



A Miss KM Pageant First B1 - Two winners crowned.

SPORTS

C1 - Late field goal lifts Shelby over KM 24-21.

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17 honored, 1 life saved at 1st Image Awards

EMILY WEAVER
Editor

Saturday night was an evening of great moments for the Cleveland County chapter of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People). Seventeen were honored and one life that temporarily hung in the balance...was saved.

For the innumerable lives that have been touched by the service of this 102-year-old national civic organization, it was a bit symbolic. Hundreds of people of different colors gathered at 5:30 p.m. at the Senior Center in Shelby for CCNAACP's inaugural Image Awards banquet. The Herald was there. At about a quarter 'til 9 we accepted a great honor - an Outstanding Media Award.

But first, about that life that was saved...

I returned from the restroom to find a huddle around a man who was straining to clear his throat. I heard a voice say, "don't touch him, he's okay."

That wasn't how he sounded. I touched the arm of a man next to me and asked, "Is he okay? Does he need the Heimlich maneuver?"

The man said, "no it's already been given. He'll be okay."

And he was.

"I am really glad to be here tonight," Robert Miller said, "because there for a little while I almost wasn't."

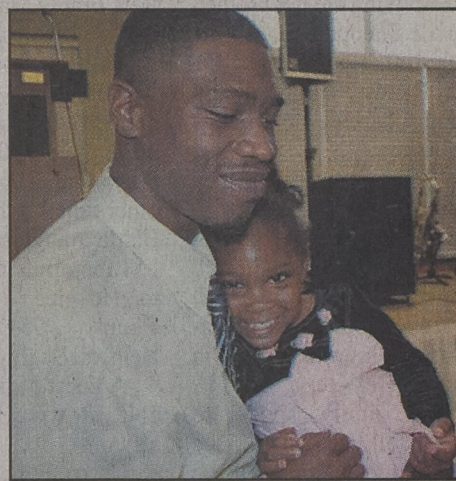
He said that a man named Emanuel Hunt saved him when he was choking. An applause louder than the first one (when it happened) echoed through the room.

Miller presented the chapter's Outstand-

ing Medical Award to a KM doctor who has also saved lives.

Dr. Christian G. Anderson, board certified in internal medicine, accepted the award in honor of "children for the next generation". He has been a doctor of internal medicine at Kings Mountain Hospital since February 1996 and was recognized for initiating a "kids challenge". Through Dr. Anderson's efforts, Miller said, more than 70-80 kids were helped.

Attorney for both the City of Kings Mountain and Town of Grover, Mickey Corry Jr. was honored with an Outstanding Community Service Award, along with restaurateur Michael Cheng and the late Dr. Samuel Anderson Raper.



Thomas Brantley holds his three-year-old daughter Aviana Brantley at the Image Awards banquet.

See IMAGE, 7A

Candidates speak out at open meeting

ELIZABETH STEWART
lib.kmherald@gmail.com

Eight candidates for city council and seven candidates for school board pledged to be "approachable and available" to citizens at a "Meet the Candidate Night" at the Kings Mountain Woman's Club Monday.

The group included all six candidates running for the At-large seat on the Kings Mountain City Council, incumbent Mayor Rick Murphrey, Mayor pro tem Rodney Gordon, and school board candidates Danny Lee Blanton, Sid Bryson, Melvin Lewis Clark, Yvette D. Grant, Jerry D. Hoyle, Page D. Morgan and Connie Phifer Savell. Pee Wee Hamrick, candidate for mayor, and incumbent councilmen Howard Shipp and Rick Moore, both unopposed for reelection, did not attend.

Although the candidates had only brief minutes to present their remarks, they were relaxed and professional and adhered to the time clock. Woman's Club President Betty Gam-

See CANDIDATES, 8A

City mulls over fiber connection

ELIZABETH STEWART
lib.kmherald@gmail.com

Fiber optic linkage to most city facilities is being mulled by Kings Mountain city officials.

"The idea is not far-fetched," says Electric Supt. Nick Hendricks who gave an update Thursday to city council at a work session at the Public Works building.

The first phase of the project would concentrate on city facilities and the SCADA system in the electric/gas departments. City officials are looking at visiting Bowling Green, Kent, a city that has conducted a similar project successfully.

City Manager Marilyn Sellers said that the city had discussions with RST Communications but its portfolio

has changed. She said that Fiber Planners, Inc. of Asheville is assisting in fiber route planning and Progressive Engineering Inc. is working the route plan for the SCADA system.

Hendricks said that fiber linkage would provide an economic boost to data centers, save on phone bills and costs of security systems, provide a Smart Meter and Smart grid, and a city utility customer, for instance, from a meter inside his home could use a password and track all his usage in the city's four utilities, water, sewer, gas and electric. He said another feature would be expansion capability, marketing enhanced technology.

Sellers said the city would evaluate the progress after the first phase and weigh financial costs. The city has budgeted \$75,000 for the first phase of the project.



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Overmountain Men to headline Gateway Fest



Overmountain Men band to headline concert at Gateway Festival.

Big plans are in the works by the City of Kings Mountain, host of the annual "Gateway Festival," to be held Saturday, October 8 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. throughout the downtown area.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said this community event is a celebration of Kings Mountain's designation in 2000 as "The Gateway City" by the Department of Interior and

the National Park Service. Kings Mountain is a gateway to all three area parks - Crowder's Mountain State Park, Kings Mountain State Park and Kings Mountain National Military Park. The mayor said the welcome mat is out for everyone to attend this year's festivities.

See GATEWAY FEST, 8A

City talks power in light of Duke merger

Kings Mountain City Council Tuesday night was expected to approve an amended and restated power purchase and reps compliance service agreement with Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said that the "final product has been two years in the making and today it's all good news" as he presented Electric Supt. Nick Hendricks and City Manager Marilyn Sellers who gave a progress update to the seven member city council Thursday morning at a work session at the Public Works building.

In response to question from Councilman Tommy Hawkins, Hendricks said a merger between Duke and Progress Energy would have zero effect on Kings Mountain's relationship with Duke Energy. Hendricks said the city's contract with Duke will be upheld for the next 10 years and the merger will have no bearing on costs to the city. He said a merger between the two companies would make Duke the largest power company in the United States.

The social and economic costs of that merger has been aired at public hearings in Raleigh. Earlier last week the CEOs for both companies made their cases in favor of the \$26 billion deal, contending that the combined company would be in a stronger financial position to build power plants while limiting rate increases for customers.

By its June vote Kings Mountain city council supported the Duke/Progress Energy merger. "We managed our risks,"

said Hendricks, explaining that in a settlement agreement no costs can be passed on to Kings Mountain for 10 years. The merger is still in motion to be approved Dec. 31 but there are still hurdles. The N.C. Utilities Commission is required by state law to weigh the merger's benefits versus its costs and

See POWER TALKS, 8A

Brush with Law

Candidate charged with littering faces old charges

Roofing nails in 15 pounds of trash thrown from a truck window Friday night onto a parking lot on N. Piedmont Avenue resulted in a charge of littering lodged by police against Brian Cloninger, 38, of 304 Silver Dr., a candidate for an at-large seat on city council.

Det. Captain Derek Johnson said Tony Goins, owner and barber at Standing Ovations Cuts & Styles, was in the parking lot of his business at 8:30 p.m. Friday and witnessed the incident.

See OLD CHARGES, 6A



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