

**Teen uses birthday
wish to help others**

OBITUARIES 2A

Noble Parker, 84
Tommie Millen, 80
Pete McDaniel, 80
Nell Laughridge, 78
Thelma Haney, 57
Opal Bell, 85



SPORTS 1B

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reaches 700 in career
strikeouts

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Kings Mountain Herald

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COURTESY OF GROVER PD

A photo of evidence from a recent drug bust shows the marijuana, guns, money, beer and other items that were seized.

Big drug bust for Grover PD

Over a pound of marijuana, loaded guns, cocaine confiscated in traffic stop

By EMILY WEAVER
Editor

Grover Police Chief Todd Martin and Ofc. Shannon Hamrick made one of the largest drug busts in the history of the Grover Police Department Friday night as they pulled over a pound of marijuana, loaded guns and cocaine from a vehicle in a traffic stop.

Mayor Robert Sides said that it was the largest drug bust he could remember in the years since the department has been in action. It began with a simple traffic violation.

Police pulled over Marquis Lebron Adams, 33, of 529 Crocker Rd., Kings Mountain, after they say he failed to stop at a stop sign on Laurel Ave. During the stop, Chief Martin said he noticed an open container of alcohol in the front of the vehicle, but police say he confessed to having more in the car.

"After he told us that he had a gun in the car it led to a search," Martin said.

Hamrick and Martin say they pulled two loaded handguns, cocaine, and several bags of marijuana and drug paraphernalia from the 2001 silver Chevy Impala Adams was driving.

The marijuana weighed 462 grams, which totaled over 16.5 oz, Martin added.

"It's good to get it off the streets," Hamrick said, adding that the bust helped them "get it out of Grover and this area and, hopefully, out of other areas too."

Adams was taken into custody around 9:50 p.m. and was charged with one felony count of possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, a felony count of possession of a schedule VI controlled substance, a felony count of possession of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia, and operating a vehicle with an open container of alcohol. He was also cited for a stop sign violation.

Adams was transported to the Cleveland County Detention Center and was booked under a \$15,000 secured bond. The Impala was impounded.

Chief Martin said that he has adopted a "no tolerance policy" when it comes to drugs and dealers in Grover.

"We're just not going to put up with it," he added.

His message for anyone involved with narcotics who lives or travels through Grover is

BUST, Page 4A

Council to set hearing on 'sweepstakes' zoning

Kings Mountain City Council at its meeting Tuesday, March 30 at 6 p.m. is expected to call for public hearing April 27 on a proposed new zoning amendment for amusement video arcades, including Internet cafes and businesses (including retail) with sweepstakes gaming machines and the like.

The emergence of gaming establishments has city officials mapping out a strategy on how to regulate gaming operations as lawmakers and state courts debate on whether such businesses are legal.

MARCH MADNESS

Debate lingers over health care reform

Democrats: We've passed historic vote
Republicans: yeah, historically bad

By EMILY WEAVER
Editor

Sunday night was marked by many as "historical". Many who spoke and voted in favor of the health care reform bill claimed the narrow passing of the much-debated and contentious legislation as a victory in history.

Congressman Patrick McHenry (R-10), who voted against it, called the bill historically bad and its passing historically worse.

"It's amazing to me that we have our first piece of legislation that passed that forces people to buy something (in a free market)," said Jason Falls, owner of Falls Insurance, who is currently running on the Republican ticket for the board of county commissioners.

"I think this is the most historical moment of my lifetime in



US Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-10)



Betsy Wells
CC Dem. Party



Jason Falls
CC Rep. Party



Dean Westmoreland
Political Smackdown



Suzanne Amos
Amos Insurance

regards to accomplishments of Congress for the American people that I remember," said Betsy Wells, former chair and current member of the Cleveland County Democratic Party.

She added that both Democrat and Republican politicians had talked about the need for health care reform for years. "But this Democratic Congress under President Obama got it through," she said. "I'm so glad the Democrats rose up and did this for the people."

"I think it's a good thing and it's about time in this country that we had health care for our people," said Dean Westmoreland.

Land member of the Cleveland County Democratic Party who appears regularly on the local cable show "Political Smackdown".

Politicians have taken up arms on both sides of the issue, threatening those who vote "yes" will not be reelected come November. In the midst of all the bickering and finger-pointing there were also times of courtship, where politicians tried to woo those on the fence with presidential rides and favors.

But despite maneuverings and strategies on both fronts, the

INSIDE

STATE REPS TO SUE FEDS OVER BILL, 8A

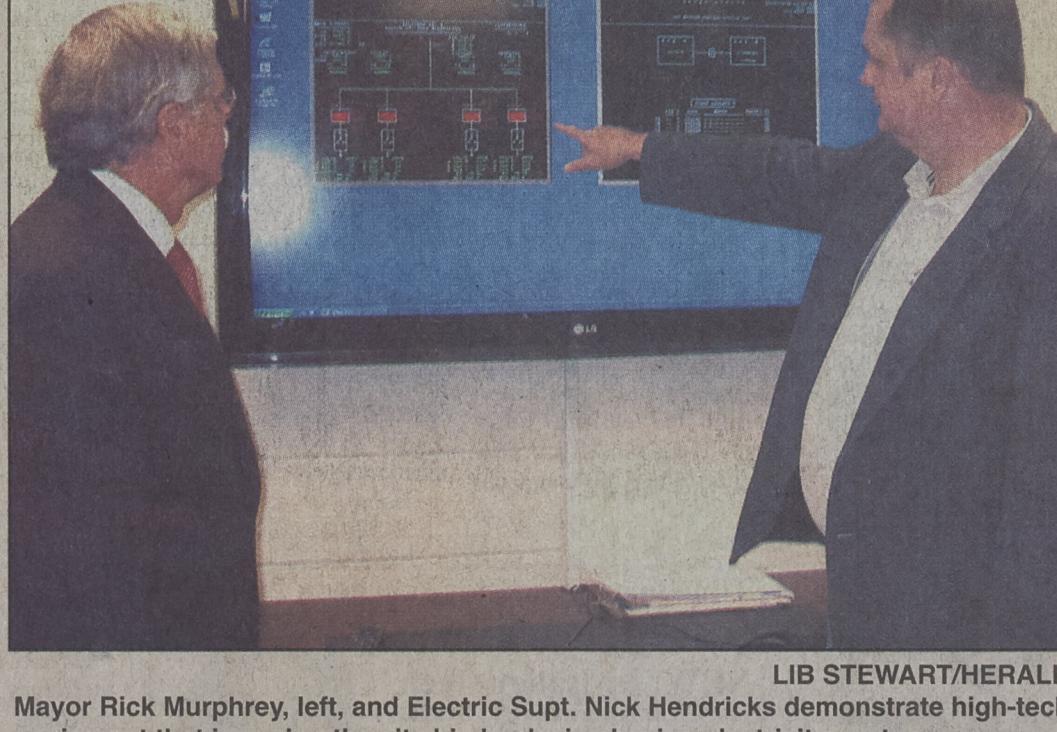
bill passed 219-212 with all Republicans and 34 Democrats holding out voting "no".

"Today's vote means the President will sign federal funding of abortions, the Cornhusker Kickback, the Louisiana Purchase, 19 tax increases and \$500 billion in Medicare cuts into law. His so-called health care 'reform' plan raises premiums, ignores lawsuit abuse and adds billions to the federal deficit," McHenry said, in a statement released Sunday night.

The Perks

An extra \$100 million in Medicaid funding for Nebraska that was coined the "Cornhusker Kickback" was removed from DEBATE, Page 7A

THE POWER BEHIND CITY POWER



LIB STEWART/HERALD

Mayor Rick Murphrey, left, and Electric Supt. Nick Hendricks demonstrate high-tech equipment that is saving the city big bucks in shaving electricity costs.

Updated SCADA system helps city restore power in fast fashion

By ELIZABETH STEWART

Staff writer

Bucket trucks and men in hard hats are familiar sights when your power is out.

But what some citizens may not know is that a SCADA computerized system and extensive mapping at Kings Mountain Public Works on Piedmont Avenue pinpoints your location immediately.

Twenty years ago outages from an electrical storm similar to Sunday night's thunder and lightning would have taken city workers 12-15 hours to restore power. Not so today, says the city's Electric Supt. Nick Hendricks who says there were zero power outages Sunday night. Hendricks said his Public Works crew "was on top of it" monitoring a 10-year-old SCADA system, recently up-

dated for the second time.

Updates give additional backup to the peak generation plant which paid for itself, a big electricity cost-saving plan which Mayor Rick Murphrey says saves the city \$1 million a year.

SCADA, the acronym for 'Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition' focuses on gathering and circulating the right amount of system information to the right person or computer within the right amount of time so that problems are handled quickly. For instance, the Aug. 14, 2003 blackout in the U.S. demonstrates the importance of a properly functioning SCADA system in preventing future blackout.

Murphrey said that knowledge of electric utili-

SCADA, Page 4A

Voting by the numbers

By EMILY WEAVER

Editor

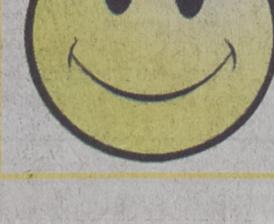
Cleveland County has a total of 61,236 registered voters in its population. As the May 4th Primary Election draws near, The Herald is looking at how many of those voters will cast their ballots at polls in the Kings Mountain area.

In the Bethware community, 1,484 voters may head to the polls at Bethlehem Baptist Church in the Primary Election and Nov. 2nd General Election this year. In that crowd, 531 are registered as Democrats, 614 are registered as Republican and 333 are unaffiliated, according to the most recent statistics released by the Cleveland County Board of Elections.

Although there were only 471 registered voters residing within the city limits of Grover as of Feb. 3, a whopping 2,808 from Grover and the surrounding area will be invited to cast their ballots inside Grover Town Hall this year. The Grover polls are set to be Democrat-strong with 1,124 registered as such, compared to the 1,081 that signed up as Republicans or the 602 who chose not to pick a party.

NUMBERS, Page 5A

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