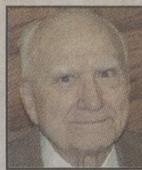


Almost 700 people turn out to honor KM National Guard personnel 3A

Dr. John McGill receives top Erskine award 2A



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KINGS MOUNTAIN

# The Herald

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Vol. 118 No. 20

Since 1889

50 Cents

Sports...

Kings Mountain High women's softball team begins quest for second straight state crown



1B

## HOMEFRONT

### KM police chase ends in Rock Hill

A chase that began in Kings Mountain and reached speeds of over 100 miles per hour ended Saturday night when the suspect vehicle hit a light pole in Rock Hill, SC.

Ptl. K.L. Putnam of Kings Mountain Police Department attempted to stop a silver Toyota Tacoma on Shelby Road near Kings Mountain Blvd. Putnam said the vehicle did not stop and a chase ensued. Putnam said speeds reached 65 miles per hour in a 25 mph zone, causing vehicles to run off the road.

The vehicle traveled Highway 161 to I-85 North toward Charlotte, reaching speeds of over 100 mph. The vehicle exited onto Highway 485 and the Highway Patrol took the lead in the chase.

Putnam said the suspect vehicle hit a light pole and came to rest in Rock Hill, SC. The driver and passenger exited the vehicle and a short foot chase ensued. The suspects were apprehended on Monterey Drive in Rock Hill.

York County PD took custody of the subjects and charged them. Putnam said warrants have been obtained by KMPD and will be served upon extradition.

### Health forum set tonight at hospital

"A Healthy You," a health awareness forum, will be conducted by hospital officials Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Kings Mountain Hospital.

The forum is open to the public and is planned to show off the new community room on the main floor of the hospital.

Greg Williams, public information officer, said this is the first program to be conducted in the state of the art community room which will seat 50 people comfortably.

Leading the forum will be Sheri DeShazo, Chief Operating Officer, who will give a hospital update and talk about the newest addition, a \$2.5 million MRI facility and relocation of CT scanning to be completed in the fall.

Dr. Doug Blackman, Kings Mountain's newest surgeon who operates KM Surgical Associates in a new building in the mini mall on E. King Street, will talk about his medical practice and and vascular surgery.

## DEATHS

Pauline Kimbrell, 85  
Juanita Steffy, 82  
C.B. Vickers, 79  
James W. Grayson Sr., 54  
Donald Leigh, 73

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# Fun farming



EMILY WEAVER / HERALD

Cynthia and Scott Glidden gather produce from their organic garden near Grover. Below, turkeys are grown for breeding and consumption.

## Quality - not quantity - goal of Gliddens organically-grown food

EMILY WEAVER

eweaver@kingsmountainherald.com

In the day of the business man's megafarm, where quantity is placed above quality, one local couple stands out from the rest. Scott and Cynthia Glidden are organic farmers who are very proud of their quality products from their farm, Glencora.

"Organic means you use completely natural products," Scott said. "We don't use any pesticides or artificial fertilizers. We use organic feed for the animals and organic seeds for the plants." The Gliddens went to their first farmer's market in Mt. Holly on Saturday. They said that they had a blast and really enjoyed seeing people excited about their organic foods. The market opened at Rankin Elementary School at 7 am and they were sold out of produce by 10 am.

The Gliddens started last year with turkeys, ducks, chickens, goats and organic crops to test the waters. This year they are ramping up their production to join the sellers market. "There is a big interest for organic crops in Mt. Holly," Cynthia said. "We hope to see a bigger interest in Kings Mountain too." They will be selling at the farmer's market in Mt. Holly this summer



but may also sell, if quantity allows, at the Kings Mountain Farmer's Market when it opens in June.

Constant manual labor, like weeding, thinning, transplanting and squashing bugs keep the Gliddens very active among their crops. "Organic farming is like really intensive quality control," she said. Sprays and powders that other growers may use to keep weeds or insects away are not permitted for their produce. They are only allowed to use naturally-occurring human-safe products on crops to fight insect infestation.

See Garden, 6A

# Moore bill would reduce gas tax

EMILY WEAVER

eweaver@kingsmountainherald.com

An estimated \$3.5 billion that was collected and earmarked for highway improvements was redirected into other pet projects by Gov. Mike Easley. Cleveland County Rep. Tim Moore wants to know why and is calling for the misappropriated money to be returned to the Highway Trust Fund. His new bill the "Ensure Integrity of Highway Trust Fund," filed on May 10th, also asks for a permanent four cents reduction in gas tax for NC residents.

"We need new roads and better paved roads in our county and state," said Rep. Tim Moore. "This bill would prevent the highway funds from being taken to fund other projects in the General Fund."

North Carolina with nearly 80,000 miles of state-maintained highways, has the nation's second largest highway system and is in need of repairs that total millions of dollars.

"I am tired of hearing excuses and delay about the Shelby Bypass. It is a priority of mine, and we must take every opportunity to prevent further delay of this project. If the bill is adopted, approximately \$250 million more

See High Gas, 6A



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

Evelyn Wright fills up for \$2.59 a gallon at Mike's Food Store while others wait in line.

## Proposed KM budget includes tax increase

### Merit pay increase included, but none for cost of living

ELIZABETH STEWART

Herald Correspondent

Kings Mountain's Interim City Manager Marilyn Sellers presented a proposed \$29.4 million city budget to city council Tuesday night that calls for a 4 cent property tax increase.

The budget reflects an increase of \$998,863. Sellers blames on soaring costs of gas.

The current tax rate, which city officials say have not increased in 12 years, is the lowest of area municipalities at 36 cents per \$100 property valuation.

"We understand that the economy hasn't bounced back but the city still provides excellent service," said Mayor Rick Murphrey who commended Sellers, city finance officer Lori Hall and all department heads for cutting costs and ending the year "under budget."

Sellers presented a draft of the budget to council members meeting at the Patrick Center.

"Everything is on the table," she said. The city manager is required by law to submit a proposed balanced budget to the council by June 1. Public hearing will be held prior to the budget adoption. Even though the gas fund is up \$1 million from last year (from \$6,078,795 to \$7,192,244) there is no natural gas increase projected, no water increase and no electric increase. Sewer is the only utility that sees an increase.

Other projections in the 2006-2007 fiscal year budget include:

- +No cost of living increase for employees but they will be eligible for merit increases up to 4 percent based on performance.

- +5 percent commercial landfill increase

- +\$50 increase on cemetery lots

- +sewer increase, 2 percent inside residential, 4 percent outside residential, 1 percent inside industrial and 2 percent outside industrial.

The new tax rate, if adopted, would mean that owners of a \$100,000 home would pay \$40 more annually or 11 cents more a day.

The typical inside city resident who uses 8,000 gallons of sewer would pay an additional 65 cents a month for both landfill use and sewer. For sewer only, the inside city resident would pay 35 cents more each month or 1.2 cents a day additionally and the outside city resident would pay double that amount or 70 cents a month extra. There is no water increase or electric increase proposed for the new fiscal year.

"We've lost industry, gas prices are astronomical and we need more tax base and more customers," said the mayor. But both he and Sellers are optimistic that more growth will come with continued upgrades and the competitive rates that the city offers its customers.

The mayor was quick to add that the proposed property tax collected by the city would not fund, for instance, the Kings Mountain Police

See Budget, 6A