

Will World Series bring tourist dollars to KM?

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff writer

Neighboring Shelby has won the bid to host the Legion Baseball World Series permanently starting in 2011 with an economic impact of \$5 million or more in tax revenue for the county and tourist dollars projected for the Kings Mountain area.

Emily Sisk, administrative liaison for the Shelby American Legion Baseball World Series executive committee and coordinator of grants development at Cleveland Community College, said that more than 100 people involved with the committee traveled by bus to Indianapolis, Indiana May 1 to support their winning presentation at the Legion's spring meetings and were notified May 5 that Shelby had won the bid over Bartlesville, Okla.

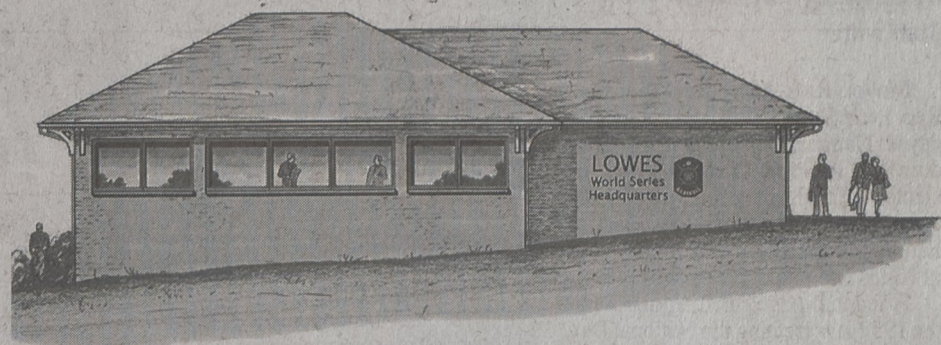
County Commissioner Johnny Hutchins of Kings Mountain and World Series baseball co-chairman Eddie Holbrook were among those who spoke about the excitement of partnering with the American Legion which has a membership nation wide of over 2.5 million veterans.

Sisk said that natural amenities of tourism in this area were promoted, including Gateway Trails, the Kings Mountain National Military Park, and local hotel space for guests and restaurants just 30 minutes from the airport, plus other amenities for the Shelby area including Broad River Greenway and other attractions, housing and restaurants.

"We look forward to putting on the best World Series the Legion's ever had, becoming a complementary partner with them and making the Legion proud they selected us," said Holbrook.

Sisk said the presentation included plans to renovate Keeter Stadium including a new scoreboard and a building specifically for World Series staff. The building will feature offices for game preparation purposes and seating that overlooks the playing field. "We are also working with the city to build a new water tower where the base will be in the form of a bat and the tank will represent a baseball," said Sisk.

The water tower will read "Shelby, home of the American Legion Baseball World Series." Shelby will also provide additional World Series exposure throughout the United



PROPOSED AMERICAN LEGION
WORLD SERIES HEADQUARTERS
SHELBY, NORTH CAROLINA

HOLLAND & HAMRICK
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Keeter Stadium in Shelby will host the American Legion Baseball World Series permanently starting in 2011. This photograph is a rendering of the proposed World Series headquarters building.

States with one of its local trucking companies that has more than 100 trailers traveling across the country daily. The sides of each trailer will read the same as the water tower. "The baseball committee from Shelby has a real vision for the future, and I think that's

one of the things that separated them from Oklahoma," American Legion Baseball Chairman Larry Price said. "They are not only looking at three to four years down the road, they are looking at forever."

Volunteers needed to help with Over the Mountain

City Special Events Director Ellis Noell is looking for volunteers to help with the 11th annual Over the Mountain Triathlon set for Saturday, May 22nd.

Several volunteers (usually 60-70) help the triathlon run smoothly each year, aiding with morning registrations, body-marking at the swim start, acting as lifeguards along the water course, providing

support at the swim-bike and bike-run transition stations, and at the finish line.

Each volunteer will get a free t-shirt. For more information or to fill out an application to volunteer, visit www.cityofkm.com and look for "Information & Application" under the Special Events tab.

This will be the 11th year the City of Kings Mountain has hosted the

triathlon, which for the past 10 years, has been an olympic-length event. Over the Mountain has grown to become the qualifying match for the USA Triathlon Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship, a step away from the USAT national event. Over the Mountain has had a maximum cap of 500 competitors, but for the past two years, over 500 have signed

up to participate. Noell said that they decided to raise the cap to 550 this year.

Triathletes in the KM race have also exceeded expectations. Two competitors have already broken the two-hour-10-minute finish time for the three-leg race that consists of a 1,500-meter swim, a 27-mile bike ride, and a 6-mile foot race.

Over the Mountain Triathlon leads contestants on an exciting course through four counties and two states. As of Monday, nearly 400 athletes had already registered to compete in the May 22nd triathlon.

Wyant named new director of CCHD

Dorothea Wyant is the new director of the Cleveland County Health Department succeeding the retiring Denese Stallings.



WYANT

Robert R. Blackburn, chairman of the Health Department board of directors, said that Wyant has "excellent credentials and has an extensive background in public health supervision and communicable disease." Blackburn added, "Board members look forward to a seamless transition in continuing to provide quality health care and prevention services for our citizens in Cleveland County with Ms. Wyant's leadership."

Wyant holds an undergraduate degree in nursing from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a Masters in Business Administration and Masters in Health Administration from Pfeiffer University. She has served as Nursing Director with the Cleveland County Health Department since 2007 and before her promotion was the Assistant Health Director. In 1994 she received the Samuel L. Katz Award for outstanding contributions to the Childhood Immunization Program in North Carolina presented by the North Carolina Public Health Association.

PRIMARY From Page 1

"We are thankful to our supporters and we are immediately building our team for the general election. We think that a coalition of common-sense Republicans, Democrats, and unaffiliated voters will support our campaign in November," said Hastings.

Tessner said after the election "I just thank the good Lord and the people of Cleveland County. I will do my best to serve Cleveland County in a professional and compassionate way to one and all alike."

In his reelection bid for Congress, GOP Representative Patrick McHenry of Cherryville won every county in the 10-county district and faces Democrat Jeffrey Gregory of Shelby, formerly of Kings Mountain, on November 2.

"When I travel around the district, the thing I hear most from people is "keep fighting for us, Patrick." I hear you, I listen to you. I'll be your voice and I'll continue fighting for you." He added, "With the right people in office, we can get government out of the way and the economy moving again. We can balance the budget without raising taxes. We can create jobs by helping small businesses and stopping the bailouts. We can improve education. We can repeal this horrible health care bill - and replace it with policies the American people actually support."

Said Gregory, "I am very

proud of all the votes I received from Cleveland County, especially those from my hometown of Kings Mountain. I look forward to the victory in this election, so that I can carry the voice of the people to Washington, DC. My number one job will be to truly represent all of the many needs of the hard-working people of District 10. The people need to know that I am a dedicated, conservative, Christian, with a passion to bring back the original intent of the Constitution, which is to serve the people. With the people's support and votes we can restore this district and nation to the trust and faith of the voters in November."

Kings Mountain citizens were also interested in the race for US Senate where a run-off will be held between front running Democrats Elaine Marshall, North Carolina's Secretary of State for more than a decade, and Cal Cunningham, former state senator. The winner of the run-off next month will face Republican Senator Richard Burr who easily defeated his three challengers. Burr got the nod from 80 percent of those who voted in the GOP primary.

The break-down of voters at the six Kings Mountain area polling sites: Bethware 229; Grover, 364; Kings Mountain North 560; Kings Mountain South 461; Oak Grove 428; and Waco 496.

The break-down of voters at the Kings Mountain precincts in the sheriff race: Bethware - Norman 85,

Hamrick 4; Gordon 44; Chapman 8; Morrow 25; and Allen 225; In Grover the vote totals were Norman 155; Hamrick 12; Gordon 45; Chapman 24; Morrow 50; and Allen 82; at Kings Mountain North Norman 201; Hamrick 19; Gordon 73; Chapman 15; Morrow 41; and Allen 190; at Kings Mountain South Norman 202; Hamrick 19; Gordon 73; Chapman 15; Morrow 41; and Allen 190; At Oak Grove Norman 143; Hamrick 1; Gordon 36; Chapman 16; Morrow 19; and Allen 77; at Waco Norman 39; Hamrick 3; Gordon 82; Chapman 7; Morrow 31; and Allen 115. The totals in the Sheriff's race: Democrat Primary Norman, 6,087; Gordon, 2,290; Chapman, 327; Hamrick, 222. In the Republican Primary for Sheriff: Allen, 2,122 and Morrow, 750.

Hastings won 64.41 percent of the vote cast in the GOP Primary at the Oak Grove precinct served by House District 110.

A total of 61,374 citizens are registered to vote in Cleveland County. In the May Primaries 19.87 percent of registered voters went to the polls.

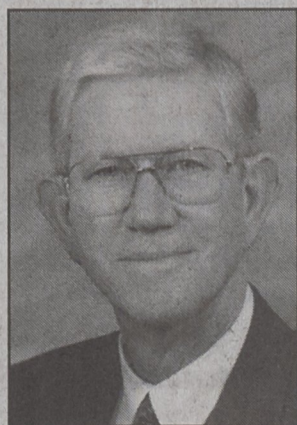
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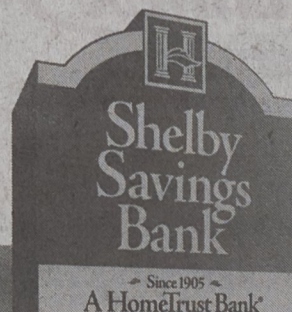
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