

LOCAL

HAYES

From 1A

but the one thing they had was love," he said.

Along with the love, music was a constant in the Hayes family. When Lynn, Michael Eugene and Patsy Darlene were young, the family toured the Carolinas and Virginia as "The Singing Hayes Family." Until recently Michael, his dad and family friend Danny Stamey played together as Believers Three. Mr. Hayes continues to play every other Friday night at Robert Woods' home on the Cherryville Highway.

"I like to think of myself as a musician," he said.

Mr. Hayes has sang "as far back as I can remember." He got his first guitar at age 12. He

would sing lead in a family group with his siblings backing him up.

As a 20-year-old soldier boarding a ship for Korea, Mr. Hayes spotted another recruit walking up the plank with a guitar slung over his back. He quickly found the man and soon they had located a mandolin player. The military brass liked the diversion.

"They constantly had me singing," he said.

Stationed with a "whole company of country music lovers," Mr. Hayes and his fellow musicians were featured in a "Stars and Stripes" story.

While his musical ability sometimes made military life easier, Mr. Hayes still had his share of close calls on the battlefield.

"God just watched over me,"

he said.

Returning home from the war, Mr. Hayes worked at the Ottary Mill in Union, SC. Earlier this month and June, 2004, he and the band he played with then had two comeback performances of sorts during the mill's reunions.

During that era, Mr. Hayes also played on radio station WBCU, the Arthur Smith Show and Channel 13 in Asheville.

Because Geraldine Hayes enjoyed moving and wanted to be near various and far flung family members, the Hayes lived in Green Cove, Florida, Atlanta and Mocksville, ending up in Kings Mountain.

"I loved her so much I would have followed her to Timbuktu," he said.

Three years ago Mrs. Hayes died of cancer. After slipping

into a coma, she awoke 30 hours later to tell her husband that she had talked to Jesus and he had told her the most important thing was to love one another. The dying woman spent the next several days spreading that message.

"That's all she would talk about," Mr. Hayes said.

Then she went into a second coma only to awaken once. Mr. Hayes had leaned over and told her he loved her. She opened her eyes, said, "I love you, Jonas," then died.

"She was one wonderful person," he said. "I consider myself lucky to have had her for a wife."

Since Geraldine died, Mr. Hayes has written three songs about her, something he describes as cathartic.

CAMP

From 1A

to 14 days but its fee schedule includes rates for quarterly and annual usage. Council also may address how two conflicting documents were allowed to exist.

According to a May 18 memo from City Planner Steve Killian to City Manager Greg McGinnis, lake revenues failed to cover expenses prior to 1997. That year the city began making sure all campers were paying and increased its fees. "The goal was to generate more income from the campground by having very attractive longer-term fees," the memo read.

In 2004, according to the memo, significant problems developed. Some individuals

living in the campground were under house arrest.

Applications to camp came from people with "extensive police records." Sites were unkempt, cluttered, break-ins occurred, camping vehicles were not being moved and campers used the campground as a permanent residence.

"In short, the campground was no longer a facility for the public, but rather a trailer court or mobile home development," Killian wrote.

Nor was the campground adhering to Land Water Conservation Fund requirements, according to Killian's memo.

Three solutions were pursued, according to the memo. The city installed an "expensive" camera system. It began adhering to a 13-year-old ordinance limiting stays to 14 days. Revision also began covering campground regulations and fee schedule.

Several campers spoke out during last month's city council meeting, asking for permission to stay long term. The campers say they act as ad hoc hosts and security. The campers say the city will lose money if it discontinues long term camping because few short term stays are occurring.

"We won't know till a season goes by," Killian said.

Killian called the individuals appearing before City Council "good people." They were not the individuals with criminal records.

Councilman Rick Moore said that previously older individuals asked to live at the park but were denied. "Now people have come from out of town here to set up permanent residence," Moore said.

Councilwoman Kay Hambright said she felt for the families living at Moss Lake now but "we (the city) are not in the real estate business."

Councilwoman Brenda Ross said she may recommend a 14 day limit on stays.

"Most vacations are two weeks," Ross said.

If the campers are allowed to stay permanently, the city may have to redraw its voting wards to give residents representation.

The city codes address recreational vehicle parks stating "no campsite may be occupied or leased for more than 20 days out of each 21 day period."

Campers who are in the midst of an annual contract will be allowed to stay until it runs out.

During last month's meeting, council approved a rate increase. The rate for campers staying 30 days and using city electricity went from \$200 to \$325. Camping rates for less time than that remain largely unchanged.

Camper Allen Davis said he was "okay" with the new rules but they were "putting a bind on everybody."

He called the fee increase "outrageous."

"You can rent a mobile home spot for \$150," Davis said.

While his family owns a home in Asheville, they signed a year-long lease last July when his wife took a job at Southeastern Container in Cleveland County.

"I guess we'll have to move to another campground," he said Tuesday.

TRIATHLON

From 1A

are making the city-sponsored race possible.

Noell says the race brings people from a high socio-economic group to town. It also may be introducing athletes to the area. Since the triathlon was started six years ago bike traffic is up at Kings Mountain National Military Park, according to Superintendent Erin Broadbent.

Athletes will be treated to a pre-race meal Friday night at the Kings Mountain Woman's Club. The Chad Lawson Trio with Beth Charneau will perform in the club's parking lot. The public is invited to the free performance which begins at 6:30 p.m.

Roads will not be closed for race traffic, but emergency personnel will be at intersections. The course runs this route: New Camp Creek Road, Stoney Point, Business 74, Crocker Road, Margrace Road, State Road 2352, Battleground Road, Dixon School Road, South Carolina Highway 216, through Kings Mountain National Military Park, Unity Church Road, Pinnacle Road, Lake Montonia Road, Highway 161, Gold Street, Battleground Avenue, Railroad Avenue, Gold Street, Phifer Road to Gold Street.

Outdoor concert set Friday night

The Chad Lawson Trio with Beth Charneau will perform in the Woman's Club parking lot Friday at 6:30 p.m. The concert is sponsored by the city and is open to the public.

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