

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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LATE NIGHT CHECKPOINT



GARY STEWART / HERALD
Kings Mountain Police and the NC Highway Patrol ran a Booze It & Lose It checkpoint late Friday night and early Saturday morning at the intersection of I-85 and NC 161. Top photo, Chad Burnette of KMPD checks two vehicles, neither of which was violating any laws. Bottom right, State Troopers inside their cars are writing tickets for minor traffic violations. Bottom left is a can of beer that officers confiscated from a vehicle and placed on the island at the North I-85 on ramp.

Friday checkpoint nets 40 citations

Local law enforcement personnel issued 40 citations in a Booze It & Lose It checkpoint Friday night at the Highway 161/I-85 interchange.

Four Kings Mountain police officers and six troopers from the Cleveland County office of the State Highway Patrol conducted the checkpoint from 11 p.m.-2:30 a.m.

The effort was part of the Statewide July 4 holiday Booze & Lose It campaign which runs through Sunday.

Tickets/warrants issued included:

- 2 driving while impaired.
- 3 alcohol-related charges.
- 7 no operator's license
- 5 driving while license revoked.
- 4 seat belt violations.
- 19 others (including expired inspection stickers, expired license plates, etc).



Kings Mountain Police Chief Melvin Proctor noted that the alcohol-related charges were smaller than usual, and speculated that it was probably because people were aware that police would be more visible during the holiday or word of the checkpoint got out. He said checkpoints in



that area usually result in more charges.

"The biggest thing we've noticed with that area - and one of the reasons we did it there - is because people tend to go to (a nearby restaurant) to eat after they've been out drinking. They come back from South Carolina and other areas out that way and that's one reason we put the check station in that area. And I'm sure word got out too.

"But that's fine, as long as it is a deterrent," he said. "As long as we keep them from driving, that's our main accomplishment."

Proctor said other checkpoints are scheduled in the near future and will involve the BATmobile, a bus unit which is equipped with breathalyzer test equipment and a magistrate on site to draw up arrest warrants on the spot.

Textile summit set Monday at Patrick Center

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Local, state and national leaders will participate in a textile business summit Monday, July 15 from 9-11 a.m. at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life and Conference Center in Kings Mountain.

Mayor Rick Murphrey has arranged the summit for leaders to discuss current trade agreements, assistance available for persons that have lost jobs, and the future of the textile business.

Numerous textile association leaders have also been invited and the public is invited, Murphrey said.

A long list of elected officials have indicated they will attend, including U.S. Representatives Sue Myrick and Cass Ballenger, and State Representatives Debbie Clary, Andy Dedmon and John Weatherly. There will be representatives from the offices of U.S. Senators John Edwards and Jesse Helms, NC Senators David Hoyle and Walter Dalton, and the U.S. Department of Commerce. Many local and county elected officials and textile leaders will also attend.

Kings Mountain and Cleveland County rank among the highest communities in the State in unemployment because of recent downsizing and closings in the textile industry. The Kings Mountain textile community has lost hundreds of jobs with the closing of plants such as CleveMont and Mauney Hosiery, and downsizing at Anvil Knit, Spectrum Dyed Yarns and Ruppe Hosiery. Anvil is in the process of closing its KM plant. Murphrey said he is con-

cerned not only as mayor, but also because he has spent over 30 years in the textile business. He is currently employed by Spectrum.

"There are a lot of challenges facing local municipalities that have a tremendous amount of their infrastructure designed around the textile industry," Murphrey said.

Murphrey said the summit will begin with a general discussion by elected officials and leaders in the textile business, and will evolve to include a question and answer period.

"This is an opportunity to discuss the challenges facing our textile industry and our municipalities, and manufacturing in general," he said. "What we're wanting to do is to have a better understanding of the trade agreements that now exist, and to educate everyone on what's available - what's in place at this time - and also how to go forward."

Murphrey said recent trade agreements have put a hardship on the U.S. textile industry because of cheaper labor and more lenient environmental controls in other countries.

"We need to let the elected officials know that this continues to devastate our industry and we need some definite assistance. It's not too late but it's getting close."

Murphrey fears that U.S. textile manufacturers that are not educated about trade agreements and do not diversify to include high technology and robotics in See Textile, 5A

their operation may become extinct in the next several years. As a community, Kings Mountain is trying to attract See Textile, 8A

School Board approves purchase of mill property

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

The Kings Mountain Board of Education Monday night voted unanimously to "proceed with plans" to purchase the old Lambeth Rope property across the street from Kings Mountain High School.

Supt. Larry Allen recommended that the board enter into a lease agreement with anticipation of purchasing it within six to eight months.

The building would be renovated and eventually used for vocational education programs. Allen said that goal could be accomplished within three years by paying for the property with half-cent sales tax reimbursements which average about a half-million dollars a year.

The cost of the building and 8.8 acres of land will be approximately \$500,000 and renovations would run approximately \$1 million, he said.

Dr. Allen said the space is needed because of the growing population of the Kings Mountain School System. He said last year's enrollment at the high school was 1,200 but when the current sixth grade gets into high school the enrollment will be 1,550.

"The day of 800, 900 and 1,000 students at See Board, 8A

Administrators named at Kings Mountain High

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain Board of Education appointed two new administrators for Kings Mountain High School at Monday night's monthly meeting at Central School.

Dave Greene, a former assistant principal at Kings Mountain Middle School who served this past school year as an assistant principal at a Cherryville elementary school, is returning to the system as assistant principal at KMHS.

Henry Gilmore, who has served six years as a vocational teacher at KM Middle, is moving to KMHS as administrative assistant.

The two replace assistant principals Valerie Boyd, who has transferred to Bethware as assistant principal, and Dianna Bridges, who resigned to take a position as principal at Burns Middle School.

See KM High, 8A

LIL' PATRIOT



GARY STEWART / HERALD
1-year-old Sloan Gaultney was all decked out in red, white and blue for Thursday's Independence Day celebration at Jake Early Sports Complex. More photos on 1B.

Hospital merger to be discussed

The Kings Mountain Hospital Trustees Advisory Council will meet Monday, July 15 in the Kings Mountain Hospital Boardroom at 7:30 a.m. Following the council's meeting there will be a meeting of the hospital's Board of Trustees.

Both meetings are open to the public.

The topic of discussion is a letter of agreement between Kings Mountain Hospital and Cleveland Regional Medical Center regarding possibly merging the two facilities which are both managed by Charlotte-based Carolinas HealthCare System. The two hospitals are owned by citizens of Cleveland County.

If both Cleveland and Kings Mountain approve the conditions in the letter, a 1 p.m. press conference will be called to announce the merger of the two facilities.



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