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# The Herald

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Since 1889

50 Cents

KMHS girls  
to play for state  
championship



1B

## 'My inspiration' Budget passes by 4-3

Young cancer patient, teacher learn from each other

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

A Kings Mountain girl battling cancer and teacher Patricia Wood have formed literally an award winning team. Autumn was honored with the Hero Award by Cleveland County Schools Foundation and Charter Cable. Wood was given the Agape Award by the Foundation.

Autumn was diagnosed with a rare form of ovarian cancer as a first-grader. She moved from Gastonia to Kings Mountain the next year. As a student then at Bethware Elementary, Autumn's classroom was across the hall from Wood's. When Autumn's homeroom teacher could not serve as a homebound teacher, Wood offered to do the job.

Despite adult strength chemotherapy, radiation and a stem cell transplant, Autumn has been determined to keep up with her school work.

"I've never taught a child who works as hard," Wood said.

Initially colleagues warned Wood not to get too attached to Autumn. She didn't heed their advice and has no regrets.

"Some people shy away from those things. It can be the biggest lesson ever. She's (Autumn) my inspiration," Wood said.

Wood says she and Autumn "clicked." The two have sometimes spent as much as eight hours working on assignments. During the four years they've worked together, Autumn and her parents Billy and Sherri have become like family for Wood.

Sherri Malpass credits Wood for her daughter's success. Autumn has maintained A/B averages and made 4s on end-of-grade testing.

Wood is quick to praise Sherri for learning about See Autumn, 2A



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD  
Autumn Malpass and her teacher Patricia Wood have formed an award winning team.

Mullinax wants everyone to vote in city ward races

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain City Council passed a \$27.9 million budget on a 4-3 vote Tuesday night.

Councilmen Howard Shipp, Rick Moore and Jerry Mullinax voted against the budget citing objections to increases in utility rates and other fees.

The budget included a five percent increase in water and sewer rates for residential customers inside the city limits. For that same category of customers, the base rate on gas went up five percent. Trash pick-up went from \$5 a month to \$6.

In other business, Mullinax advocated for allowing all voters to vote for candidates in every ward. Candidates for the five ward seats would still be required to live inside their wards.

City attorney Mickey Corry said the Justice Department probably would not give pre-clearance to the request. Prior to 1991, a system like the one Mullinax is proposing was in place. The new system was created so that the city would have a majority minority ward.

At the time 60 percent of Ward One residents were African-American, according to Corry. That number has dropped due to annexation but the ward is still a majority minority. Councilman Howard Shipp represents Ward One.

After the meeting Mullinax wasn't sure if he would pursue the plan. A public hearing would be required before the council could vote. Mullinax said he was acting on behalf of constituents who asked why they could not vote for all council members. He denied trying to weaken the minority vote.

Council unanimously raised camping rates at Moss Lake to the ire of some who use the park. The rate for campers staying 30 days and hooked to an electric meter went from \$200 to \$325. Camping rates for less time than that remain largely unchanged.

While the monthly rate was increased the option to camp that long may be taken away next month. The city is considering not allowing campers to stay over a fixed period of time. Currently the Moss Lake rule book only allows camping for 14 days; however, the fee schedule had established rates for up to a year. Tuesday night's rate change did erase the yearly option but kept a monthly option.

Vicky Black, who lives at the campground full-time, spoke out against the rate increase and proposed cap on how long campers may stay. She told council seven people are living there long term. She said the community which has developed acts as a deterrent for crime.

Black argued that the city will lose money if long term campers are disallowed. She said the park is rarely at capacity from short term campers.

Jenny Rivera of Gastonia has kept her recreational vehicle at the park full-time for the past two years, partly because ordinances in her city don't allow her to keep it at home. She often spends weekends there.

The Moss Lake Commission will discuss the length of stays during its Wednesday meeting at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

Also during the public comment portion of the meeting Mary McKenny asked that the Cleveland County Health Department's Kings Mountain clinic be left open.

"The economy is not getting any better," she said. "We have to go where we can afford."

Health Department Director Denese Stallings said last month that the clinic will be closed in June because it is not utilized enough to justify operation. McKenny acknowledged that many residents do not know about the clinic but asked for a larger sign. She said many mistake it for a private doctor's office.

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## Hope Christian graduates first class

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Hope Christian Academy's first senior class graduated Friday night.

The seven-member class received their diplomas at East Gold Street Wesleyan Church, the same place the school is located.

"It amazes me seven people can be do different but share an amazing bond," Valedictorian Hailey Spearman said in her address.

In her speech, Salutatorian Alycia McAnelly thanked each faculty and staff member individually. She credited Principal Ray Sibley for starting the school.

McAnelly and her classmates had attended a Gastonia Christian school which closed unexpectedly last year. At the time McAnelly thought she would home school her final year in high school. Her classmates weren't sure what they would do, she said.

"But God had a plan. We would be together our last year," McAnelly said.

Speaking to her classmates, the salutatorian thanked each one for being part of her life. She mentioned one's sense of humor and another being like a brother. McAnelly thanked See Hope, 3A

## MEMORIAL DAY



GARY STEWART / HERALD  
Mayor Rick Murphrey speaks at Monday's Memorial Day observance at Veteran's Park at Mountain Rest Cemetery. Below, former Post 155 Commander Claude Pearson speaks.

## Rain doesn't dampen spirit of annual event at cemetery

By GARY STEWART  
Editor of The Herald

Approximately 50 people didn't let the light rain keep them from gathering Monday morning at Mountain Rest Cemetery to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in our nation's battles.

"Our men and women in combat don't let rain, sleet or snow stop them," noted Mayor Rick Murphrey as he gathered the crowd close to the stage at Veteran's Park for

the annual Memorial Day service.

Murphrey and Claude Pearson, former Commander of American Legion Post 155, made brief speeches. The Kings Mountain Police Honor Guard presented the colors, and Kings Mountain Police Chief Melvin Proctor led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Howard Shipp gave the invocation.

Full-size American flags decorated the speaker's See Memorial, 3A



Clint Yarbro, left, and Kent Triplett are part of the Old Hickory Association. Here they are dressed as World War II soldiers as they give a program at Sunday's war reenactments at Kings Mountain National Military Park.

ANDIE BRYMER/HERALD



## WAR STORIES

Reenactment of U.S. wars held at KM battlefield

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Battle history enthusiasts visiting Kings Mountain National Military Park had plenty to see this weekend. Reenactors from most of the United State's wars set up

camp for two days.

James Allen, a Vietnam veteran, was surprised to see a living history display representing the group he served with, the 199 Infantry Brigade.

"I think it's nice," Allen said.

Thirty-year-old machine

guns, munitions, communication devices and sandbags were surrounded by a barbed wire fence. Attached to the wires were tin cans painted camouflage green to sound an early warning.

"You've got all the other See War, 3A