

County crunches numbers for 2011 budget

CASAR - County commissioners were taking their first look at a proposed county budget Tuesday night at Casar Volunteer Fire Department.

The county tax rate of 72 cents per \$100 valuation was expected to remain the same for fiscal year 2011-2012.

"In the 11 years I have been on the board I have not seen an increase in the tax rate," Vice Chairman Ronnie Hawkins said before the meeting.

The proposed budget presented by County Manager David Dear will remain on the table for 30 days prior to final adoption before June 30.



Kevin Lisska finishes 1st in last year's OTM.

New race course to highlight triathlon Saturday

For the 12th year, the City of Kings Mountain will host the Over the Mountain Triathlon on May 21. Part of the North Carolina Triathlon Series (NCTS), this award winning triathlon will bring in over 500 triathletes and their families to Kings Mountain. The race consists of a one-mile swim, point to point, at Moss Lake; a 30-mile bike race through four counties and two states; and finishes with a 6.2-mile foot race on the downtown streets in Kings Mountain.

The race has been ranked #1 Olympic length by the readers of Endurance magazine and rated #1 bike portion, #2 swim portion and #14 in the run portion by NCTS members.

"The run portion has been our weakest link and we have redesigned that portion to make this one of the very best triathlons in our region," stated Ellis

See TRIATHLON, 7A

SPORTS 1B

Grayson to retire, Morehead to take lead of KMHS athletics



GRAYSON



MOREHEAD

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RELAY FOR LIFE

Family takes up mom's cause in fight

EMILY WEAVER
Editor

In the 13 years Kings Mountain has hosted an American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Betty Cash hardly missed a day. She was proud to take up arms in the fight against cancer - a monstrous disease that first attacked her in 1995. She walked each survivor lap with gusto and pride...until this year.

This year, her daughters and granddaughters walked for her. Cash no longer needs to walk. With her last breath on March 2nd, she traded in her worn and battered walking shoes for the trip of a lifetime - to Heaven, where cancer hurts no one.

But on earth, that isn't the case. Cancer affects about one in two men and one in three women every year, slaughtering thousands and bringing tears to the eyes and pains to the hearts of millions.

Thirty-six teams have been raising money in Kings Mountain, this year, in the hope to find a cure.

See RELAY, 7A



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

Robin Cash Knight, Taylor Farris and Marlene Cash Reynolds, left to right, light a purple tiki torch in honor of their mother and grandmother Betty Cash, who passed away in March from cancer.

Bodybuilder learns to walk again after bout with bacteria

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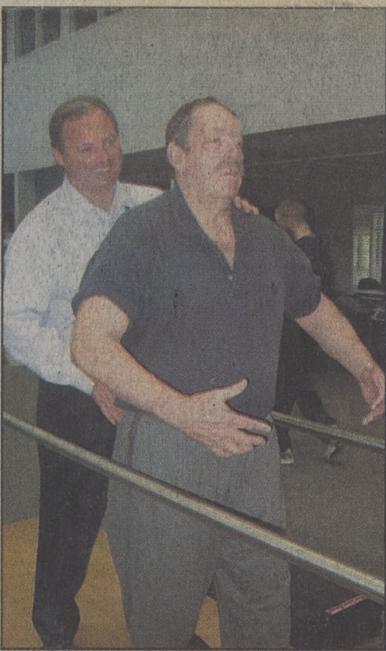
GROVER - Steve Freeman, 69, was diagnosed with a "super bug" two years ago that almost was a death sentence.

Once the picture of a healthy 260 pound athlete lifting 1,000 pound weights, he is beating the odds, after a struggle with a life-threatening infectious disease (MRSA) that debilitated his body.

"By the grace of God I learned to walk again," said Steve who reports regularly for rehab to Dr. Donald Miller in Shelby and to Kings Mountain Family YMCA, using a cane at times for support. He now drives his truck, something he couldn't do for many months.

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus

See BACTERIA, 6A



Dr. Donald Miller, left, and his patient, Steve Freeman, during a physical therapy session.

Parting is Sweet Sorrow Health forces White to retire after 35 years

EMILY WEAVER
Editor

Raeferd White has worn a uniform, first that of an Army soldier in Vietnam and then that of a law enforcement officer with the Kings Mountain Police Department, for 36 years. On Friday afternoon (May 6) the department threw him a retirement party.

On April 22nd, he hung up his uniform and turned in his badge. He reluctantly said "goodbye".

"I appreciate these 35 years I've had at this department. I'm gonna miss every one of you," he told officers and well-wishers filling a training room inside the police station May 6. "This is the worst thing to happen, but I realize it's time to go."

White suffers from Parkinson's disease, an affliction he has linked to his time in Vietnam and the after effects of Agent Orange. For months, he's calmed the affliction's sudden tremors with medications, but the pills aren't working as well

as they used to. Doctors have urged him to retire. That's a hard prescription to follow for a man, who has devoted so much of his life to service, not just to his city and country, but to his God.

Working with local missionaries, White has helped smuggle over 600 New Testament Bibles into communist Vietnam in three trips over the past 10 years. Christianity, more prevalent in underground networks, has crept into the country since the Vietnam War. It's crept in a little faster with the help of missionaries like White.

Transporting Bibles into Vietnam is not allowed, White said.

They've rolled the Good Books in with their clothing, stuffed in Ziploc bags marked "Jeans" or "Shirts", packed in suitcases. He's watched custom officials take a closer look at their clothing packages, but never close enough to see the Bibles they were hiding.

See WHITE, 6A

Mysterious fire leads KMFD to call in SBI



Firemen responded to a house fire on Silver Street early Friday morning. Chief Frank Burns said the vacant house was fully engulfed

by flames when firemen arrived at the scene. The fire is being investigated as suspected arson.



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

KMPD Chief Melvin Proctor (in background) says a few words honoring Raeferd White, right, who sits with his wife Shirley White and grandson Christopher White.



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