

What's Up

7 elected to Chamber board

Members of the Mooresville-South Iredell Chamber of Commerce have elected seven area business people to the chamber's Board of Directors. Six of nine candidates won three-year terms, in balloting ending Tuesday.

New directors are: Kevin Donaldson, an attorney with Homesley, Jones, Gaines, Homesley & Dudley; Donna Sada, Sales Manager for Roush Sports Group; Dale Gowing, Editor of The Mooresville Tribune; Jim Stevens, Plant Manager of Cardinal Glass FG; Bill Thunberg, owner of Alexander Zachary Jewelers; and Cotton Ketchie, owner of Landmark Galleries. Unopposed for a two-year term was Mark Brady, Vice President of Piedmont Bank. The new directors will take their seats in January.

'Raft-Up 2001'

Hundreds of boats will take to Lake Norman on Saturday for "Raft-Up 2001," in an attempt to set a new record in the Guinness World Record Book for a fresh-water boat raft-up.

The event will begin near marker T-5 on the lake. It's title sponsor is Auto Sports by the Lake in Denver. In 1998, the event set a world record with 283 boats tied together in Cashion's Cove. Last summer, more boats than ever — 691 — turned out for more information, call Bob Williams at 704-896-0855.

Habitat dedication

The Second Habitat for Humanity home in Troutman will be dedicated on Sunday, July 29 at 2 p.m. The home is located at 209 Briarcliff Road, Troutman. An open house will follow the dedication, and refreshments will be served. The public is invited.

Health screening

Life Line Screening will offer three health screenings to detect the risk of stroke and vascular disease on Monday, Aug. 6. Bone density tests will also be offered to women for early detection of osteoporosis. To take the tests, you must register at least 24 hours in advance by calling 1-800-407-4557. The three vascular tests cost \$40 each, while the osteoporosis tests cost \$35.

Boating safety

Boating safety courses will be held at the following times and places during the month of August:

- Kings Point Marina, Lake Norman, Saturday, Aug. 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To register, call Scott Spivey at (704) 587-7054.

- Lake Wylie Library, Saturday, Aug. 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To register, call Scott Spivey at (704) 587-7054.

- Rocky Mount United Methodist Church, Mooresville, Saturday, Aug. 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To register, call (704) 663-3333.

Meet UW agencies

Businesses in the area are invited to the Mooresville Citizens Center on Friday, Aug. 3 to meet representatives of agencies that receive money from Mooresville-South Iredell United Way. Details: 704-664-2284.

London ball

The annual London Ball will be held at First Baptist Church on Friday, Aug. 3. Tickets will be sold at the church. Details: 704-664-2284.

Wreck halts traffic for 4 hours

Both northbound lanes of I-77 near Troutman were blocked for nearly four hours Wednesday morning after a tractor-trailer smashed into a careening Honda Accord.

The accident occurred about 6:40 a.m. Wednesday near Mile Marker 47, backing up traffic at least 10 miles on the busy interstate highway.

Crews had one lane of the thoroughfare open by 10 a.m., but were cleaning debris from the road until 3 p.m., said N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper Greg Jones.

According to Trooper Rodney Burleson's report, Melvin McLauren, 50, of McColi, S.C., was driving a tractor-trailer in the north bound lane. McLauren was carrying a load of particle board for Williamette Industries.

A witness stated that the Accord, driven by Constantino Moreno Cortes, 27, of Concord, came off the bridge near the truck. His car was fish-tailing, according to the witness. Cortes ran into the right hand emergency lane, then tried to correct the vehicle. When he did, he veered into the path of the truck.

The truck struck the passenger side of the car, then ran off the left-hand side of the road and struck the guardrail. The car spun around after being hit and came to a stop in the middle of the interstate.

The truck came to rest with its trailer straddling the guardrail.

Cortes was taken to Iredell Memorial Hospital, where he remained in stable condition. McLauren was uninjured in the accident.

Town to revitalize

Continued from page 1A

down payment assistance to prospective home buyers, and job training.

The proposed neighborhood-improvements would also be a boon to the effort to revitalize downtown and the attempt to guide development in preparation of mass transit extending from Charlotte to Mooresville, according to Smith.

Among those the town is hoping to form partnerships with to execute the revitalization effort are Habitat for Humanity, the Community Housing Development Corporation, the Mooresville Housing Authority, public schools, and churches in the neighborhood.

"We were looking for a place that has many needs," Smith said.

Before the town can secure the funds from the state, the town board will hold a public hearing about the program at its Aug. 6 meeting. The town must then submit its completed application to the state by mid-August. "We've got a lot of work to do in a short time," Smith said.

Mooresville is one of 25 communities throughout the state that is vying for the money. Those potential recipients were whittled down from 90 letters of interest the state received from communities throughout North Carolina. Only ten will receive the funds when they are awarded in November.

The state will consider several criteria before awarding the money, including the partners towns have enlisted to help with the effort, the monetary contribution towns will make to the revitalization, and the impact the proposed improvements will have on people of low income.

If Mooresville receives the state money, Smith said the town will have to contribute roughly \$300,000 to the improvements.

Smith added that the proposed improvements will take roughly four years to complete, should the town be awarded the money.

Statesville is also being considered as a potential recipient of the money.

Critically burned girl transferred to Ohio

An 8-year-old Iredell girl who suffered second- and third-degree burns over much of her body last Friday has been transferred from Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem to the Shriners Hospital in Cincinnati.

There, doctors have upgraded her condition to fair.

Michelle Kiser of Harmony was playing in her aunt's backyard on Race Street in Statesville.

Michelle, her two brothers and her sister had dug a hole behind a shed in the backyard. They were pulling ticks off a dog and putting them in the hole, then pouring gas on them and lighting them, according to reports.

The children's aunt, Wanda Little was keeping the children for the day. She was inside the home.

Some of the gas splashed

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Women's shelter is rodeo's beneficiary

By DONNA SWICEGOOD

Iredell County's battered women's shelter will be the beneficiary of a unique fundraiser this weekend.

Tonight (Friday), the Double P Productions Rodeo will open at the Iredell County Fairgrounds in Troutman, and proceeds from the event will benefit the effort to build a new facility for My Sister's House.

Tommy Poovey and Shelley Overcash have spent the last few weeks planning the rodeo, which they hope will raise a significant amount of money for My Sister's House.

But putting on a seven-event rodeo is not a cheap proposition. Overcash said, "It costs \$15,000 to put on one of these rodeos," she said. After recouping the expenses, what's left will be donated to My Sister's House, she said.

"We don't know exactly how much that will be," she

said. "But it will be no less than 10 percent that will go to them."

The rodeo is a fully-sanctioned Mid-Atlantic event, Poovey explained. It will feature seven events — bronc riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, barrel racing, bull riding and a cowgirl's break-away roping event.

But the rodeo events won't just feature adults. A children's rodeo is planned at noon on Saturday. Poovey said.

Poovey, who has been involved in rodeos for about five years, said the decision to donate proceeds to My Sister's House was an easy one. "It just seemed to be a good organization," he said, "and it was something that needed the help."

Admission to the rodeo is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children ages 4-12. Ages 3 and under will be admitted free.

For more information, call Tommy Poovey at 704-462-1863.

I'm not as sore as I thought I'd be'

A runner's log

On Aug. 18, the Mooresville Family YMCA will host its annual 5K Power Run. Leading up to that race, the Tribune is publishing weekly articles by Lora Joy of Mooresville, a newcomer to the running world, detailing her training preparations for her first 5K.

Joy, 38, a native of Lubbock, Texas, is an auditor at Adelphi Cable. This is the second installment in her diary:

By LORA JOY

July 16: Today I trained with Denise, my running partner, and Kathy, our trainer, working on our legs. Kathy had us do dead lifts for the first time. We had to bend over and lift the bar with our hands, then use our legs to lift. Not so bad. We ran 1 1/2 miles, in 15 minutes 43 seconds, reaching a top speed of 6.7 mph.

July 17: Man my legs feel like someone stuck an arrow in the back of them. I guess that's my hamstring I'm feeling. Argghh!

July 18: Training again with Denise and Kathy. We worked our arms really heavy today. I like to look at them in the mirrors. I'm toning up nicely. The best part is I don't have those Australian muscles as bad — you know, when have those "down under" flabby arms.

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Wildlife habitat

Continued from page 1A

well as chipmunks, butterflies, rabbits, and nameless other critters. And recently, she was visited by an immature golden eagle.

She says she thinks there are plenty of people in Mooresville who share her concerns about environmental preservation, but who are unaware of programs that can help them with and recognize them for their efforts.

To help solve that problem, Carver is planning to work to become a habitat steward, the National Wildlife Federation's next

step for recognizing preservation efforts.

To be named a steward, Carver has to help create either one public certified habitat, such as the one she's working on at Genesis ElderCare, or three individual habitats, such as the one on her own property. She must also offer a training course for those seeking the wildlife habitat designation.

Eventually, Carver says she would like to see the entire town of Mooresville designated by the National Wildlife Federation as a Community Wildlife Habitat.

To achieve that goal, 20 percent of single-family homes, 10 percent of apartment buildings, at least one school, and at least one other public place must be certified as wildlife habitats. She says it would take about three to five years of work to achieve that goal. "That's very ambitious," she acknowledges.

For more information on the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat program, visit the organization's web site at www.nwuf.org

because it is vanishing," she says.

Carver is also currently working with Mooresville's Genesis ElderCare to create a wildlife habitat there.

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School board

Continued from page 1A

of the letter. The letter comes on the heels of the hiring of an investigator to look into financial questions within the school system. In that incident, a former assistant superintendent has been accused of overcharging the system for moving expenses.

Also, the system is under investigation for allegedly overpaying a building contractor. That case has been sent to the District Attorney's office for study.

And this week, board members have come under criticism for a conference they attended in San Diego. The trip included visits to Disneyland and Tijuana, Mexico, at taxpayers' expense.

In the first case, Kenneth Dickson, a certified public accountant and a former SBI agent, will be examining records within the system.

He works out of Greensboro. School board members Sprinkle and Brucie Serene said they did not place parameters on the investigator regarding time or pay. They did note they expected to see the results of the investigation within two months.

Serene emphasized the investigation must run its course. Sprinkle asked for patience. He said the point of the investigation is to clarify the financial dealings of the school system, and that takes time and money.

Serene and Sprinkle agreed answers are the goal. "We are the ones who want this information more than anyone else," Sprinkle said. "We do not want the investigation to drag out."

This story was written by staffers at the Tribune's sister paper in Statesville, the Record & Landmark.

Some of the gas splashed

on Michelle, and one of the children lit a cigarette lighter. Michelle's hand caught fire. The flames quickly spread to her lower body.

Patrice Linebarger, who works at a day care at Interfaith Deliverance Church, was walking down Race Street and heard the children's screams.

Linebarger ran to Michelle and put the little girl under a water spigot to soothe the burns.

Michelle was taken to Baptist Hospital for treatment, then moved this week to Cincinnati. The Shriners Hospital is a network of 22 hospitals that provide no-cost orthopedic and burn care to children under 18. The hospitals are funded by Shriners across North America.

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