

The Herald

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VETERANS DAY



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

One-year-old Kole Short, top photo, watches the Veterans Day parade go through downtown Thursday morning. Below, members of the Kings Mountain Police Color Guard and the Loch Norman Pipe Band lead the march from downtown to Mountain Rest Cemetery for the annual observance at Veterans Park.

The soldier prays for peace

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain paid tribute to its veterans last week with a parade and ceremony.

"Our veterans have marched in and out of hell around the world," American Legion Commander Claude Pearson told the veterans, their families and others assembled at Mountain Rest Cemetery Nov. 11. "The soldier above all prays for peace."

Referring to the Sept. 11 attacks on America, Pearson told the crowd that America has been lucky for a "good long time" to avoid such.

"America is strong. We will stop terrorism," he said.

Pearson remembered the men and women who have set aside civilian pursuits to "preserve our precious American heritage."

In his prayer, Pearson asked the Lord to "protect and hold in your hand" the soldiers now serving.

Larry Deaver, 23rd District American Legion commander, presented Mayor Rick Murphrey with a flag remembering soldiers missing in action.

"You've held that banner high through some desperate times," Murphrey told the crowd. "We're a grateful community. We remember their service in both war and peace."

Murphrey lauded soldiers' loyalty, duty, honor and personal courage.

"Some have given the ultimate price," the mayor said.

See Veterans, 2A



Action delayed on video poker permit

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

The Kings Mountain Board of Adjustment delayed taking action on a conditional use permit request by Trent Testa Tuesday night.

The request is for an annual renewal of a permit which would allow Kings Mountain Truck Plaza to keep its three video poker machines for another year. Paperwork from the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office could not be located, according to City Planner Steve Killian. The plaza is located at 400 Dixon School Road.

"I think he actually produced those last time," said Testa's attorney Tim Moore.

The board tentatively rescheduled its meeting for Tuesday at 9 a.m. to give Testa time to secure copies of the paperwork. The meeting will be held at city hall and is open to the public.

One Day at a Time

American Cancer Society urges smokers to kick habit during Great American Smokeout

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Put down that cigarette. Give it up for one day. It's the American Cancer Society's Great American Smoke Out. While the annual stop smoking day started with grass roots events in the early 1970s, it went nationwide in 1977.

An estimated 46 million American adults smoke despite the habit's link to lung and other cancers.

In honor of the smoke out, two former smokers agreed to share their story with the Herald.

Sandra Jenkins, 29, had puffed away since age 13. Since getting involved with ACS's Relay for Life earlier this year, she tried to quit.

"I knew it wasn't good for me," Jenkins said.

The Antioch woman had watched her aunt, a three-packs-a-day smoker, die of emphysema.

"She really suffered," Jenkins said.

She also feared what her example said to the her church youth group.

"That's not a good role model," Jenkins said.

A smoking cessation inhaler didn't work for Jenkins. The burning sensation was too uncomfortable. She considered either patch-



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
Employee takes a smoke break at Kings Mountain business

es or pills but went cold turkey. The reason Jenkins discovered in August she was pregnant.

"The baby has no control over what I put in my body," she said. "It wasn't just me."

Jenkins doubts whether she would have been able to give it up any other way. She wants to stay smoke free after the baby is born.

"I know if I take one smoke it will take See Smoke, 2A

KM City Manager is back on job

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain's city manager was back on the job Monday after a month-long leave of absence.

"I'm happy to be back," Greg McGinnis said in a phone interview Tuesday morning.

McGinnis declined to give specifics of why he was out, only saying he had "personal things I needed to take care of."

Council members also have declined to say why they gave McGinnis a leave, citing confidentiality of personnel matters. McGinnis said he was grateful that Mayor Rick Murphrey and council members had worked with him.

The federal Family Medical Leave Act only applies to employees who have been on the job a year or more. However, under the city's policy, employees can be granted up to a year's leave, apparently without a stipulation on length of employment.

McGinnis praised the job City Clerk Marilyn Sellars did as acting city manager. He said Sellars told him it had been a learning experience. He also credited department heads and staff.

See Manager, 2A



"I'm happy to be back."

Greg McGinnis

'Great Thing'

MRI equipment approved for Kings Mountain Hospital

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain residents will no longer have to choose between going out of town or using a mobile MRI unit that only visits on Sundays. Kings Mountain Hospital has been granted permission to install a permanent machine at the hospital.

"It will be a great thing for Kings Mountain," hospital vice-president Alex Bell said Monday.

Before purchasing an MRI and much other high tech equipment, hospitals must get approval from the state Division of Facility Services. This process attempts to prevent unnecessary and costly duplication of services, state officials say.

Kings Mountain Hospital competed with CaroMont Health of Gaston County for permission to have an MRI. CaroMont wanted to build a free standing facility in Kings Mountain. During a public hearing last November, KMH argued that it is safer for critically ill patients to use an in-house unit than be transported by ambulance to a free-standing facility. The in-house unit can also be accessed faster.

"It's the right thing for the Kings Mountain area," Bell said about the state's decision.

See MRI, 2A

City to light Christmas tree

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Santa Clause will bring Christmas to Kings Mountain Tuesday night.

The fire department will give Saint Nick a ride to Mauney Memorial Library for the annual city tree lighting at 7 p.m.

"Santa will be there to meet and greet the kids," said Ellis Noell, city events coordinator.

Stephanie Pasour's kindergarten honors students from East, North and West elementary schools will sing. The Images Performance Group from Dance Reflections will perform.

Mayor Rick Murphrey will read "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

Dr. Jeff Mauney and library Director Jeff Mauney will speak.

A reception for Santa will follow in the Harris Children's Wing, downstairs meeting area.

The event is free and open to the public.

The city will hold its annual Christmas parade Dec. 4 at See Christmas, 2A