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The Herald

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Vol. 117 No. 29

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Summit Place residents meet the Mountaineers

4A



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

Taylor Dawson got some finishing touches before the teenie weenie bikini contest in last year's Beach Blast. Below, Haley Patterson plays under the sprinkler. This year's event is Saturday at the gazebo.

BEACH BLAST

Day of fun, music competition slated Saturday at gazebo

The annual Beach Blast is Saturday, July 23 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the gazebo at Patriots Park. Sponsored by the city, The Herald, First National Bank, Summit Place, Gateway Properties, Kings Mountain Business and Professional Association, WOHS, GTRA and Davidson Insurance Agency it offers a variety of fun, music, shagging and competition for all ages.

The schedule is as follows:

- Kings Mountain Hillfall at 10 a.m.
- Gravity tub racers, both exhibition and competitive, will stream down Railroad Avenue in this event which the city hopes to make an annual tradition.
- Teenie Weenie Bikini Contest at 11:30 a.m.

- Participants may register from 10 to 11:15 a.m. Saturday.
- Advance registration is at First National Bank, Kings Mountain Branch. The entry fee is \$5. There are several categories: boys and girls, ages birth to three, four years, five years and six years.

- The winner and first two runners up will receive small trophies. All children will receive something for participating. For more information, call Cindy Wood at 704-739-4782, extension 234.
- Crimson Rose will perform at 12:15 p.m.
- Rick Hubbard and the Kazoobie Kazoo Show starts at 1:15 p.m. All children in the audience get a free kazoo.

- Hubbard has performed at Busch Gardens (Tampa), Sea World, Tweetsie Railroad and Disney World. Recently the American Academy of Children's Entertainers nominated Hubbard as America's Best Variety Entertainer.

- Hubbard is from Laurinburg. While attending Wake Forest University, he performed in the opening concert and later played bass as part of the back-up band for the



See Blast, 3A

Summit Place sold, expansion announced

An ownership group sponsored by Steven D. Bell & Company of Greensboro has purchased Summit Place of Kings Mountain for \$4.7 million and will soon embark on an expansion program at the assisted living and Alzheimer's care facility.

The purchase of the 48-unit Summit Place of Kings Mountain is part of a transaction involving three Summit Place properties. The Bell-sponsored group also bought Summit Place of Mooresville and Summit Place of Myrtle Beach, S.C., the total sales price coming to about \$18 million.

All three of the Summit Place eldercare properties will retain their names and will be managed by Senior Living Services, Inc., a division of Steven D. Bell & Company.

The new owners expect to complete a new addition for Summit Place of Kings Mountain during the first quarter of 2006. The addition will consist of nine private

See Summit, 3A

President promotes CAFTA at two stops in Gaston County

BY ALAN HODGE
Special to The Herald

Gaston County was the center of national attention Friday when President George W. Bush visited R.L. Stowe Mills Helms textile plant and Gaston College.

Bush used the tour to tout the Central American Free Trade Agreement. CAFTA is a pact that would eliminate tariffs between the U.S. and five Central American nations in all areas of trade and manufacturing. Some fear this could mean more American jobs are lost to Central America. The nations involved are Costa Rica, El Salvador,

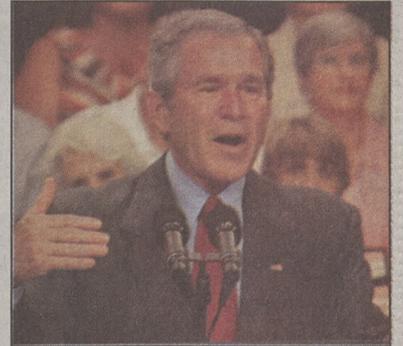
Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Bush was introduced by Gaston College president Dr. Patricia Skinner, Rep. Sue Myrick and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez. Bush's opening remarks touched on the subject of terrorists.

"Their aim is to remake the Middle East in their own grim image," Bush said. "They want to topple governments. They want to export terror. They want to force free nations to retreat."

Bush also told the crowd that the U.S. was taking the fight to the terrorists and wouldn't back off until

See Bush, 3A



President Bush speaks Friday at Gaston College.

KM HOSPITAL EXPANSION



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD

Kings Mountain Hospital will unveil its new addition next Thursday.

Renovations to be unveiled during ribbon cutting July 28

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain Hospital will debut its \$12 million renovations and expansions projects during a ribbon cutting celebration next Thursday. The event is from 2 to 7 p.m.

A two-story addition onto the east side of the hospital will house an express care emergency department, surgery department and waiting area, community room, cafe and main entrance.

The new space is characterized by large windows and curving walls.

"We've taken today's modern look and meshed into the rest of the building and it works," said Greg Williams, communications and marketing director.

The hospital's new entrance will include a fountain, circular drive and clear glass-covered drop off point. A reception area and lobby greets visitors.

The 10,495 square foot surgical department is on the second floor of the new addition. The family waiting area is framed in large glass windows and includes a children's play area.

The nine pre- and post-operative waiting rooms have windows near the ceilings.

"We're bringing the outdoors in," Williams said.

One of the two operating rooms uses Striker communications equipment. Equipped with cameras and computers, all equipment is suspended from the ceiling to make the room safer.

At the rear of the new addition, 6,282 square feet are being added to the emergency department. This includes a large, new waiting area and six rooms which will be used for express care. This is for minor emergencies.

A private consultation room for doctors

See Hospital, 2A

City to look at energy savings

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

The City of Kings Mountain is hoping Siemens, a multi-national energy conservation company, can help it save on energy cost.

Representatives from the company are conducting a no-cost feasibility study, according to Mayor Rick Murphrey. They are evaluating the city's lighting, heating, traffic signals, street lights and utility meters looking for ways to save money.

The feasibility study should take six to eight weeks. Once it is complete, the city council will decide if it wants to put out a request for proposals on how to implement the recommendations. Siemens and other similar companies would then make offers to the city.

After a company is selected, the city will secure financing to pay for the recommended cost savings strategies. North Carolina law now allows municipalities to borrow the money outside of their normal budgets and then pay the loan back with money saved. The law requires Siemens and similar companies guarantee the savings.

"I commend the mayor and city council for having the foresight to go along with this project," said Greg McGinnis, city manager.

See City, 3A

Ecuador trip educational for Ford

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Second-grade teacher Judy Ford came back from an educational trip to Ecuador determined to help a colleague raise funds to establish a fish farm in his village.

Ford and 11 other educators from across the state traveled to the South American country through a N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences program.

While in Ecuador the group toured a fish farm. Ford watched as a local teacher who was also part of the program learned about aqua farming.

"His face lit up," she said. "That's all he could talk about."

This school year Ford will enlist

her students' help. They'll collect pledges for time spent reading through Heifer International's Read to Feed program.

"We're teaching the children compassion," she said.

After Ecuador she wants to do a similar project in the North Carolina mountains.

Ford describes the Ecuadorian people she met as "hospitable" and "warm." Despite their own poverty, they piled Ford's and her colleagues' plates high with food while waiting to serve themselves.

The Ecuadorian children were her favorite. While visiting an adult literacy project, Ford and a colleague slipped outside to join a soccer game.

See Ford, 3A



Teacher Judy Ford returned from Ecuador with plans to start a Read to Feed program to help a village start a fish farm.

Andie Brymer/
Herald