

# The Herald

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## KM Relay for Life Friday KM proposed 2005-06 budget is \$27.9 million

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain residents will lace up their walking shoes Friday night to do battle against cancer.

The American Cancer Society holds its signature fund raiser, Relay for Life, Friday night and early Saturday morning at the municipal walking track adjacent to the YMCA.

Opening ceremonies begin at 6 p.m. The survivors lap starts at 6:30 p.m. and the parade of teams at 6:45 p.m.

Katie's Small Wonders will sponsor a balloon launch at 7 p.m. Scott Moss and Five Point Remedy will perform from 7:15 to 8 p.m. Echo 1313 takes the stage from 8 to 8:45 p.m.

Cathy Powell and Rev. Jody Griffin will speak from 8:45 to 9 p.m.

Luminaries will be lit at 9 p.m. A \$10 donation sponsors one luminary in honor or memory of someone with cancer. Sponsorship can be purchased the night of Relay.

Miss Kings Mountain Relay will be selected at 11:30 p.m. during a womanless beauty pageant.

Walkers are encouraged to wear red, white and blue from 1 to 2 a.m., pajamas from 2 to 3 a.m. and crazy hats from 3 to 4 a.m.

Breakfast will be served at 5 a.m. YMCA Wellness Director Rosemary Seuss will lead aerobics at 6 a.m. Closing ceremonies are at 7 a.m.

Purple ribbons, the official color of Relay, are decorating downtown street lights. This has been proclaimed Relay Week.

See Relay, 5A

## City Manager gets pay raise

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain City Manager Greg McGinnis got a \$12,500 raise during Tuesday night's city council meeting.

The council gave McGinnis a favorable evaluation and approved the raise during a closed session. His salary is now \$77,500. McGinnis has been on the job six months.

In a five to two vote council approved a rezoning request which would allow commercial development of a tract at the intersection of Shelby and El Bethel roads. An adjacent tract also owned by developer Ronnie Whetstone was already zoned neighborhood business.

Council members Brenda Ross and Kay Hambricht voted against the request.

Whetstone said he would probably build a strip mall. No one spoke out against the plan during the public hearing.

Twenty Kings Mountain High School students participated in an essay contest spon

See Raise, 9A

## Schools expect big drop in funds

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Drastic reductions in education funding are expected from the state but that could change over the next few weeks, Cleveland County Schools' board members learned Monday night.

The state currently is planning a 2.5 percent or \$165 million decrease, according to CCS Finance Director David Lee. The bill is now in the appropriations committee.

If the cuts become reality, the Department of Public

See Schools, 5A

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain residents won't face a hike in property taxes during the next fiscal year but water, sewer, gas and garbage rate increases are proposed as part of a \$27.9 million budget.

During a Monday afternoon budget work session at Crowder's Mountain State Park, City Manager Greg McGinnis proposed a five percent

increase in water and sewer rates for residential customers inside the city limits. That breaks down to \$1.82 more a month or six cents a day for the average customer, according to McGinnis.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said the loss of textile plants in the early 2000s has cost the city over \$1 million in revenue, making the proposed rate increase inevitable. Anvil Knit made up 17 percent of the total water and sewer revenue and

Dye Masters another eight percent, according to Murphrey.

The proposed hike would mean a 10 percent increase for residential customers living outside the city. Inside-city-businesses would pay four percent more and those outside the city, eight percent more. This would generate an estimated revenue increase of \$181,883.

Water and sewer cut-on fees are proposed to go from \$10 to \$15 for all classifications which is estimated to bring in \$4,215

more a year. A proposed increase in tap fees will bring in an estimated \$29,540 more.

This city last raised water and sewer rates in 1992, Murphrey said. Electric rates are locked in until 2008.

McGinnis proposed a five percent increase in the base rate on gas. That translates to \$3.16 a month or 11 cents a day. This is estimated to garner \$90,000. Gas bills are figured using a two-step formula - a stable base

See Budget, 5A

## SWIMMING HOLE RAISES CONCERN



Creek runs parallel to U.S. 74 near the N.C. 161 exit.

ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD

## DOT can't block access because people cut fence

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Department of Transportation officials say there is nothing beyond repairing a fence that they can do to limit access to a swimming hole on a state right-of-way.

A creek running parallel to U.S. 74 near the N.C. 161 exit has widened into a natural pool. Savannah Williams, a Kings Mountain grandmother, says the swimming pool is attracting children. Williams has forbidden her grandson from swimming in it but fears someone else's child may drown.

Gary Spangler, a DOT engineer, says the

four-foot woven wire fence running between private property and the right-of-way is in bad shape. A section of fencing large enough to allow access has been cut near the swimming hole.

"When we fix the fence it's not going to keep the kids from swimming," Spangler said.

He said access fences are in place to distinguish where state rights-of-way begin and to keep dogs away from highways. People often cut the fences, according to Spangler.

Because it is so late in the state fiscal year, requests for unbudgeted repairs require special approval. Spangler said he will make the

See Swin, 5A

## George Mauney dies at age 84

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Retired Kings Mountain textile executive George Hoffman Mauney died Saturday at age 84.

Mauney owned Mauney Mills, served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was active in civic life in Kings Mountain.

Three days after graduating from North Carolina State University with a textiles degree, Mauney was on his way to Notre Dame for the Navy's basic training. After six weeks of learning to salute and march, he was sent to the Caribbean.

While Mauney had joined the Navy thinking he would work as a textile inspector, he was assigned to a mine sweeping ship. Captain Mauney and his crew swept channels in the Caribbean for one year.

Later Mauney was sent to San Francisco where he boarded the USS General John Pope for the South Pacific. Mauney and his crew patrolled the waters and escorted other ships. Eleven ships were under his command.

Mauney and his men were slated to be part of the invasion of Iwo Jima but missed it when a generator failed on board ship.

See Mauney, 5A

## KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

### Positive attitude, faith helped Rhonda Whitson defeat cancer

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Rhonda Whitson credits a positive attitude and faith in God to her surviving cancer.

Whitson was diagnosed with breast cancer five years ago. Her treatment started with surgery at Gaston Memorial followed three months later with chemotherapy.

Whitson discovered a lump in her breast while applying lotion. Earlier that day she had received a letter from a friend in Florida telling her she had ovarian cancer. Whitson believes the news made her more sensitive to changes in her own body.

"It was God telling me something was wrong," she said.

Whitson had discovered the lump before it could spread. She opted for a mastectomy at the end of October.

"For my own peace of mind and my husband's I went ahead," she said. The first phase of reconstructive surgery began during the mastectomy, grafting skin from her

stomach.

Whitson spent five days in a 95 degree room following surgery. This helped the tissue begin to grow. After a day on the regular floor, Whitson was sent home. Her husband Boyd, a long distance truck driver, was able to stay with her a week. Her mother came in from Texas for three weeks.

Nurses from home health visited early in the morning and again in the evening. From November till January Whitson used a blue recliner in her living room as a bed.

Chemotherapy lasted from January to May. Whitson spent June on the road with her husband. The family vacationed at the beach in July. More reconstructive surgery followed in August. Then Whitson was back to work.

"I knew I was going to lick it. God was taking care of me," she said.

Friends from Christian Freedom Baptist Church, including three women who had had breast cancer, were a source of encouragement. Today Whitson lends her support

See Rhonda, 5A



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD  
Cancer survivor Rhonda Whitson will participate in Relay for Life which begins Friday at 6 p.m.