

The Herald

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The turning
point of
the universe

5A



Herald publisher, reporter named

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Two staff additions have been announced by The Herald.

Bill Parsons has been named Publisher of the Herald and its sister publications, The Cherryville Eagle, and the banners of Belmont and Mount Holly.

PARSONS

Emily Weaver has been named staff writer for The Herald.

WEAVER

Parsons began his newspaper career in 1975 in Tampa, FL and spent seven years in circulation, eight years as an advertising director, and the past 16 years as publisher of weekly newspapers in Wyoming, California, Indiana, Virginia and Tennessee.

He attended East Tennessee State University. He and his wife, Tracy, have six children - Stephanie, Matt, Rachel, Adam, Aaron
See Herald, 6A

Grover still considering re-financing of bonds

EMILY WEAVER

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GROVER - The town council met Monday night to discuss the possible re-financing of their water treatment plant and current sewer bonds.

"If we can get it in time at 5 percent, then we should be able to cut off 13 years of payments at about \$36,000 per year," said Councilman Calvin Huffman. He added that this depends on the interest rate the town is able
See Grover, 7A

City Council met Monday on utility bill

Kings Mountain City Council met in closed session Monday to discuss claims by the city.

One of the items included discussion about a payment plan for a major utility user that is behind in its utility payments.

State law (G.S. 132-1.1) prohibits city officials from publicly discussing utility accounts of individuals or businesses.

City policy provides for cutting off utilities for accounts that are past due after the 25th of the month; however, city policy also allows the council and city manager to develop a payment plan for individuals and businesses if they see fit.

Grover stays dry



Joseph Brymer / Herald
Grover Councilman Brent White puts his ballot into the voting machine as Chief Judge Brenda Lipscomb looks on.

On and off premise beer and wine sales defeated

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An issue which has been debated in Grover for over a couple of decades has been decided. The votes are in. The scores are tallied. The town has spoken.

1 - "To permit the 'on-premises' and 'off-premises' sale of malt beverages:" 96 voted "FOR," 113 voted "AGAINST"

2 - "To permit the 'on-premises' and 'off-premises' sale of unfortified wines:" 93 voted "FOR," 115 voted "AGAINST" Absentee ballots showed a score of 5 to 1 "AGAINST" bringing the total number of voters for this referendum to 215 out of a possible 430 registered.

Nearly a dozen faces that waited to hear the results showed mixed reactions: surprise, disgust, disappointment, anger, confusion and relief.

"Don't come complaining to the council any more if you didn't come to vote . . . you had your chance," said disappointed Councilwoman Jackie Bennett.

"The 113 people who voted against aren't allowed on my property anymore," joked Councilman Calvin Huffman.

"I'm certainly glad to see it defeated," said former Councilman Bill Willis. "The town had to pay \$12,000 (in taxes) for an election that the people didn't ask for."

Studying the faces of the 209 registered voters that came to the polls on April 4th, it was difficult for either side to announce which direction this train would travel.

Earlier that day Bennett said, "I think it's going to be closer than I anticipated." She added, "I don't care if it's 115 to 105 as long as it goes the right way."

According to a poll conducted by The Shelby Star, 75 percent believed the vote would be 'for' and 25 percent believed the vote would be 'against', Willis said. He also agreed that the final count would be close.

A party was planned to be held at the mayor's after the decisions were posted. But no one was sure, at the time, if it would be a "celebration" or a "pity party."

Around 5:30 pm, Bennett drove her car to the handicap parking spot in order to help a fellow constituent place a vote. To the dismay of the opposing side, she had passed the
See Vote, 7A



Joseph Brymer / Herald
Sign calls attention to what could be built on East King St. since City Council turned down property owner Mike Brown's rezoning request for a car lot.

What's new pussycat?

It could be a night club, but owner would prefer a car lot

GARY STEWART

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While some may think it's a joke or a "protest" sign because City Council turned down his rezoning request, Kings Mountain businessman Mike Brown said he's serious about building a nightclub on property he owns at 204 and 206 East King Street near First Presbyterian Church.

City Councilman Jerry Mullinax called attention to the sign at last week's Council meeting. No other city officials commented, and Brown was not present.

Mullinax said after the meeting that Brown, who owns the property, which is zoned Neighborhood Business, wanted to put up an automobile rental and leasing business but wanted the zoning changed to General Business. The planning and zoning board turned down Brown's request, citing that the text change would apply to every zone of neighborhood business. Council took the recommendation from the planning board and rejected the rezoning 6-0. Rodney Gordon was absent due to illness.

A sign that reads "Coming Soon, Pink Pussy Cat Nightclub" is what prompted Mullinax's comments, and what has passersby taking a second look as they travel through town on US Highway 74 Business.

Brown said Monday what he wants to put there is a
See Brown, 7A

New game, new faces Lottery boosts sales in local stores

EMILY WEAVER

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"Have you purchased your North Carolina Education Lottery tickets today?" is a common question heard among many local vendors who are seeing new faces with their new sales.

As of 4 p.m. Friday, Jack's Jewelry and Loan at 106 North Cleveland Avenue had sold close to 300 tickets. "Some people are coming in just to buy tickets," said employee Gail Garrett, a Kings Mountain transplant from Hendersonville, NC. The sales of gas stations may

be higher than those of other stores but the Jack's friendly staff is excited about this new draw and the newer faces it will attract.

Silver Express, 507 East King Street, as of 4:30 p.m. Friday had sold between 1200 to 2000 tickets, with winnings ranging from \$50 to \$3 and free tickets. "We've sold a lot of \$25, \$10, \$5 and \$3 winners," said Diane Wilson. "It's been real busy with people lined up out the door (at times)."

"We've paid out over \$730 in winnings," she said.

A lot of confusion has generated from not reading
See Lottery, 7A



"Come see friendly Billy at Jack's," said Billy Scroggs at Jack's Jewelry and Loan.

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

Steve's the boss at the Rathbone home

ELIZABETH STEWART

Herald Correspondent

Family are his eyes and care givers now and they affectionately call their beloved brother and uncle Steve Rathbone the "boss."

To most Kings Mountain people who have ever enjoyed a fountain drink at Griffin Drug Store, Rathbone is a downtown institution.

At age 18, he started off as a soda jerk working for the late Ellerbe W. Griffin Sr. for 85 cents an hour, then worked for the senior

Griffin's son, pharmacist Wilson Griffin, for years. His job included a delivery route on his bicycle and then motorcycle. The years passed as Steve established rapport with customers that made him a "Steve of all trades."

"I had to retire after 35 years at Griffin's in 1984 because of failing eyesight," said Steve, diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa. By all accounts he loved Griffin's. He filled in behind the soda fountain, serving up his specialties of thick choco-
See Rathbone, 7A



STEVE RATHBONE