

The Herald

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6A

Phil Ponder named KM's City Manager

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

On Wednesday evening, Kings Mountain officials announced that they had chosen a new city manager: Phillip Ponder, Jr.

"Phil will do an excellent job for us. I'm very confident of that," said Mayor Rick Murphrey. "He comes highly recommended."

Ponder will probably begin working in Kings Mountain in a month. He said his main goal for the job is to continue doing the good job that the former city manager, Jimmy Maney, has done.

"From looking at the audit, the city's in very good condi-

tion," said Ponder. "I would like to keep it functioning as it is. I've known Jimmy Maney for several years. He's done a good job. Hopefully, I would be able to continue it."

Ponder will work with Maney to create a smooth transition until Maney leaves at the end of May. Since Ponder lives so close to Kings Mountain already, he will be able to help create a smooth transition that is unusual for a city manager position, said Murphrey.

Ponder has fifteen years of municipal experience already. He was the assistant county manager for Gaston County for three years and has served as the equipment services and

transit administrator in Gastonia since October, 2001. Previously, he served as city manager of Mount Holly for seven years and as assistant city manager of Albemarle for five years. He is a graduate of High Point College and University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where he earned his MPA degree.

He said he applied for the Kings Mountain position because he thought Kings Mountain would be an interesting place to live and work. He had previously visited the battleground and driven through the city. He had also attended a regional managers' meeting in Kings Mountain and been given

a tour of the city by Maney. Ponder said he plans to move to Kings Mountain, even though he only lives about thirty minutes away right now. He said he has already started looking for a home.

He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, although he spent most of his early life in Virginia, about forty miles from Washington, D.C. He said he liked North Carolina and decided to stay here after he graduated from High Point. He said he especially likes this area because it is close to everything: the mountains, the beach, and the airport.

"I like the North Carolina See Ponder, 3A



GARY STEWART / HERALD
Former Mount Holly City Manager Phil Ponder has been named new City Manager for Kings Mountain, succeeding Jimmy Maney, who recently retired.



GARY STEWART / HERALD
A tractor-trailer making a stop at the Oglebay-Norton warehouse on Grover Road Friday clipped a utility pole, doing heavy damage to the trailer and knocking out the power to nearby Duke Power customers.

Rain causes sewage spills

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

If Kings Mountain gets any more rain this month, it could reach a record amount of rainfall for April. So far this month, the city has received 8.16 inches of rain, said Kenneth Kitzmiller, a local man who has kept records of Kings Mountain's weather for over twenty years.

Because of all the rain, Kings Mountain did have three sanitary sewer overflows on April 10. The

overflows were caused by all of the rain the area got last week. The first overflow was at Rhodes Avenue and Henry Street and involved 1,500 gallons. The overflow did not reach the state's water.

The second overflow involved 15,000 gallons of sewage at Wilson Street, and the sewage did reach Kings Creek. The third involved 18,000 gallons at Beason Creek Pump Station and reached Beason Creek.

Dennis Wells, director of water dis-

tribution and collection systems, said the situation was maintained quickly. One overflow lasted a couple of hours, while another lasted about four hours. The situation is fixed, and the city has had no more problems since then, said Wells.

"It's just one of these things that happens. I'm real surprised it hasn't happened earlier," said Wells.

Kings Mountain received 1.38 inches of rain on Wednesday and 2.19 inches See Rain, 3A

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

Rev. Wright retiring

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

For the last eight years, Rev. Clarence Wright has been pastoring two churches in Kings Mountain. He is one of a few pastors in Kings Mountain to face the challenge of leading more than one flock at a time.

Wright is the pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church and Galilee United Methodist Church. Each Sunday he conducts a service at each church. One of the services starts at 9:30 and the other at 11.

"It's wonderful, but it's different," said Wright, of pastoring two churches. "It's something you really have to get used to.

Each church is different."

Each church has its own personality, he said. He said he does not have time between services to hang around with the congregation members. He has to leave immediately to make it to his second service.

He said he uses the same manuscript for each sermon, but the sermon never ends up being the same.

"It's never the same. My wife tells me that," he said.

The basics for each sermon are the same.

For example, he preaches from the same See Wright, 3A



REV. CLARENCE WRIGHT

Firehouse Cook-off set at Walking Track

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

The city has a full weekend planned in addition to the CrossWalk performance which was delayed until this weekend.

On Friday evening, the seventh annual Firehouse Cook-off will begin at 6 p.m. at the walking track. On Saturday morning, at 10 a.m., an Easter egg hunt will be held for the children at the walking track, as well.

The Firehouse Cook-off is

comprised of approximately 40 teams from as far away as Illinois competing in various barbecue cooking categories. Since this is a state event, the winner will be invited to the prestigious Jack Daniels World Champion Cook-Off in Lynchburg, Tennessee.

The O'Kaysions, a group known for their number one hit, "I'm a Girl Watcher," will perform from 8-11 p.m. at the walking track on See Cook-off, 3A

EASTER EVENTS

CrossWalk begins Thursday night

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

Clear weather this weekend means that CrossWalk, Kings Mountain's outdoor Easter drama, will take place in downtown Kings Mountain. The event was supposed to take place last weekend, but rain during the week delayed it.

CrossWalk will take place on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday this week. The Thursday performance times will be 7:30 and 8:30 p.m., and the Friday and Saturday performance times will be 7:30, 8:30, and 9:30 p.m.

The drama tells the story of the last days of Jesus' life on earth. The scenery is life size, and visitors are led through the drama on foot.

Since set construction has to start early in the week, organizers were unable to get the set put up last week because of the rain, even though the weather eventually cleared up for the weekend. This week, they did not have any problems.

Delaying the event did bring much more work for the organizers since they had to contact everyone involved, plus the ticket-holders, venues, volunteers, rental agencies, and insurance companies involved in the performance.

"It hasn't been easy, but we'll certainly have a better See CrossWalk, 3A

Sunrise service set at cemetery

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

The community Easter sunrise service will take place at 6:30 a.m. Sunday, at the Mountain Rest Cemetery.

"I don't know how many years it's taken place, but I know it is quite a tradition in the community," said Rev. Eddie Gray, of East Gold Street Wesleyan Church. He said he was looking forward to remembering the resurrection early in the morning on Easter.

Rev. Robert Haynes, of Temple Baptist Church, will bring the message. Rev. Jeff Hensley, of Kings Mountain Baptist, will pray at the service.

Congregational singing and special music will also be a part of the service. Tanisha Kannedy, from Peoples Baptist Church, will sing a solo. Linda Dixon, from Central United Methodist, will lead the congregation in "He Lives." The service will last approximately 30 minutes.

People will gather at the cement slab platform in the middle of the cemetery. A few chairs will be available for those who need them. Some people usually stand See Sunrise, 3A

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