

# KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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## BATTLE OF KM CELEBRATION



Overmountain Victory Trail Association members participated in a ceremony Tuesday afternoon commemorating the Battle of Kings Mountain. Below, re-enactor Brett Osborn of Jonesboro, Georgia watched the ceremony.

## Will new water line handle future growth?

### Commissioner questions 8-inch line feeding Testa's 16-inch line

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

As several businesses in the Dixon School Road area prepare to tie into a new water line, one Kings Mountain city council member is questioning whether that line will adequately serve the area in the future.

Councilman Jim Guyton brought the issue up during last week's council meeting. City manager Phil Ponder wrote about Guyton's concern in a weekly memo sent to council members.

In that memo, Ponder wrote that "more water delivery points will be necessary to feed additional water to the Dixon School Road line if significant growth is to be realized."

**"More water delivery points will be necessary."**

The city required developer Jim Testa to install a 16 inch line leading from the existing 8 inch water line at Tin Mine Road. Guyton is concerned that the 8 inch line is not large enough. The 8 inch line was installed around the late 1980s to serve the state welcome center at I-85, according to Al Moretz, the city's consulting engineer.

Moretz agrees that the 8 inch line cannot serve future development though he presented several solutions.

"As development occurs something would have to happen," Moretz said.

Two main possibilities exist for bringing more water to the Dixon School Road area. A 16 inch line has already been permitted along Kings Mountain Boulevard. The road currently ends at Phifer Road though there are plans to extend See Water, 3A

**Phil Ponder  
City Manager**

## Grover sets \$250 fee for variance request

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

GROVER - Residents who want to file a variance with Grover's Board of Adjustment will pay a \$250 fee, the town's council voted during their Monday night meeting.

Council member Bill Willis cast the lone dissenting vote.

"All the citizens of the town don't have \$250 they could dish out," Willis said.

The \$250 fee pays for a state mandated legal

announcement in the newspaper, mailings to nearby property owners and signs advertising the variance request.

"The person who is aggrieved ought to be willing to pay," said Councilman Max Rollins.

Cleveland County charges \$200 for variance requests, Grover officials said. Their budget is large enough to pay a portion of the required advertising and notification.

In other business, the See Grover, 3A

## Battle turned tide of Revolution

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Descendants and other patriotic folks from Tennessee, Virginia, North and South Carolina and other parts of the nation gathered Tuesday afternoon to mark the 223rd anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Some of those drove and walked the 330 mile Overmountain Victory Trail starting in Abington, Virginia.

"This tells a story unique to America," said Fran Dahl, the Knoxville, Tennessee woman who coordinated this year's trail trip.

Overmountain Victory Trail Association members try to stay as close to the trail as possible, lodging in the same communities when feasible.

"It's fun. It's like a family reunion even though none of these people are related to me," Dahl said.

Daniel Barefoot, a histori-



cal author from Lincolnton and former member of the General Assembly, gave the keynote address. Barefoot called the victory at Kings Mountain the battle that "turned the tide of the war." The victory paved

the way for a Patriot victory in the war for independence.

"They literally turned the world upside down," Barefoot said.

Representatives from Elkin were on hand to

accept an award from the National Park Service for getting all portions of the trail running through Surry County certified. The park service is working to create a walking trail that traces the original march. Currently, a motor trail is marked.

Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey welcomed the crowd, telling everyone that the victory put the wheels in motion for the charter of the City of Kings Mountain.

In her remarks, Park Superintendent Erin Broadbent said the park has received funding to install additional exhibits leading up to the 225th anniversary of the battle in 2005.

York High School Junior ROTC members presented the colors.

Members of the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution laid a wreath at the national monument earlier in the day.

## Dean of Druggist

### Blanton notes 50th year in profession

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

When Charles Blanton became a pharmacist 50 years ago, health insurance didn't cover many drugs, prescriptions cost around \$3.50 to fill and druggist compounded every orders.

Today, 80 percent of Blanton's customers at Mountain Street Pharmacy pay for their prescriptions with insurance. Years ago it was cash, check or charge.

Blanton marvels at his co-workers who must keep up with which drugs are currently covered by which insurer.

"They (insurance companies) change the rules every three weeks," he joked.

Some prescriptions can cost \$100 to fill. "It's not the pharmacy's fault, it's the manufacturer," Blanton said.

While prices have increased so has the effectiveness of medications. A half century ago medications treating high blood pressure, heart disease and Alzheimer's were only marginally effective.

"Medicine is so much better today," Blanton said.

As a result, many folks are enjoying better health, Blanton said, with the exception of people who are uninsured and cannot afford medications.

"Some people have to choose between groceries or medicine," he said.

With more drugs on the market, educational requirements for pharmacists have increased from four years to six plus a year of interning. There are now bio-tech classes and more pharmacology.

When Blanton was at UNC-Chapel Hill, all pharmacy students learned to compound or make drugs. Today, it is taught as a specialty.

"I really enjoyed that. We all used to do it," he said.

With more and more customers using herbal medicines, Blanton has had to learn about phytopharmaceuticals.

It's very common to get questions about herbs, he said.

Forged prescriptions have always been a problem but today the situation is worse.

"We try to stop it if we can," he said.

After 50 years on the job, Blanton can See Blanton, 3A



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD  
Charles Blanton, 72, continues to work part time as a pharmacist at Mountain Street Pharmacy.

## PR director's salary package totals \$47,127

By ANDIE BRYMER  
Staff Writer

The City of Kings Mountain's Special Events Department came under fire for its budget during last week's city council meeting. Here is a breakdown of that department's budget for fiscal year 2003-2004.

### Salary Package:

Salary of director Ellis Noell - \$33,611  
FICA tax for director - \$2,571  
Retirement benefits for director - \$1,614  
Health insurance for director - \$5,862  
401 K for director - \$1,681  
Worker's compensation - \$1,788  
Sub Total - \$47,127

Clerical and Other Expenses:  
See Director, 3A



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