

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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GRADUATION DAY



BEN LEDBETTER / THE HERALD

Kings Mountain High School 2002 graduates walk from the school to Gamble Stadium Friday to start the ceremony. This year's class had 194 graduates. See story and more photos on 8A.

City cuts \$1.5 million from budget

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

With another swipe of the pen Kings Mountain has cut some more money out of its upcoming budget for the next fiscal year.

The preliminary budget was \$25,487,931 and the figure that will go before City Council at its Tuesday meeting will be \$23,955,944.

A public hearing on the budget is scheduled before action is taken.

And while the city has reduced the upcoming budget, Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey said the city may underspend the current budget by about \$4 million.

"We cut out a lot of different areas that we decided we could delay," Murphrey said.

One of the things that will be cut from the is capital outlay projects.

Phase three of the new 36-inch water line is one of the projects that will be delayed this year.

One reason for the delay is the loss of Anvil

Council set to approve \$23.9 million 2002-03 FY budget Tuesday

Knitwear, one of the city's biggest water users

Some equipment purchases will be delayed also.

Murphrey said the city is going to concentrate on doing mandated projects, but still provide the same level of service.

Another cut was made during a special called meeting last Wednesday when council approved going with a partially self-funded health insurance plan for next year.

City officials said during the meeting that several cities across the state have

See Budget, 5A

Transit service to begin in KM June 7

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

Three Kings Mountain leaders gave their thoughts on how their aspect of the area was doing at the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce State of the Community Breakfast Wednesday at the Patrick Senior Center.

While saying how the city of Kings Mountain has moved forward, Mayor

Rick Murphrey backed that up with the announcement of bus service, which is expected to start on June 7.

The 24-stop route will run between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday except most holidays. Fare is \$1 per ride.

Vans that will be used will be white with green stripes and have the Cleveland County Transportation logo on them.

Routes will be marked with red and white bus stop signs along the streets.

"We're just happy to provide that to our citizens who do not have transportation now," Murphrey said.

Although the city will not be receiving money from the state this year, Murphrey mentioned several highlights from the past year.

See Transit, 5A

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

Caldwell writes about WWII POW experience

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

John Caldwell was a prisoner of war in World War II and he has lived to tell about it.

To do that, he wrote the story about his experience and keeps a copy saved on his computer at home.

Caldwell graduated from Bethany High School in 1943 and decided to go there since Kings Mountain was adding the 12th grade the next year.

"I wanted to get my diploma in case I had to go into service," Caldwell said in his story.

After making a couple speeches about his experience, Caldwell said he decided to write it.

"Somebody told me a while back, 'Why don't you write you a story?'" Caldwell said. "I said, well, I will."

After registering with the draft board on June 6, 1943, Caldwell was told to report for service with the U.S. Army in October at Fort Jackson, S.C.

While at Camp Patrick Henry in Virginia, Caldwell was assigned to overseas duty and was sent to Naples, Italy.

In Naples, his group followed front line troops until they reached the mountain range between Rome and Poe Valley. That was where Caldwell was assigned to the Anti-Tank Company, 349th Infantry, 88th division.

But the mountainous terrain, Caldwell said, did not allow for the anti-tank guns to be used. So Caldwell's group took food rations and supplies to the front lines, which he did for about 30 to 45 days.

Caldwell said there was a tremendous amount of blood shed in the area.

See Caldwell, 5A



BEN LEDBETTER / HERALD

John Caldwell talks about his experiences as a prisoner of war during World War II.

Dr. Self appointed to Board

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

The Cleveland County Republican Party Friday named Dr. Jerry Self, a Lattimore area resident to fill the term of the late Charlie Harry on the county board of commissioners.

Self will be the only member on the board from the Lattimore area and will run for election in November along with candidate John McBrayer.

Self previously ran for a seat in 1999 and currently is a member of the GOP's executive committee.

"I will try my best to do a good job," Self said during a press conference Friday morning at the County Administration Building. "It's really a commitment to help and improve Cleveland County."

While there are several tough issues facing the county, Self said one of the biggest problems is unemployment. The county has experienced several plant closings because of the textile slowdown and double-digit jobless rates.

Like other cities and counties in the state, Cleveland County has been dealing with the second state budget crisis and Self

See Self, 5A

CANCER AWARENESS

Waters KM's Relay For Life ambassador



TIM WATERS

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

Tim Waters is going to Washington D.C.

Waters will be headed to the District of Columbia for the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life Celebration on the Hill" on Sept. 18-19.

Waters, who is participating in this year's Kings Mountain Relay for Life, has also been named a relay ambassador, and will be in Washington this fall with more than 3,000 ambassadors, survivors and volunteers throughout the nation. This will be Waters' third year participating in the Kings Mountain relay.

During the event, ambassadors will meet with their congressional representatives and are expected to talk to them

about fighting cancer.

Waters said he is looking forward to the fall trip.

"I'm excited about it," Waters said. "I know cancer has been a part of my life for quite some time."

Several family members and relatives of Waters' have suffered from the disease.

Waters said ACS staff and relay volunteers in Kings Mountain nominated him for the ambassador position.

Anybody can be touched by cancer, Waters said.

"Cancer is non-biased," he said. "It's a disease that doesn't care about color, nationality, religion, wealth. Everybody in the United States is in some way touched by this disease."

And since the disease has affected people close to Waters, he said it was natural for him to get involved in the Kings Mountain relay.

He is on the relay's corporate/marketing committee and his wife serves as the children's relay chairperson.

Involvement in the relay, Waters said, is one way to fight the disease, he said.

"I think people are becoming aware of the fact that it's a devastating disease and unless we do something about it nothing is going to get done."

Giving representation to Kings Mountain in Washington is one thing Waters said makes him proud about the upcoming trip.

See Waters, 5A



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