

Band concert slated

The Kings Mountain Middle School 8th grade and the Kings Mountain High School 9th grade and 10-12 Blazer bands will present their annual winter concert Thursday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m. in B.N. Barnes Auditorium. The concert is free and open to the public. A donation will be collected for the continued support of the band programs.

Holiday trashpick up schedule

The trash pick up schedule for the week of Christmas (DEC. 23-27) for the City of Kings Mountain is as follows: Monday and Tuesday's pick up will be on Monday, Dec. 23. Wednesday's pick up will be on Thursday, Dec. 26. Thursday's pick up will be on Friday, Dec. 27. City offices will be closed on Monday through Wednesday.

YARBRO

From 1A

and it's made a big difference as far as State accountability and test scores.

"And the students are giving a good effort," he added. "I'm proud of the kids. That's the key to success, working hard on a consistent basis."

Jackie Lavender, Principal of Grover School, was the district's 2001-02 Principal of the year.

This is the 20th year that Wachovia Bank has sponsored the awards, according to Phil Weathers, Director of Student Services for KM District Schools. The regional Principal of the Year will receive \$1,500 for their school and \$1,500 for personal use. The State Principal of the Year will receive \$3,000 for the school and \$3,000 for personal use.

ABIGAIL

From 4A

Yet so often in our history, the Jewish people have been without a country. Granted, not everyone in Israel and Palestine is Jewish. Both of my friends are messianic Jews.

The organization, Seeds of Peace (www.seedspeace.org), is empowering the children of these war-torn countries to reject war and embrace peace. The only way to end a war is to impress on the young people of these nations that they do not have to live as their parents do. They can know a different world, where people of different backgrounds can live as neighbors and as friends.

Perhaps as we approach our own holiday seasons, we will remember those who are not as lucky as we are. We live in a nation that knows peace, at least relatively speaking. Perhaps we will pray for those who have never known peace and give thanks that we have.

JIM

From 4A

statements are false. Reading in a dimly lit room won't do any harm, but good lighting will prevent eye fatigue and make reading easier. Watching television won't harm a person's eyes, even if that person is too close to the tube.

Research does show that kids who consistently watch for more than 10 hours a week tend to be overweight, aggressive and slower to learn in school. That bears out my pet theory that the shows on TV today, will rot your brain.

If you cross your eyes, they'll stay that way. Not true. Only about four percent of children in the U.S. have strabismus, a disorder in which the eyes are misaligned, giving the appearance that they're looking in different directions. Eye crossing does not lead to the disorder.

Cracking your knuckles will cause arthritis. That, too, is an old wives tale, although cracking your knuckles can cause them to swell and decrease your grip strength. So don't crack your knuckles.

I'll bet you can come up with dozens more. Think about it, and in the meantime, don't let infants suck their thumbs. It can cause buck teeth. That one is true.

LETTERS

From 4A

H. Perkins, our nursing facility's medical director.

Dr. Perkins' medical liability coverage will expire on December 31. His provider will not renew his current policy and he has been unable to obtain new coverage due to an increase of lawsuits involving long term care facilities throughout the country.

One insurance company was quoted as saying "your exposure is too great in nursing homes." Who will be left to care for our elderly?

I am outraged that Dr. Perkins may no longer be able to provide our resident with medical care after December. He is one of the most caring, compassionate and competent physicians I have ever had the privilege to work with. He is truly dedicated to his patients. It is rare to find a physician who is willing to spend endless hours caring for our nation's greatest natural resource - our elderly.

I encourage anyone who has a loved one in a nursing facility to call or write your congressman and insist that changes be made in our legislation that will protect our elderly from losing quality medical care.

Judy Newman, RN
Director of Nursing Services
White Oak Manor
Kings Mountain



ELLIS NOELL / HERALD
A huge crane lifts one of the electric peak shaving generators into place Thursday at the electrical substation off York Road in Kings Mountain.

GENERATORS

From 1A

times. The generators will only run when they are needed to lower the peak amount of energy used.

By lowering the amount of electricity used at peak times, Kings Mountain will save over \$1 million in electricity each year, said Murphrey.

The use of generators to lower the cost of energy is actually a very progressive idea, said Murphrey. Kings Mountain is ahead of many cities in using generators, a fact which will attract more businesses to the area, he said.

"I think it sends a message to the new businesses and clients that we are properly planning for the city's future," said Murphrey. "We are trying to provide the best service at the lowest cost."

Over the last ten years, Kings Mountain has been able to lower the amount and, consequently, the cost of power consumed each year through

projects like the new generators, said Hendricks. Kings Mountain is very much a progressive city in this sense, said Murphrey.

"When you reduce your power as much as we have in the last ten years, you can't go wrong," said Hendricks. "It's a great, great investment."

In addition to the money saved by the city with the new generators, Kings Mountain citizens will also benefit by having no rate increases for the next four years. Recently, the city signed a four-year contract with Duke Power to purchase electricity for the same rate each year with no increases. As a result of the contract and the money saved from the new generators, the people of Kings Mountain will not have their rates raised for the next four years.

With all of the money being saved in Kings Mountain, others are beginning to want a piece of the savings. Many leaders from other communities have come to Kings Mountain to learn about the new generators, in hopes that they, too, will be able to lower their peak energy times with generators, said

Murphrey.

"A lot of communities are realizing now what a great investment these are," said Murphrey. "We've had a lot of people from other communities come and look at them."

Even with all of the savings, some may be concerned about their property values dropping due to the noise of the generators. Luckily, they do not have to worry for long. The generators are actually very quiet.

The generators should not disturb those living near them, said Hendricks, because they make very little noise when they run. Plus the buildings that house the generators are equipped with walls that hold in sound. Noise pollution will not be an issue.

Saving money is always something to be thankful for, and Hendricks said that he is grateful to the community leaders for acknowledging ways in which his department can help the community.

"I'd like to thank the mayor, council and city manager for believing in us," said Hendricks. "We appreciate their support tremendously."

COUNCIL

From 1A

said, although there are some "pockets" in recently annexed areas that aren't fully served yet, that the city has gone "above and beyond" the call of duty in providing services.

"We have done about \$1.5 million over what's been required by (annexation) law for services," Murphrey said, specifically citing water and sewer services to the Hilltop area in east Kings Mountain and Gold St. Extension in West Kings Mountain.

"There are a few pockets in the city that still need some work, and we're still looking at that and working with the State to get matching grants to do these improvements," Murphrey said.

Murphrey said the city also works with residents of newly-annexed areas to bring any substandard housing up to city codes.

The city approved paying Benchmark \$6,800 to qualify the area for annexation, and a total cost of \$19,600 through the service plan peri-

od.

Murphrey estimated Benchmark would begin qualifying in January, and if Council approves the annexation it would probably be by next June.

Killian estimated an annual revenue loss of \$49,000 because industries and residents in that area who are now on city services would go to the inside city rates when annexation takes effect. However, annual taxes would amount to \$192,000 making the net revenue \$143,000. The tax base of the property being considered is \$48 million in real property and \$5.3 million in personal property, he said.

Answering concerns by some council members, Maney said the city may be facing a tax increase in next year's budget because the governor continues to keep tax reimbursements owed to municipalities, and "we must continue to grow the city." He said it would not be wise to spend \$20,000 for the study if Council is not serious about following through with the plan.

Councilman Gene White agreed. "This is an absolute critical issue," White said.

Councilman Dean Spears had some concerns about annexing the Cleveland County Industrial Park, which currently has only two tenants, but said he would "go along with the concept."

DeVane said it "if we take these people in we need to provide services that we are morally obligated to do."

Murphrey said annexation would help bring down insurance rates for the area and give them more security. He said including the new intermediate school will give the city authority to set the speed limit on busy Kings Mountain Blvd. It is currently set by the State DOT.

Murphrey reiterated that the city will continue to "go beyond" what is required by law to provide the best possible services to newly-annexed areas.

"Annexation is a way that cities and municipalities continue to grow," he said. "We've doubled our square miles in the last five or six years. This is managed growth and we want to provide the necessary services and will continue to go above what is required by law."

Belt to sing at Senior Center

Jim Belt will sing at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Kings Mountain senior center as part of the monthly program presented by Chadduch Home Nursing Care of Shelby.

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