

The Herald

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Thursday, August 4, 2005

Vol. 117 No. 31

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Grover tables rezoning requests

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Grover Town Council tabled two rezoning requests Monday night. Clyde Huffman had asked to rezone 15 acres divided by Maple Avenue and Locust Street from light industrial to residential. Calvin Huffman asked for a portion of a 47-acre tract located off Locust Street be rezoned from light industrial to residential. During the meeting, Calvin Huffman asked for a change in his request. Mayor Robert Sides called the request confusing. "I think the whole council felt that way," Sides said. The council requested Calvin Huffman provide exact measurements of what he wants rezoned.

Calvin Huffman said that Zoning Administrator Bill McCarter had told him he could make the change. Neighbor Jean Francis objected to Calvin Huffman's request saying smaller homes would drive down adjoining property values. Neighbors Bill Favell, Johnny Lavender and Robert Roper also spoke out against the rezoning. According to McCarter, the county believes the town should not rezone because it would mean a loss of most of its industrial property.

In other business, commissioners were faced with where to find \$3,700 needed for police expenses. Commissioner John Harry made a motion that the council stop receiving its \$100 a month salary. That motion was withdrawn because council was concerned that after November's election possible new council members would resume the salary. The matter was tabled until next month. The council discussed purchasing liability insurance to cover Ronald Queen's equipment when he works on water lines. That matter was tabled.

Council voted 4-1 to charge people who rent their home a \$150 water and sewer deposit. That is a \$50 increase. Jackie Bennett cast the lone dissenting vote. The town lost \$539 on See Grover, 2A

Big send off for KM National Guard



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
 Spc. Kim Walker gets a hug from Dana Colon, who formerly served with the 505th, during Saturday's ceremony to officially send off the KM National Guard battalion to train for service in Iraq. Below, Cpt. Chris Gilbert hugs his daughter Christina, 9.

Pride and tears mark ceremony to send 505th Battalion to Iraq

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

505th National Guard families are sending their citizen soldiers off to New Jersey for training, then to Iraq with a mixture of pride and worry. "I'm apprehensive but I'm proud of her," Dolores Johnson said Saturday afternoon. Beside her stood Johnson's youngest child, Spec. Kelly Johnson, 22. The family was attending a send-off ceremony at Kings Mountain High School's B.N. Barnes Auditorium. Dressed in fatigues, Johnson said she was ready to represent her country and support her family, friends and the United States. Johnson has a cousin serving in Iraq who she'll be stationed near. "That's going to make it a lot easier," she said. Spec. Charles Rice and his wife April were also at Saturday's ceremony. Rice was deployed two years ago when the unit guarded National Security Agency headquarters at Ford Mead, MD. That was an eight hour drive away. Cell phone connections worked well. "This is a whole different ball game," April Rice said. Spec. Rice described it as "surreal." The couple's 12- and 17-year-old sons attended the send-off two years ago. They opted not be there Saturday. "It's just too hard. They don't want to cry in front of everybody," April Rice said. Before the deployment was announced, Michelle Littlejohn and her husband Sgt. Von Littlejohn were taking foster parenting classes. Her husband's absence is not stopping Michelle Littlejohn from following through with foster parenting. She believes the experience will be good for her as See Guard, 6A



Election filing heats up as deadline draws near

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Several candidates for Kings Mountain and Grover council seats filed this week. The deadline is Friday at 12 noon. Incumbent Rick Moore filed for re-election to the at-large seat. He is among four people - Roy "Butch" Pearson, Dean Spears, Houston Corn and Moore - running for the two at-large seats. Moore's platform consists of opposing tax increases and promoting a business model of efficient city government. "I want to continue the work I began two terms ago to fight for responsible government spending, lower taxes and economic development. We have a great town and we need to work together to promote it." Houston Corn is running for re-election as an at-large candidate. "I want to keep working for the people," he said. Corn said working with the Economic Development Commission to bring in more jobs is a top priority. He supports keeping taxes and utility rates low to attract industry. Mike Butler is making a bid for Ward 2 against incumbent Brenda Ross. Butler pledges to keep taxes low and would not favor tax increases. He supports continuing a balanced budget and keeping wasteful spending out of the budget. Butler supports downtown growth and bringing more jobs to the area. He wants Kings Mountain Gaston County residents to be allowed to attend Cleveland County Schools without tuition. Butler also supports more money See Election, 2A

Sales tax holiday is this weekend

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Shoppers will have a chance to make purchases without paying taxes August 5-7. The sales tax holiday was established by the state General Assembly four years ago. While the tax-free weekend is timed to coincide with the start of school, this year there will be a gap. School starts August 25 due to a change in state law requiring the later date. John McGinnis of McGinnis Department Store is expecting a busy weekend selling jeans, shoes and shorts. Clothing priced less than \$100 per item is tax free. "It's amazing how people respond," he said. "People like not having to pay taxes." Because the store is closed on Sunday, Aug. 7, the tax holiday there will start a day early on Thursday. Wal-Mart in Shelby is preparing for the weekend by having more associates working those days. "It will make for a very busy weekend," said store manager Johnny Wise.

Night Out tells crime to go away

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

City, county and state law enforcement agencies got to know Kings Mountain residents Tuesday during National Night Out. Dubbed a "going away party for crime," the event was held at Patriots Park. Cleveland County Sheriff's Office's canine Rocky was a big hit with kids and adults. Sheriff's Office weapons were another popular exhibit. "A lot of that people don't see often," said Sheriff Raymond Hamrick. SERT team members Sgt. Jimmy Spargo and Deputy Doug Bryson showed off a See Night Out, 3A



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
 Maggie Deviney, 2, enjoys a burger during National Night Out.

Bethware Fair begins Monday

By ANDIE BRYMER
 Staff Writer

The 58th annual Bethware Fair will be Monday, Aug. 8 through 13 at Bethware School. During opening ceremonies which begin at 6 p.m., Lyndsey Brooke Murphey will be given the title Miss Bethware Fair. She is the daughter of Buffy and John Murphey. "She's very excited, honored," said her mother. Lyndsey attended Bethware Elementary School. She will be in fifth grade at Kings Mountain Intermediate School this year. Lyndsey's hobbies include soccer, swimming, arts and crafts. Science is her favorite subject. See Fair, 2A



Lyndsey Brooke Murphey is Miss Bethware Fair this year. Her parents are John and Buffy Murphey.