

The Herald

KINGS MOUNTAIN

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Art camp held at KM Middle School

8A

KEEPING COOL



Staying cool in the heat of summer is no problem for Meredith Van Dyke and Sarah Kate Fedyschyn, who were taking a dip in the pool at the Kings Mountain County Club.

ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD

Incumbents, Joy file for City Council

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain City Council incumbents in Wards 2, 3 and 4 have filed for re-election. A bid is being made for an at-large seat also.

Gary D. Joy, 63, has filed for an at-large Kings Mountain City Council seat.

Joy said, if elected, he would work for the elimination of unnecessary spending and would work for industry recruitment. He also is calling for greater council involvement in capital projects costs.

He is opposed to what he calls "special interest spending." Joy declined to give an example.

Joy supports two year terms for council members.

Joy, now retired, spent his career in the metal industry. Beginning in a shop, he worked his way up to management. He said this gave him an understanding of how finances work. He wants to use this experience on the council.

Joy has lived in Kings Mountain since childhood. He has made a previous bid for mayor and for a council seat.

Incumbent Dean Spears, 69, has filed for the Ward 4 seat. He has served as a council member for the past 10 years.

"If elected I'll continue to do the best I can for the benefit of Kings Mountain," he said.

Spears supports continued uptown development, continuing water and sewer expansion and upping the incentive for new businesses.

"I would like to increase our incentives as much as possible."



GUYTON



JOY



KELLY

See Council, 3A

John Oates Plonk Jr., 73, dies

By ANDIE BRYMER
Staff Writer

John Oates Plonk Jr., 73, Kings Mountain business and church leader died Tuesday at his 118 North Piedmont Avenue residence.

Plonk is remembered for starting the Lay Persons on Call ministry at Central United Methodist Church where he was a member. He was also involved in starting the community kitchen and annual preaching mission.



PLONK

Plonk founded Foust Textiles in 1964 and continued to work there until his retirement earlier this year.

Family friend Mary Neisler remembers Plonk.

"He enjoyed life so much. He was a hard worker yet he took time out to enjoy

life," she said.

Neisler and her husband Charles were members of a supper club with Plonk and his wife Patricia. Over the past 50 years, club members would meet at one another's homes for monthly meals. The families also traveled together.

"It's going to be such a void," she said.

She describes Plonk as deeply spiritual.

See Plonk, 3A

KM escapes damage from Sunday storm

By ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

While tornado sightings were reported around Cleveland and Gaston counties over the weekend, Kings Mountain escaped with only heavy rains. A Sunday evening storm dumped 1 1/4 inches of rain on the town.

The precipitation brings this month's total rain fall to 6.63 inches as of Sunday.

"If it keeps on, we're going to have a wet month," said Kenneth Kitzmiller who keeps rain statistics for the Kings Mountain Herald.

July has been exceptionally wet. Eight days this month have had some amount of rain.

The town did not lose electricity during the storms. There were two reports of tree limbs on electric lines, according to Nick Hendricks, electric director. The limbs were removed after the storm, he said.

Hendricks credits a tree trimming program for there being no electric outages.

"The tree trimming really helped us tremendously," he said. Kings Mountain Police and Cleveland County Sheriff's Office reported no weather related incidents in this area.

If the rain continues, this will be a record setting year, Kitzmiller predicts. At the end of June, 47.81 inches had fallen. The record for one year is 62 inches.



GARY STEWART / HERALD

Employees of Kennedy Concrete dig water lines on Dixon School Road near I-85. The lines will serve Kings Mountain Truck Plaza and possibly other future customers in the area.

Zoning authority given to Grover

By ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

GROVER - The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners voted Tuesday night to give back to the Town of Grover responsibility for zoning variances.

In a unanimous vote, commissioners approved the measure which means Grover will have to re-establish a board of adjustments.

In 1994, Grover established zoning inside the town limits. A volunteer planning director heard requests for variances. If a neighboring landowner had

objections, the board of adjustments then got involved.

Approximately three years ago, Grover handed over to Cleveland County the power to grant variances. The county and Grover had the same zoning codes in place.

"We didn't have the people to serve and couldn't afford to hire an administrator," said Grover Mayor Bill Favell.

Grover will have two years to create a board of adjustments. Town council members cannot serve on that board.

See Grover, 3A

High school enrollment increasing

By ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain District Schools board held its July meeting Thursday night.

During the public comments period, parent Lillian Butts asked why additional mobile units are being put in place at the high school.

Superintendent Dr. Larry Allen said there was a total increase of approximately 140 students at the high school.

"Our classrooms are full. We have plans to relieve that. It may take a couple of See School, 3A



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD

Thomas Forbes has created a story board that he uses to illustrate talks about his experiences during World War II.

KM man shot down over Austria returns for visit

By ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Thomas Forbes was shot down over Austria 59 years ago as an Army Air Force flight engineer. Forbes survived the bail out and just last autumn returned to visit the people who helped him elude the Germans.

Forbes often visits school groups to share his story. Last week, he shared that same story with the Herald.

The plane Forbes, then 23, was riding in was shot by Germans. With a wing on fire, the 10-member crew used their parachutes at 22,000 feet. Forbes watched as the plane's pilot Clarence Southern was shot and killed as he attempted the jump.

Forbes was lucky enough not to be hit on the way down. Once on the ground he hid underneath the para-

chute, using it as camouflage in the deep snow drifts.

"My parachute saved my life twice," he said. "He (German gunner) couldn't find me in the snow."

Forbes survived the jump with a cut to the leg. He used the morphine the army had supplied him to stop the pain. Partisan forces, who were under the leadership of Marshal Tito, found him after the jump.

The Partisans, who were resisting the German invaders, agreed to help the wounded American. They took him to two young Austrian women for food and shelter. Forbes paid the women with the 48 American one dollar bills the Army had supplied in emergency kits.

The women made Forbes a temporary home in a cave-like structure in See Austria, 3A

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