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SC man declines KM offer

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

A Mauldin, S.C. utilities manager says he turned down an offer to work as Kings Mountain city manager for personal reasons.

Tom Lynn said he did not accept the job to avoid causing his wife a long commute to her job. The move to Kings Mountain would also have meant moving away from the couple's daughter who is a student at the University of South Carolina.

"If I had been single it probably would have been different," Lynn said in a telephone interview last week.

Lynn said the controversy surrounding the departure of former city manager Phil Ponder did not influence his decision. Lynn did say he spent time in a local library reviewing coverage of the city.

The Kings Mountain City Council has been criticized for a string of four to three votes. While votes on personnel issues are protected by law and not available to the press, Lynn did say that four votes to hire a manager is the "standard rule."

"I realize all aren't going to agree," he said.

Lynn said he was honored the city had offered him the job and wished Kings Mountain well.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said the council is currently reviewing applications and deciding who to interview. Murphrey said the city received over 80 applications this spring for the position.

Tuition waiver for employees' kids talked

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Will the children of Cleveland County Schools' employees living outside the county have to pay \$1,414 in tuition to attend school next year?

A tuition waiver is being discussed though no one from Cleveland County Schools was available to talk about it Tuesday.

The board of education voted last Monday to charge \$1,414 in annual tuition to all out-of-county students except currently enrolled rising seniors. Board members Terry McClain and Shearra Miller cast the lone dissenting votes.

The issue came to light after the county's three systems merged in January. The former Kings Mountain District Schools had an agreement with Gaston County which allowed students living in the Gaston portion of the city to attend KMDS at no charge.

Earlier this year, the Gaston County Board of Education voted against sending county funds with its residents living in Kings Mountain's city limits.

FABULOUS FOURTH



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD
The City of Kings Mountain lit up the sky for its annual Fourth of July celebration Saturday night at the Walking Track (above). Below, Richard Myers holds his two-year-old daughter Rachel.

Large crowd attends event

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Just miles from where a pivotal Revolutionary Battle was fought over two centuries ago, the City of Kings Mountain celebrated America's independence with fireworks and music
See Fourth, 8A



To spank or not

County School Board to decide on corporal punishment policy

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

To spank or not? The Cleveland County School Board probably will vote on a corporal punishment policy during its July 12 meeting.

During a work session last week, board members discussed policies on corporal punishment, student conduct and drug possession related suspension. No votes were taken.

A consulting attorney advised the board that allowing corporal punishment could leave the system open to litigation. The attorney stopped short of advising the board on whether to allow physical discipline.

Corporal punishment policies were in place for the former Kings Mountain District Schools and Shelby City Schools. When the former Cleveland County Schools' policy manual was updated in 1997, no mention was made of corporal punishment.

The former Kings Mountain District Schools'

policy allowed corporal punishment under the following guidelines:

Other children could not be present. The student body had to be informed beforehand what general types of misconduct could result in corporal punishment. Only a teacher, principal or assistant principal could administer corporal punishment and only with a witness present.

Corporal punishment administered by a teacher had to be witnessed by a principal or non-teaching assistant principal. When administered by a principal or non-teaching principal, a teacher or administrator could serve as witness. The witness had to be informed beforehand and in the student's presence of the reason for the punishment.

The principal had to provide the child's parent or guardian with notification that corporal punishment had been used. Upon request, the person who administered the punishment had to provide a writ

See Spank, 3A

Kerry's choice of Edwards draws mixed reaction

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

When Betsy Wells learned North Carolina Senator John Edwards had curtailed his vacation to fly to Boston over the weekend, the Cleveland County Democrat Party chairwoman was upbeat.

"I just knew in my soul," she said.

Wells' hunch was correct.

Democrat presidential candidate John Kerry announced Tuesday morning that he had selected Edwards as his vice-presi-

dential running mate.

"I'm tickled to death," Wells said.

She spent five weeks campaigning for Edwards in New Hampshire late last year and early 2004. The retired educator spent much of that time convincing teachers to vote for Edwards. She also worked with the senator's parents when they campaigned among senior citizens.

Edwards' compassion, charisma and sincerity will mean success on the campaign trail, Wells says.

See Edwards, 3A

KM Police credit tips for Thursday drug bust

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

The Kings Mountain Police Department is crediting cooperation between its officers and the community for two drug arrests Thursday.

Marlon Torraine Howell could be charged under federal statutes, according to Chief Melvin Proctor.

Howell, 25, of 605 Floyd Street, Kings Mountain was charged with possession of a firearm by a felon, possession with intent to sell cocaine and marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, maintaining a vehicle with intent to sell and deliver cocaine and restricting, obstructing and delay of an officer. He was jailed under a \$75,000 secured bond.

Police say federal officers are considering charging Howell in addition to the state charges he has received. If convicted under federal charges, Howell would serve a

longer sentence, Proctor said.

Police had received numerous complaints about Howell from Morris Street residents. They launched an investigation. When a resident at Kingswood Apartments called police and described what sounded like a drug deal, the arrest came sooner than they had expected.

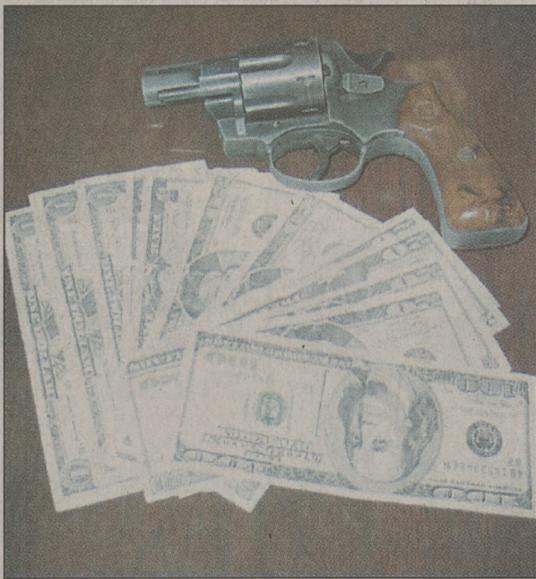
"This gave us the edge, made it go through faster," Sgt. Lisa Proctor said.

Proctor credits the caller's detailed description for the arrest.

Kynotta Latroy Smith, 27, of 1690 Herman Drive, Apartment C, Gastonia was also arrested. He was wanted in Gastonia for failing to appear on a cocaine trafficking charge.

Mayor Rick Murphrey congratulated the officers' work and the continued cooperation between the department and community.

Proctor issued a warning to drug dealers.
See Bust, 2A



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
Money and a weapon confiscated by Kings Mountain Police in a drug arrest Thursday on Floyd Street. Marlon Torrain Howell faces a number of charges.

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