

Have a Safe and Happy
July 4th

**KM Woman's Club
plans dinner theatre**
1-B

**Betty Hullender's day lilies
brighten yard and life**
3-A

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KM JULY FOURTH ACTIVITIES

1 p.m. - On stage, Carver Crusaders
1 - 4 p.m. - Field events.
4:30 - 5:30 p.m. - Youth homerun derby
5:30 - 7 p.m. - Professional wrestling
7 - 8 p.m. - Softball homerun derby
8 - 9:30 p.m. - Street dance, Mink
9:30 - 10 p.m. - fireworks
10 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. - Street dance, Mink

July 4th festival Thursday in KM

The place to be on July 4 is the Kings Mountain Community Center and Jake Early Softball Field where community-wide events will celebrate Independence Day in Kings Mountain.

Mayor Scott Neisler reminds citizens they don't want to miss the big fireworks display. A big AMVETS flag will set the stage for the extravaganza.

TG Goforth and Tripp Hord of the city's Parks & Recreation Department said there's fun planned for all ages beginning at noon when music cranks

up on the stage.

Registration for field events starts at 12:30.

Events will include a water balloon toss, hydrant shower, three point contest in the Community Center gymnasium, egg toss, horseshoe tournament, bubblegum blowing contest, hot shot contest on the outdoor basketball court, watermelon eating contest, pie eating contest, live music/dancing and professional wrestling.

One of the big evening events is the 7 p.m. Soft-

ball Homerun Derby which offers \$150 to the first prize winner. Registration is \$5 and each participant receives a T-shirt.

Festival sponsors are Town and Country BBQ, Harris Funeral Home, McKenney Chevrolet, Dacey Fabrics, Carolina State Bank, Bridges Hardware, Sub Factory, vendors, Kings Mountain Herald, Dr. Grady Howard, McGinnis Department Store, Dellinger's and Subway.

Officer suspended 5 days for alleged misconduct

Kings Mountain Police Sgt. Derek Johnson was suspended without pay for five days Friday morning after a hearing at City Hall on alleged misconduct charges lodged by Letitia Adams Wallace, 89 Pine Manor. Bud Rhea, the city's Human Resources Officer who conducted the personnel hearing, said that other disciplinary action may be taken by Kings Mountain Police Chief Bob Hayes but because this was a personnel matter he could not comment further.

Rhea said that District Attorney Bill Young was presented findings of an internal investigation conducted by Captain Richard Reynolds into the incident and no criminal charges will be filed.

Wallace alleged in her complaint to the Kings Mountain Police Department last week that Johnson, while on routine patrol, drove through the Pine Manor Apartment complex and handed her 15-year-old daughter a piece of paper with a cartoon drawing of a space alien in the right hand corner of the page and a joke about sex.

Early Friday morning Sgt. Bob Myers arrested Wallace, 41, at Pine Manor Apartment 89 on charges of possession of marijuana with intent to use drug paraphernalia, an alleged crack stick pipe. In the police report, Myers said he responded to a domestic incident Thursday night at Comfort Inn on York Road allegedly involving Mrs. Wallace, another woman and two men. Myers said Mrs. Wallace signed a complaint alleging that she was slapped by a male. Police are continuing investigation into the incident, according to Myers' report.

BEATING THE HEAT



Crystal Ormsby, at Griffin Drug Store, and Heidi McDaniel, at Downtown Coffee & Cream, beat the sizzling temperatures with ice cream. The weatherman is promising little respite from the heat as the community prepares for Independence Day.

Photos by Lib Stewart

Peak generation plant back on front burner

Kings Mountain's proposed \$2 million 4500 KW peak generation plant is back on the front burner.

Because of the city's financial crunch, the project was put on the back burner several times in the last several years but now it appears to be on go again.

City Council Tuesday at a 7 a.m. special meeting conducted a public hearing at which no one spoke in opposition to the city's borrowing money to finance the project. The public hearing was very brief but was required by the N.C. Local Government Commission. The vote was 5-0 in support of the project financing. Councilmen Rick Murphrey and Jerry White were absent.

The Local Government Commission was meeting Tuesday afternoon and was expected to give its blessings to the project.

Utilities Director Jimmy Maney said that once the financial aspect of the project is approved that the contracts could be signed as early as Friday and construction could start next week.

Maney estimated completion date for the project early November.

Last week City Council reawarded the construction bid to McDaniel Construction of Gaffney, SC and the financing bid for the project to BB&T Leasing Corporation of Charlotte. The first payment is due January, 1997 and semi-annual payments are to be made at an interest rate of 4.77 percent.

Maney said the payback for

See Plant, 5-A

Mullinax still questioning mayor's handling of vote

Ward II City Councilman Jerry Mullinax is still questioning the mayor's handling of a vote on a controversial garbage contract.

Mullinax said the issue could have been settled last week if Mayor Scott Neisler had called for a vote after Mullinax's motion to rescind the recently awarded contract for privatization to Cleveland Container of Shelby.

The mayor joined Attorney Mickey Corry in putting off the vote for a closer look at the contract and the disputed savings.

"We had not advertised the subject again in the agenda and both Mickey and I felt that it was better and cleaner to take the item back to next month's meeting for a full discussion," said the mayor.

Mullinax said since Council had approved his added agenda item on the garbage contract at the beginning of last week's long City Council meeting that the mayor should not have delayed the action. But Mullinax said he didn't know at the time that he could have immediately appealed to Council the decision by Neisler until he talked with the Institute of Government and was faxed copies of the 1996 updated Rules of Procedures and Open Meetings Law.

The Updated Rules cite two

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LECTURES IN RUSSIA - With the Dniiper River in the background, Bob Patterson relaxes after a day of lecturing in Kiev, the capitol city of The Ukraine in the USSR.

Dr. Bob Patterson home from USSR

Dr. Bob Patterson didn't speak Russian but he communicated in a University classroom through an interpreter for three weeks in Kiev, the capitol city of The Ukraine in the USSR.

The Kings Mountain native, a Professor in the Religion Department at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, has just returned home with a new perspective and a renewed appreciation for freedom.

"The prettiest sight when I returned to the States was seeing the US flag flying and I thanked God for the freedom we enjoy as Americans," he said.

Patterson, who had traveled before and lectured in Eastern block countries, said he had an overwhelming first impression of the arrogance of the communists.

"Their sheer arrogance led them to do things destructive to their own peoples for 75 years and

the country is 50 years behind us," he said this week of his first trip to Russia as he attended the Patterson Family Reunion in Kings Mountain.

Suspicious of visitors is how Patterson described the people who then became friends who look to the West for help economically.

"They told me they have no idea what democracy is all about but they do know they don't want to return to hard line communism and are frightened with the election runoffs now underway," he said.

Patterson said that voters will probably elect Yeltsen but think he will squeak by in the runoff.

"He's their only alternative to hard line communism," said Patterson who lectured at a Christian university on the first 500 years of Chris-

See Patterson, 6-A

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

Dixon only living charter member of KM Rescue Squad

he average person is proud of the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad but sometimes they take it for granted.

That's the observation of the Squad's only living charter member, former Captain Delbert Dixon, who retired off the Squad in 1988 after 26 1/2 years.

"I'd do it all again," said Dixon who said he used to work all day, come home and take a shower and then spend hours on rescue calls or leading EMT training sessions and just get to sleep when the telephone started ringing.

"You have to enjoy the work and all rescuers do but you'd be

surprised at the number of people that think you're getting paid for it."

Kings Mountain Rescue Squad was born in the basement of City Hall in 1958. In 1964 it moved to a new building at 312 Parker Street which was dedicated to the late P.A. Hawkins, a city policeman who had worked closely with the squad.

"Bud Ware, the late Corbet Nicholson and I were down at City Hall one Sunday afternoon and heard a call come in from Gaston County about a drowning," said Dixon.

"We started talking about starting a Rescue Squad in this

county and 18 people formed the first unit which was chartered as the Cleveland County Rescue Squad. Ollie Harris donated the first ambulance, a 1948 model, and the new group met for several years in the City Hall basement with Nicholson as the first captain.

The Squad was born out of an incident in which two Oak Grove men were trapped in the bottom of a well. The Harris Funeral Home ambulance was dispatched to aid the men but more help was needed. The men were removed from the well by lowering a third man down in a bucket. Both men survived but the town realized

something else was needed when such emergencies arose.

During its first months of operation members of the squad had to pay dues to buy gas and the squad was always on the go.

Dixon recalled the first calls received by the newly chartered organization.

Two boys were digging a well on Ridge Street and were overcome by the fumes released from dynamite blasts the previous day. Both survived.

The first wreck call was in Grover where three people from Georgia were killed.

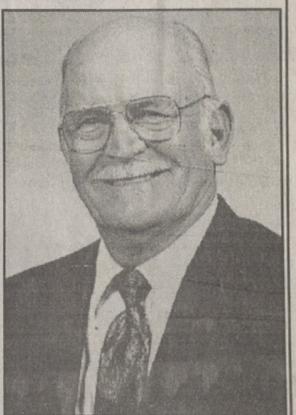
One of the worst wrecks happened at the bridge abutment on

York Road. An Air Force couple was killed but their two small children survived with minor injuries and were kept by local people for several days until arrangements could be made to take them to their out-of-town relatives.

People quickly saw the results of the rescue squad's work and got behind them and supported a fund drive to build a new home.

But Dixon said that rescuers train themselves not to dwell in bad memories.

Instead he recalls some of the funny incidents that weren't so funny when he was awakened in



DELBERT DIXON

See Dixon, 6-A