

The Herald

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Gas prices just keep going up

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
 Staff Writer

In the last few weeks, gas prices have jumped tremendously. Several gas stations were charging \$1.62 a gallon on Tuesday, which is a dramatic increase from even a month ago.

Sarah Bemby, public relations manager of the AAA Carolinas headquarters in Charlotte, attributed the rising price of gas to the labor strikes in Venezuela, which began in December. The United States gets approximately 14 percent of its crude oil from Venezuela.

She said that President Bush's State

of the Union address also contributed to the sudden increase in gas prices. Most people believed a war with Iraq would not come for several months yet, she said. When Bush announced an attack could come at any time, oil industries panicked and wondered what would happen to their supply line during a war, she said.

Between Sunday and Tuesday, the price of gas fluctuated only .5 cents per gallon, changing from \$1.61.9 on Sunday, to \$1.61.4 on Monday, back to \$1.61.9 on Tuesday.

"It looks like things are holding
 See Gas, 3A



ABIGAIL WOLFORD / HERALD
 Ashley Anderson puts gas in the mail car on Tuesday. She said the price of gas makes it difficult for the mail carriers.

City is ready with terrorism plan, advice

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
 Staff Writer

In light of recent terrorist threats against the United States, the federal government has issued many statements, telling citizens how to prepare for attacks. Many people have flocked to the store to stock up on duct tape and plastic sheeting.

Many Kings Mountain people have been calling local authorities to find out what they should be doing to prepare. Luckily, the city has both emergency plans in place and advice for citizens on how to prepare for an attack.

"I think it's important to let our citizens know that we do have a plan," said Mayor Murphrey. The police department has been working with the other departments in Kings Mountain to develop an emergency plan in the event of a terrorist attack since 9-11, he said. The city is in contact with the county, state, and federal emergency agencies. If something happened, city officials would know exactly how to respond, he said.

Murphrey said that all those involved in the formulation of the emergency plans have put in an astronomical number of hours since 9-11. The procedures are in place, he said.

"It's our responsibility to make sure these procedures are in place. We've taken the steps to make sure we are prepared," said Murphrey.

Police Chief Melvin Proctor said that both he and the mayor have been receiving many phone calls from citizens concerned about the heightened terrorism alert. He enco
 See City, 3A

"I think it's important to let our citizens know that we do have a plan."

Mayor Rick Murphrey

ICE STORM #2

No major problems in KM area

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
 Staff Writer

While the ice storm last weekend was inconvenient for many, city officials said they experienced no major problems.

Public Works Director Jackie Barnette said that his department experienced only minor problems during the ice storm. The only problem he really saw was the ice on the road.

"It's just hard to deal with ice," he said.

Workers in his department covered the roads with sand and salt until the ice was melted enough to push it with a plow, he said. The roads were all clear by Monday at 5 p.m.

Fire Chief Frank Burns said that the fire department also had few problems during the ice storm.

"Everything went fairly well," he said. "We had an industry fire, but that was not related to the ice storm."

Police Chief Melvin Proctor said that his department experienced no problems other than wrecks.

Unlike the December ice storm, most Kings Mountain residents kept power during the ice storm last weekend. While many people in South Carolina lost electricity, few problems were reported in the Kings Mountain area.

Nick Hendricks, director of the electric department, said his department received no weather-related calls.

Gary Whitener, executive vice president and general manager of Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation, said that his compa
 See Ice, 3A



Sunday's ice storm made area roads slick but very few problems were reported in the Kings Mountain area.

City considering extending water

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
 Staff Writer

The City Council Utility Committee met on Monday evening to discuss billing concerns and a water line extension in the city.

City Manager Jimmy Maney discussed the I-85 Dixon School Road project, which involves serving a company that wants to extend the city water line to its location on the I-85 interchange. Maney said that the company was currently getting bids for the line and will get approval from the city before it proceeds with the project.

Once the line is built, the city will take ownership of the line. The company will be paying for the line extension. Maney said the deal was good for the city because the line would open up the I-85 interchange for development. He said the area was a prime development area, and the residents would be customers of Kings Mountain if they connected to the water extension.

Jean Wyte, billing director, and Nick Hendricks, electric
 See Water, 3A

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

Poole saw lot in war

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
 Staff Writer

Willie Ezele Poole fought in World War II and lived to tell the tale. In fact, he is still telling his war stories to all who will listen.

Poole said he lied about his age and enlisted in the army when he was 16 years old. His father signed his name to get him in as well, he said. Poole turned 17 while he was in training. He said he knew boys in the army who were as young as 14 years old.

"I told a story about my age. If you was big enough, they'd take you," he said.

Poole was part of the 1st army division in North Africa and Italy. He said he saw battles constantly the whole time he was there. The bombing and shelling never ceased.

"That's all we seen over there was battles until we whooped them," he said.

He said he remembers several Hollywood stars coming to the bases to entertain the
 See Poole, 3A



ABIGAIL WOLFORD / HERALD
 Kathy Payne, activities director at White Oak Manor in Kings Mountain, poses with Willie Poole, a World War II veteran and resident of White Oak Manor.

Group of citizens conduct litter index

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
 Staff Writer

Several Kings Mountain citizens met on Valentine's Day to conduct a litter index of the city. The index is part of the effort to become certified by the national Keep America Beautiful organization.

Jennie Stultz, mayor of Gastonia and national consultant for Keep America Beautiful, gave a presentation to approximately a dozen litter index volunteers before they split up to conduct the index.

Stultz described the litter index as a "methodical
 See Index, 9A



ABIGAIL WOLFORD / HERALD
 Karen Roy, Mary Anne Hendricks, and Lou Ballew examine a map of Kings Mountain to determine which sections they should evaluate as part of the litter index.



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