

# The Herald

Thursday, February 24, 2005

Vol. 117 No. 8

Since 1889

50 Cents

1B

Mountaineers'  
Josh Hendricks  
signs to play  
college baseball



## Land Use Committee is appointed

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain's Land Use Development Committee was named during city council's Tuesday night meeting.

Mayor Rick Murphrey appointed Jerry Blanton, David Allen, Dean Spears, Ronnie Wilson, John Houze, Ron Humphries, Raeford White, Phillip Putnam, Emmanuel Goode, Shirley Brutko, Greg Johnson, Tim Plonk, Jim Childers, Brenda Ross, Larry Hamrick Jr., Donald Crawford, Johnny Bumgardner, Teresa Ruppe, Steve Padgett, Phillip Bunch and Ernest Rhome.

The committee will work with city council and staff to make recommen-

dations on residential and industrial zoning changes, infrastructure and road planning. The plan will include the city and its two-mile extra territorial jurisdiction.

In other business, city council referred back to the planning and zoning board a rezoning request by Donna McNamara. She wants a half-acre property located at the intersection of Blair Drive and Shelby Road changed from residential to neighborhood business.

McNamara and Paige Crisp want to open an upscale salon offering hair care, massage, skin care, anti-aging treatment and facials.

A beauty salon is located next door. Nearby is a garage, church and stereo See Council, 2A



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD  
Pressley Anderson was honored Tuesday night as an ambassador for the City of Kings Mountain. He umpires little league baseball and works as a crossing guard.

## Who will run for Council this year?

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Will Kings Mountain's leaders run for re-election come November? While filling doesn't open till July 1, the city's mayor and two council member have already decided to run. A few other council members aren't sure.

This year marks Rick Murphrey's sixth as mayor after serving six years on city council. Murphrey says he is following his father's example. The senior Murphrey has served 35 years on his eastern North Carolina hometown council. Murphrey said his father encouraged him to give back to the community.

"I'd like to continue to work for the citizens," he said Tuesday afternoon.

Looking back at his 12 years with the city, Murphrey points to new police and fire department headquarters, a senior center and playground and infrastructure improvements. He also lists downtown revitalization, the Gateway project linking the city with nearby parks, quality of life events including a summer concert series and beautification efforts.

Long-time Councilman Howard Shipp, who represents Ward One, said he will run for re-election. Jerry Mullinax of Ward Three also plans to run for re-election. He was first elected in 1995 serving until 1999. Mullinax ran a successful campaign again in 2003.

Councilwoman Brenda Ross, who was elected in 2003, says she is not sure about re-election. Ross, who represents Ward Two, said she felt like the council had accomplished several goals. A cost-saving pumping station went on-line early this year and the city entered into a 10-year contract with the YMCA. Both Southeastern Container and Axle Alliance have opened facilities here.

"We're delighted to have them," she said.

Ross also praised the efforts of special events Coordinator Ellis Noell and Library Director Sharon Stack.

Councilman Carl DeVane said he hasn't decided yet if he will seek re-election. He represents Ward Five.

Councilwoman Kay Hambricht, also serving her first term, said she had not made a final decision either.

See Election, 2A

## McGinnis Furniture closing

# End of an era

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

After more than 60 years in business, McGinnis Furniture is closing Monday. Owners Bill and Doris McGinnis are retiring.

They are selling the Battleground Avenue building to Herb Anthony who plans to continue selling furniture.

Hinkle McGinnis opened the store in the early 1940s selling used furniture. Originally the store was located at 110 West Mountain Street. In 1959 he built the current location. In the early 1960s he added an addition to the Battleground Avenue site.

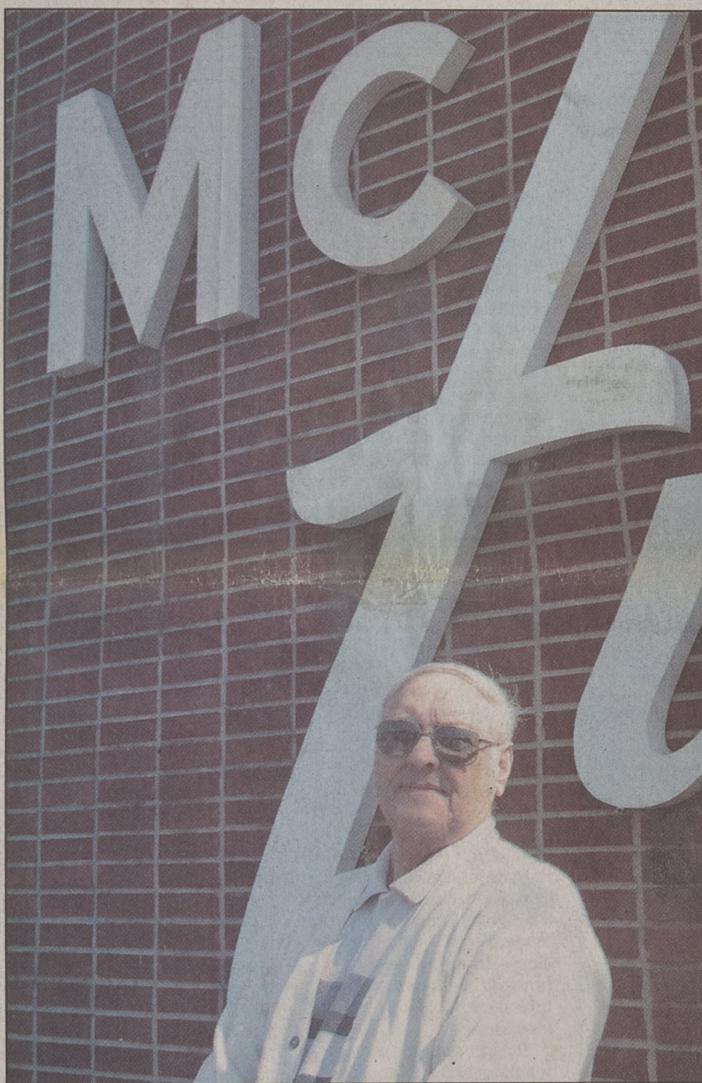
Hinkle McGinnis first arrived in Kings Mountain in 1898 to work for Carpenter Brothers Groceries. Two years later he opened a tin shop supplying roofs to area mills, homes and other buildings.

During the Great Depression of the late-1920s he lost both the Mountain Street business and North Piedmont Avenue home. The elder McGinnis moved his family to a large farm and started over.

His sons have made a name for themselves in the city's business community. Paul McGinnis started McGinnis Department Store. Donald McGinnis opened Kings Mountain Brick. Odell McGinnis worked in insurance in Gastonia.

Bill McGinnis and his brother Hubert stayed in furniture. Hubert McGinnis Jr. opened McGinnis Furniture in Cherryville.

Over the decades in the business, Bill McGinnis has watched customers buy much the same styles only larger pieces today. McGinnis sees a trend in larger chains selling goods manufactured overseas. This threatens small See McGinnis, 2A



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD  
Bill McGinnis stands in front of McGinnis Furniture, a family-owned business of over 60 years in Kings Mountain. McGinnis, who is retiring, is closing the store Monday.

## Remembering Bridges Airport

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Today cars travel up and down Bridges Drive. However, 50 years ago airplanes took off and landed on what was then a dirt strip.

G.A. Bridges built the runway, hanger and control tower in 1945. While houses dot Bridges Drive and Landing Street today, the 10 acres adjacent to the Bridge's homeplace were devoted to flying just a half-century ago.

Bridges built the airport after getting his private pilot licenses at a Shelby airport. He was inspired to take up flying when his son J.C. Bridges trained as an Army Air Corp pilot.

"My dad couldn't stand it, him not knowing how to fly," J.C. Bridges said.

The younger Bridges trained as a pilot in

1943. Initially the young man was told he would work as a fighter pilot. However the orders were changed and Bridges was sent to a Texas base to train other pilots. He worked there until World War II ended in 1945.

Bridges and other flight instructors were allowed to fly available planes on the weekends. In early 1945 he flew to Kings Mountain buzzing the runway and rolling his plane over his father's airport.

"I had a good time," he said. Bridges couldn't land though. That would have violated Air Corp rules.

After an October discharge from the military, Bridges considered working as a commercial pilot for Eastern Airlines. Those plans changed when Bridges proposed to his girlfriend Edie and accepted a job at the family See Airport, 2A



J.C. Bridges stands at the intersection of Bridges Drive and Landing Street, once the site of Bridges Airport. Below is a picture of the airport which closed in the 1960s.



## KM Chief 'very leery' of tasers

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Policies on Taser use by law enforcement vary across Cleveland County.

Kings Mountain Police Department does not use the device. Chief Melvin Proctor said he is concerned about a class action law suit against Taser International. Over 20 people have died as a result of Tasers being used.

"That makes me very leery of them," Proctor said.

"It wasn't worth the risk."

Proctor said he consulted with the city attorney who agrees with his decision. The devices don't work on all individuals, according to Proctor.

City officers use pepper spray and batons to subdue suspects if necessary. The North Carolina Highway Patrol does not use the Taser.

Cleveland County Sheriff's Department does use the Taser. Officers have used the device nine times since September. Sheriff Raymond Hamrick said. No officers have been injured. Suspects have only received surface injuries where the Taser attaches to the skin.

Department policy requires training to use and remove the Taser. If the Taser hits soft tissue, a physician must remove it. The Taser cannot be used on individuals under age 16, pregnant See Tasers, 3A