

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

Thursday, September 2, 1999

Vol. 111 No. 35

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PEOPLE



Vacation paradise right in back yard

James and JoAnn Surber of Kings Mountain don't have to go to far-away places for a romantic vacation. They have built a paradise right in their own back yard. 7A

Public goes to bat for leukemia victim

Eight-year-old Casey Burnette of Kings Mountain recently found out that she has leukemia. Kings Mountain friends have opened a special account and are planning fund-raising events to help the family with medical bills. 5A

Not even cancer can keep Ruby down



Doctors didn't give Ruby Alexander much chance of surviving cancer, but through faith and prayer she has beaten the

disease and is back at work in her realty business. 5A

Another new path for Dale Swofford

Kings Mountain native Dale Swofford has lived many places and has done many things during his life. Now, he is back home as pastor of Grace United Methodist Church. 6A

COMMUNITY

Swingin' and shakin' at American Legion

A new line dancing club has the walls shaking at Kings Mountain American Legion Post 155. 7A

New senior center needs financial help

The proposed new Kings Mountain Senior Center is well on its way to becoming a reality, but the center needs over \$300,000 in pledges by the end of the month. 2A

City rec director plans celebrations

Remember when Kings Mountain's annual Mountaineer Days event was over several days period of time, men grew beards and women dressed in old-time hats and dresses? It remains to be seen if there will be any beard-growing contests, but this year's Mountaineer Days will be a four-day celebration rather than the one-day event of the past several years. Recreation Director Tripp Hord is also planning a big Christmas celebration. 2A

Annexation passes on 6-1 vote

City okays study of water line

Kings Mountain City Council Tuesday night authorized an analysis of some 3,000 feet of water line in what could be the first step of providing a new water line from Moss Lake to the city.

If everything goes according to hoyle, the \$626,000 project could be completed during the July Fourth week of the year 2000.

Utilities Committee Chairman Rick Murphrey said the costs involved would be in the 2000-2001 budget.

Murphrey said the city is operating on a tight schedule. Designing the line would take about 16 weeks and bids would be advertised in February and received in March.

"We need to get everything

ready to go out for bids," he said.

Led by Engineer Al Moretz, the city will analyze the condition and capacity of the existing lines which were constructed in the mid-to-late 1960s. The water plant's pumping capacity is eight million gallons a day and has operated at near

See Water, 3A

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

The much-anticipated vote on the annexation of 3.5 miles east and south of the city passed with only one comment at Tuesday night's meeting of Kings Mountain Council.

Jerry Mullinax cast the lone dissenting vote on a plan to annex 10.03 acres in the Linwood Road area and 2,318.76 acres south of the city - an area mostly lying south of Interstate 85 including Canterbury Road and prime industrial locations along

the interstate.

It's the biggest annexation in the city's history, increasing the size of the city limits by 50 percent. The annexation is effective June 30, 2000.

Mullinax said he is not opposed to annexation, but questioned whether the city could provide the required services.

"I still can't see that we'll be able to provide service to this three and one-half mile area that is half again the size of the city," he said. "We cannot at this

See Annex, 3A

Remember Kings Mountain

2nd forum on battle attracts record crowd

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff writer

Saturday was a Revolutionary day when Kings Mountain National Military Park held its Second Annual Forum on the fight that took place there October 7, 1780. Hosted at the park visitor center, auditorium, and surrounding grounds, the Forum included storytelling, music, lectures and displays devoted to the Kings Mountain role in the American Revolution.

"The Forum went quite well," said Park Superintendent Chris Revels. "We had over 1600 visitors on Saturday - normally we would see 500 or so people."

Speakers and historians invited to take part in the Forum included Dr. Edward Lee of Winthrop University, Mike Dahl of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association, Dr. Cynthia Kierner of UNC-Charlotte, retired USC professor Dr. Christine Swager, and storyteller William Wilder.

See Forum, 3A



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD

Music for the second annual Forum on the Battle of Kings Mountain was provided by the Guilford Courthouse Fifes and Drums. Musicians pictured are, left to right; Mike Nelson, Peggy Shea, and Steve Ware.

Face to face with Ferguson

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

A link through time and space was made Thursday at Kings Mountain National Military Park when Scottish historian Marianne Gilchrist completed a pilgrimage that brought her face to face with the grave of Major Patrick Ferguson for the very first time.

A native of St. Andrews, Scotland, Gilchrist had been planning the trip to Kings Mountain as part of her effort to fully understand and document the life of Ferguson, who as the officer in command of Loyalist and British troops at Kings Mountain, lost his life and was buried on the field.

"I was doing volunteer work at the St. Andrews Museum and saw the letters of veterans of the American War," Gilchrist said. "This led me to further research and also an interest in the Ferguson rifle which

"Pattie" invented. He seemed like an intriguing figure, so I decided to go deeper into his story."

A unique bit of serendipity in Gilchrist's research on Ferguson was the fact that she had been aware since childhood that one of her ancestors had been a Loyalist soldier. Since Ferguson recruited and trained such men, Gilchrist thinks it possible her ancestor may have fought under Ferguson at Kings Mountain.

A breakthrough in Gilchrist's work came when she found a large collection of "Patties" letters. Containing over 20 years worth of correspondence, the letters were mainly to his sister and brother in law. The Patrick Ferguson these writings reveal is a different man from the one most Americans have heard about.

"All we ever heard in Scotland was the American side

See Gilchrist, 3A



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD
Historian Marianne Gilchrist recently came to Kings Mountain from her native Scotland to visit the grave of Major Patrick Ferguson for the first time. Gilchrist was a guest speaker at the second annual Forum on the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Grover ready for Y2K and pintos

An eclectic blend of subjects ranging from the New Millennium to pinto beans and cornbread made Monday evening's meeting of the Grover town council an interesting one.

"We are ready for the Year 2000," said Grover mayor Max Rollins. "Grover is Y2K compliant."

With that statement, Rollins got the meeting underway with good news concerning Grover's readiness for January 1, 2000.

"The City software and computers are ready, Kings Mountain has assured us that we'll have plenty of water, and Duke Power has told us they're ready as well."

Completing his report on Grover's Y2K status, Rollins went on to state that Grover's sewer department was not Y2K sensitive, with the exception of some new auto dialers, and that they were Y2K approved.

As in last month's council

meeting, the fact that Grover was still two members short on its normal five member zoning board was brought up.

"We need at least one more member to even be able to do business," Rollins said.

Following that statement, council members John Higginbotham, Bill Favell, and Jack Herndon offered at least eight names of people who had mentioned interest in the zoning board spots. After compil-

ing the list of names, the manner in which prospective candidates could be screened arose. It was first suggested that candidates write a brief resume explaining their qualifications and reason for interest in joining the zoning board.

"I think it would be a good idea if the City of Grover would send a letter to these people asking them for this information," councilman Herndon said.

After input from Grover city attorney Mickey Corry on the proper way to proceed, the motion to send a letter to each interested party was approved.

The fate of Grover's former and forlorn firetruck was discussed following the reading of a letter from the Grover Fire Department asking the city to turn the vehicle's title over to it so the truck could be restored.

See Grover, 3A



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