



**Malyn Bailey crowned Miss Kings Mountain 1B**

**INSIDE**  
**Mountaineers fall to South Point in OT field goal...1C**

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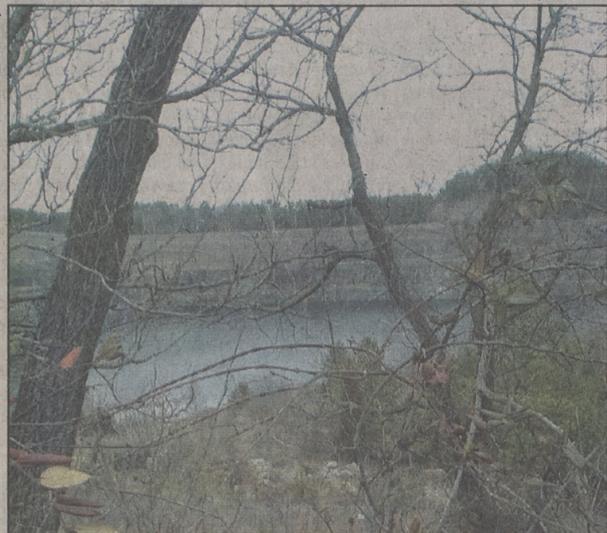
# Kings Mountain Herald

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## Police: human remains probably not a result of homicide



This 2007 photo shows an old Kings Mountain area mine pit.

By **ELIZABETH STEWART**  
Staff writer

Kings Mountain Police do not suspect homicide in the discovery last week of human bones in a closed quarry.

Captain Derek Johnson said two 19-year-old boys looking for a swimming hole found skeletal remains in a fenced-in mine abandoned for 16 years, on the property of Chemetall Foote Corporation's production site near I-85. One of the youths took a picture of a bone, showed it to his mother and she went to police.

Cleveland County Coroner Dwight Tessner confirmed the found bone was a human femur and sent the remains to a Charlotte medical examiner's office. But it may be weeks before a report is completed.

Johnson said gathering medical and dental records of missing persons of interest and comparing those findings will take time.

"The coroner, Chief Melvin Proctor and I think the remains could be six to 12 months old," Johnson said. "The mine is so inaccessible we just don't think

there was foul play but the investigation is ongoing," he added.

It took police four hours to retrieve the skeletal remains Thursday. Climbing up from the quarry was more difficult than going down into it as detectives scaled rocky ridges and straight vertical rock walls to search for the remains.

"It was bad, very deep, you wouldn't believe it," Johnson said.

Johnson did not identify the two boys he called "adventurers." The two told police they had "Googled" on the internet for paths that might lead to mines and swimming and fishing holes in the Kings Mountain area. Their curiosity was piqued as they navigated the overgrowth to find a place to swim. Johnson said the two would not be charged with trespassing.

"They just wanted to swim," he said.

Their adventure ended when they reported it to their mother. And police say there's not likely to be a repeat.

### All powered up



Chris Welch, left, and Johnny Putnam, right, work on a city power pole.

## Power week energizes city

Public Power Week, an awareness promotion by the City of Kings Mountain's Electric and Billing Departments, kicks off Monday with displays and customer appreciation giveaways at and "Color the Mayor" coloring contests at city hall.

The week of activities culminates on Saturday, Oct. 9, at the community-wide Gateway Festival downtown where game winners will get energy kits, coloring contest winners will get \$25 gift cards, and the new Electric Department mascot - "Light Bob" will make an appearance. Bob's costume is a prototype of a light

bulb created by Holly Black and will be modeled by Josh Conrad.

Coloring sheets (a picture of the mayor climbing a light pole at last year's Gateway Festival) are available at City Hall.

The Gateway Festival will culminate with the first annual City of Kings Mountain Lineman's Rodeo with a special contest to see who can guess how quickly Mayor Rick can perform a mystery skill.

"This is an event that you don't want to miss," says Electric Supt. Nick Hendricks.

See **POWER WEEK, 7A**

## More green for local greenways

By **EMILY WEAVER**  
Editor

The Gateway Trails and the City of Kings Mountain has been awarded \$166,600 in grants to help connect local lands to the Carolina Thread Trail - a 15-county, two-state network of greenways, bikeways, waterways and conservation corridors.

The Carolina Thread Trail Governing Board approved trail grant applications from 13 community projects along the Thread, totaling \$563,795. Of the 13 approved, two Kings Mountain projects were given the green light.

The city is set to receive \$16,600 for the first step in identifying the thread trail's path from Moss Lake to the Gateway Trails.

The Kings Mountain Gateway Trails

committee was thrilled to hear the news last week that they will get \$150,000 for the next phase of the trail.

"We are absolutely elated because now we can really move forward in the next three months," said Shirley Brutko, president of Gateway Trails, Inc.

The design for the next phase of trail, which will extend the current greenway nearly three miles, will connect to the other side of I-85 near Quality Lane. The 2.8-mile "Phase 3" has already been marked. Volunteers have been working to clear the brush. The new path will feature a gravel trail, a scenic overlook platform, bench seating, a boardwalk creek and rail crossings.

See **GRANTS, 7A**



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

Gateway Trails President Shirley Brutko stands with members of Gateway Trails Inc.'s executive board, Bill McCarter and Mary Wade Smith at the Carolina Thread Trail sign at the Gateway trailhead, marking KM's future connectivity with the two-state, 15-county-wide interstate of recreational lands.

## City thanks customers over breakfast

By **ELIZABETH STEWART**  
Staff writer

The city's annual Customer Appreciation Breakfast last Thursday attracted a large crowd to the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Center.

"We were very pleased with the turnout," said Mayor Rick Murphrey, who was master of ceremonies and presented Public Power Week gifts and door prizes, including colorful Fall mums, assisted by the staff.

"This is a time that we take to thank our customers for their loyalty," said the mayor, welcoming customers, associates, city and area government representatives and elected officials. Keith Falls of Linwood Restaurant catered the



City customers and guests pack the senior center conference room for annual breakfast. photo by **LIB STEWART**

country-style buffet meal. "Kings Mountain continues to move forward," the mayor said as he reviewed some of the highlights of city

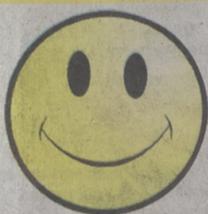
progress in spite of a struggling economy. "We cut our budget by a half million dollars, kept the tax rate intact and

See **MAYOR, 7A**



photo by **LIB STEWART**

Malyn Bailey, Kings Mountain High School senior, registers to vote with Board of Elections Deputy Director Meloni Wray on the KMHS campus Wednesday. Bailey turned 18 Sept. 5 and will cast her vote for the first time Nov. 2.



# Happy Customers are Our Business!

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