The candidate list to date:

Kings Mountain City Council

WARD 2: Mike Butler and Brenda Ross.

WARD 3 - Jerry Mullinax and Tommy Hawkins.

AT LARGE - Dean Spears, Gina Collias and Curtis Pressley

Board of Education (3 seats up)

Phillip Glover, George Litton, Connie Phifer Savell, all incumbents, and Yvette Grant, Eddie Benton, Kathy Falls and Scott Dale Oliver.

GRANT

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Silver Peak, Nevada site.

"We are excited about the opportunity to participate in the electrification of the automobile industry," said Mr. France. Currently the local plant employs 120. France said that after the new plant is completed that 20 new employees will be added for high tech manufacturing jobs.

With the electrification of vehicles seen as the next step for the automobile industry, Kings Mountain's Chemetall Foote is on the ground floor of this rapidly developing new technology.

The Department of Energy's \$2.4 billion program under the Recovery and Reinvestment Act is the single largest investment in advanced battery technology for hybrid and electric-driven vehicles ever made and the award to Rockwood's business ranks, in dollar amount, as third highest among advanced material grants. Together, the awarded projects are expected to accelerate the development of manufacturing capacity for batteries in the U.S. and electric drive components as well as the deployment of electric vehicles.

Chemetall Foote recently opened a new kilo lab in Kings Mountain which Dr. Mark Hintze, Director of Research and Development, says represents Chemetall's continuing commitment to customers in the pharmaceutical, agricultural and fine chemical businesses.

A highly technical operation, the

lab is multifunctional and will allow chemists like Jeff McCall to experiment and develop lithium and magnesium compounds. Product development accomplished at Chemetall Foote's pilot plant in Kings Mountain include production of experimental quantities of a wide variety of new products including amides, hydrides, and alkoxides.

Other products produced at Chemetall's Kings Mountain operation include lithium bromide brine for use in industrial absorption air conditioning systems; lithium chloride brine for dehumidification in food and other industries where moisture control is critical and USP grade lithium carbonate for use in treatment of bipolar disorder. Chemetall Foote is also a leading producer of lithium metal products for the primary lithium battery industry including lithium metal ingots and foils.

Commenting on the lithium award, Seifi Ghasemi, chairman and chief executive officer of Rockwood Holdings, Inc., Princeton, NJ, said, "The current dependence of the US and Western Europe on imported oil is a major national security issue. The practical and environmentally beneficial way to reduce this unsustainable dependence is the electrification of the transportation system. The key enabling technology to achieve this worthwhile goal is further development of lithium ion batteries as the most effective means of storing energy in all-electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles. We are pleased to see the U.S. government taking the initiative and

providing major support toward the commercialization of these technologies."

Rockwood and its Chemetall business are the only U.S. domestic source of lithium raw material and the largest global producer of lithium and lithium compounds used in batteries, pharmaceuticals and many other industries.

US Senator Kay R. Hagan (D-NC) who made the announcement of the North Carolina grant recently from Raleigh said "Chemetall Foote is at the forefront of advanced battery technology. The Recovery Act grant will give the company the resources to increase the quality of lithium for next generation batteries, which will create high-tech manufacturing jobs in our state. This funding is an investment in batteries that will help power electric cars and reduce America's dependence on foreign oil."

Chemetall Foote Corporation traces its origins to Dr. A. E. Foote who founded the Foote Mineral Company in 1876 as a purveyor of rare minerals. It became a major producer of Lithium chemicals when it acquired the right to mine spodumene at Kings Mountain in the early 1950s. In the 1960s Foote pioneered the production of Lithium carbonate from brine with the opening of the Silver Park, NV plant. In 1984, the world's richest commercial brine deposit began production at the Salar de Atacama located in the desert of northern Chile. The spodumene mining operation at the Kings Mountain plant ended in the early 1990s.

KIDNEY

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her kidneys no longer could, removing waste from the body, filtering toxins from the blood.

Even though the nurses at the clinic always made her feel more at ease, Julie said, dialysis was always a little scary for her. Her mother died from a heart attack after one of many dialysis treatments.

But the family prayed. Their church prayed. Loved ones across the country prayed. And on Thursday morning, Sept. 17, an answer came.

The phone rang about 2 a.m.

"They said we have a kidney that's a perfect match. You need to get here right away," recalled Julie's husband, Keith Miller.

The words "perfect match" echoed in his ears. He had heard the word "match" before, but aware of his wife's special antibody condition he was startled that doctors would use the term "perfect".

"I had a rare antibody in my blood so I'm not compatible with a lot of the kidneys that come in," she said.

Doctors had told her before that finding a match would be extremely rare.

"When they said this is a perfect match, I kind of swallowed my heart back down, thinking the word 'perfect'? How can that be when our problem was wanting to match that rare antibody?"

Over the years, several living donors had volunteered for testing to see if they could be a match for Julie. Even among those who had the same blood type, that rare antibody stood in the way.

They had gotten a call like this before, although the word "perfect" wasn't used.

"It was right around Christmas (last year)," she said. "We were so excited."

The kids came home from school, family members came in from out of town and together they waited on the test results of a donor kidney.

"We sat there for hours and hours and of course, it didn't match," Julie said.

This antibody, doctors said, is like an extra strain found in patients, who have had blood transfusions. But to her knowledge, Julie had never had a transfusion. It was just a special ingredient in the mix no one could match...until that Thursday.

"I thought this is great. They found a perfect match. That's hard to do, not impossible, but there is a small possibility," Keith said. "So many things have to match. To say a 'perfect match' is amazing."

They left for the hospital around 2:30 a.m. and headed in for nearly four hours worth of tests.

"They let us know about nine o'clock in the morning that everything was set perfectly," he said.

It was indeed a "perfect match". Now, it was time to call their children, who were away at college.

"We didn't need to wake them up at two for a false alarm," Keith said.

Although they called with the good news, he was still nervous about letting his hopes get too high.

"My reaction was I still couldn't believe it," Keith said. "I'm still not convinced. Yes, they want to go ahead, but things can still happen. Last minute, maybe the donor family changes their mind, maybe they get the kidney here and it

doesn't look good."

But the kidney was young and healthy and already at the hospital.

"The doctors were very excited for her. Not only was it a good match, it was a good kidney," he said.

They wheeled her in for surgery around 7 p.m. By then, the waiting room was filled with loved ones. Every half-hour or so a nurse would call from the operating room with an update.

Once it was in, the kidney started working right away - just as it should.

"She didn't have any troubles with the anesthesia. She didn't have to take any pain medication. It was incredible," he said.

The next day she was on her feet. On Sunday, Sept. 20, she came home. By that Monday, she was shopping.

Doctors did not remove her other kidneys, because the organs make other hormones affecting things like red blood cell production and blood pressure, Keith said.

But a new one was needed to perform an essential function of the kidney - removing waste.

"I have three," Julie said, with a smile. "I have one on each side and one in the middle."

Kidney function is normal. With a new lease on life, Julie is on a healthy diet and strict regimen of anti-rejection medications - about 37 pills a day. But she has not had any side effects yet, Keith said. "I'm so grateful."

"This is a new way of life, but it's actually a life," he said. "Dialysis was survival."

Her last day of dialysis was Wednesday, Sept. 16. On Friday, the day after her transplant, she called to give them the good news that she wouldn't be in for treatment.

"They already knew," Keith said.

The good news had traveled fast. During her surgery, family members and loved ones were typing updates on social network websites, like MySpace and Facebook. And through modern technology - the answers to prayers for a transplant so many had prayed for, across the country, were coming through at real time.

But she looks back on the whole experience with a smile.

"This goes to the power of prayer," she said. "People have been praying for years because I've been on the transplant list so long and I was sick before that - God answers prayers."

"The Lord has a plan for me," she said, "that's why I'm still here."

Julie hopes to be a positive example for her other siblings, who will need a transplant one day and to others, who are faced with dialysis.

"I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me," she said, quoting scripture (Phillipians 4:13). "If I can touch one life and give them hope, then this is worth it."

The Millers have three children: Lauren, a junior at Kings Mountain High; Christopher, a junior at UNC-Charlotte; and, Danielle, who is attending law school at Elon University.

The family still asks for prayers. Doctors say the first three months after a transplant are the most critical, Keith said.

"The greatest gift you can give me is prayer," Julie said.

Over the next three months, the Millers will continue to go to CMC for tests and check-ups to make sure the new kidney is still working.

VISITORS

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Leatherwood, Vice-President of Cleveland County Healthcare System.

Leatherwood is also encouraging the public to get a seasonal flu vaccination and a separate vaccination for the H1N1 when it becomes available sometime in October. The number of cases of H1N1 influenza across the world and in the United States continues to rise and an upswing in these cases is forecast this fall. Currently the H1N1 virus appears no more severe than seasonal flu, however. "Please do not allow children to visit hospital patients. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause," said Leatherwood.

Leatherwood cautions if you have flu-like symptoms - fever, cough, runny or stuffy nose, sore throat and body aches - the best thing you can do to limit the spread of disease is to stay at home at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved and you no longer need a fever reducing med-

ication. Leatherwood said that in the event your child develops flu like symptoms, please follow the current advice from health authorities which is to keep your child at home or find alternative child care arrangements and contact your health care provider for advice if symptoms worsen.

Practice good hand hygiene also. You can protect your health by washing your hands frequently with soap and warm water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Practicing respiratory etiquette is important. The flu spreads from one person to another in the

droplets produced by coughs and sneezes. Everyone should cover the mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Or, consider using the bend of your elbow if tissues are not available. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth in case the virus is on your hands.

DEADLINES

THE KINGS MOUNTAIN HERALD
700 E. Gold St. • P.O. Box 769
Kings Mountain, NC 28086

(704)739-7496 • Fax (704) 739-0611

Hours: Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

POLICIES

• Submission of news items and social notes are recommended to be done a week in advance. Submission of items is not a guarantee that they will run in the newspaper.

• Letters to the Editor must be signed and include address and phone number. Thank you letters are required to be placed as paid personal notes.

• Weddings & Engagements will be published with one photo for \$25 each. Obituaries begin at \$25.

DEADLINES...

ADVERTISING
Display Ads - 12 p.m. - Friday
Classified - 2 p.m. Friday
NEWS ITEMS & SOCIAL NOTES
12 p.m. Friday
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
12 p.m. Friday
OBITUARIES
9 a.m. Tuesday



Carmike Cinemas advertisement listing movies like FAME, PANDORUM, SURROGATES, CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS - 3D, THE INFORMANT, JENNIFER'S BODY, LOVE HAPPENS, TYLER PERRY'S I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF, ALL ABOUT STEVE, and THE FINAL DESTINATION 3D with showtimes.

Arnold's Jeweler advertisement featuring diamond rings and jewelry. Text includes 'Diamonds At Affordable Prices', 'Lay-A-Way Or Open Charge', 'Large Selection To Choose From', and 'Master Jeweler'.