

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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6A



Firemen work the scene of a house fire Tuesday afternoon on Timms Street near Kings Mountain.

GARY STEWART / HERALD

Woman attempting to burn spiders accidentally sets her house on fire

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

A Kings Mountain woman trying to smoke Black Widow Spiders out from under a kitchen cabinet accidentally set her house on fire Tuesday afternoon.

The home of Johnny and Patricia Martin at 122 Timms Street just south of the city limits was completely destroyed.

Cleveland County Fire Marshal Perry Davis said the house and its contents were a total loss.

According to Davis, Mrs. Martin, who was in the home alone while her

husband was working and their four children in school, lit some paper and was trying to kill the spiders.

"After it ignited she attempted to put the fire out two times, but was unsuccessful and had to get out of the house," Davis said.

"The house was insured. They were lucky on that end," Davis said.

The family was to stay with relatives Tuesday night and the American Red Cross is assisting them.

Kings Mountain, Bethlehem and Grover fire departments responded to the blaze. Although the fire is in

Bethlehem's district, Kings Mountain was the first department on the scene, arriving within minutes after the call.

Fireman Chad Johnson said the fire was too far advanced to save the home.

"The fire had started in the kitchen and pretty much worked its way throughout the house before we got there," Johnson said. "The initial knockdown just took a few minutes but we didn't get control for awhile. There were a lot of hot spots and a lot of kerosene heaters inside the structure."

Council backs off on US 74 annexation

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

City Council Tuesday night took a major step toward ending the annexation process for the City of Kings Mountain.

The Council was supposed to vote on whether to hold a special meeting about the 2000-H annexation on May 29 at 6:30 p.m. The special meeting was necessary for the City Council to develop an annexation ordinance for the area. The effective date of the annexation was to have been July 1, 2004.

However, Councilman Dean Spears requested that the item be moved from the consent agenda to the regular agenda. When the time came to discuss the issue, Spears made a motion to stop the annexation process for the time being. Councilman Jim Guyton seconded the motion.

Both Council members said that the annexation would hurt the businesses that would be annexed to the city. Those businesses included Sara Lee Intimates. They said the business managers in the proposed area opposed the annexation.

Councilman Clavon Kelly also voiced his opposition to the annexation process, saying, "We've got too much to do in the city to worry

about annexation."

Councilman Gene White was the lone voice of opposition on Tuesday evening. He said that Kings Mountain needs to do something to replace the textile industry that is leaving and that the proposed annexation area businesses would help the city. He noted that the managers of the businesses had a responsibility to oppose the annexation but that, in the end, the annexation would not hurt them. He said that the amount of property taxes the businesses would have to pay as a part of the city would be offset by the benefits of the city utilities.

"Don't let the county dictate our annexation policy," he said.

He said that he thought the county had been harassing the mayor to stop the annexation process. Mayor Rick Murphrey was absent from the meeting and was, therefore, unable to comment on that charge, although the other Councilmen said that they had heard nothing about problems with the county.

White also said that annexation is a major part of economic and urban development for cities. Without annexation, the city really has no way to move forward.

Natural gas price going up

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

Concerned about the price of gas? How about the price of natural gas? If you are not now, you may be soon.

On Monday, the price of natural gas jumped 38%, more than it ever has in a single day. Since the beginning of February, the prices of natural gas has doubled.

On Tuesday evening, Councilman Gene White brought the problems with the price of natural gas to the attention of the other Council members. He asked City Manager Jimmy Maney to explain the situation and comment on it.

"It's unlike any market that we've seen," said Maney.

Maney said that history shows that the

natural gas prices cannot stay as high as they are. They will eventually have to come down, although they may rise a bit more before they begin to fall again.

In the mean time, citizens and industries will be greatly impacted, he said. In fact, they will probably be more affected by the jump in the cost of natural gas than they ever have been. Revenue will be lost, he said. Many industries will cope with the drastic cost increase by passing it along to the customers, he said.

Many businesses will probably opt to switch to fuel oil this week. In fact, he said that any businesses that could possibly switch to fuel oil will do so. He said he expected to see the change in the businesses by either Wednesday night or by Friday.

See Gas, 3A

City to pay for depot renovation

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

The city recently leased the old depot to the Southern Arts Society for \$1 per month. In a continuing gesture of goodwill, the City Council also voted unanimously to pay for a new roof and building improvements for the depot.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said that similar improvements were made on the old post office when the historical museum decided to lease the building. The

See Depot, 3A

Mary Neisler receives Gateway Award



Mary Neisler received the Gateway Award on Tuesday evening for her efforts to preserve historical Kings Mountain.

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

Mary Neisler has always been interested in history and has infected many other members of the community to preserve Kings Mountain's history. On Tuesday evening, she was honored for her efforts with the Gateway Award, which was given by the Kings Mountain Business and Professional Association.

Kathy Neely, president of the Kings Mountain Business and Professional Association, said that the Gateway award was given to member of the community who was actively trying to make the community a better place to live. As part of her award, in addition to the roses and the plaque, Neisler was made an honorary lifetime member of the Kings Mountain Business and Professional Association.

"I'm just so overwhelmed," said

Neisler. "Everything that was done was done out of love for the community."

She said she normally expected those who were honored to be humanitarians.

"That's not been my forte," she said. "It's harder to do that."

Instead, her forte is preserving the past so that future generations can learn from their ancestors.

"I hope it helps Kings Mountain become aware of how we fit into the future," she said.

She said the historical preservation has been helped by the nearness of the battlegrounds and the mountains. The projects within Kings Mountain have been inspired by her love of the community and have gradually grown, she said.

"It's been gradual. I've always been interested in history," she said, of how

See Neisler, 3A



ABIGAIL WOLFORD / HERALD

Josh Conrad, Bob Boles, and Johnny Putnam reroute some circuits on the corner of Gold Street and Gaston Street on Tuesday.



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