Reader questions what city is doing about unpaid utility bill by industry 5A

No more political stress for KM's Clavon Kelly 2A

Kings Mountain ... the ... success 1B

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KINGS MOUNTAIN

The Herald

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Sports...

Kings Mountain High women's softball team wins first two games in state 3A playoffs 6A

HOMEFRONT

Girl reported missing found

Six-year-old Mikala Wilson, went missing Tuesday afternoon around 4 pm. She was supposed to ride her bike from her grandmother's house a short way to her house on 407 Cherry St. Her friends last saw her after school around 3 pm. Her parents called 911 when she had been missing for about two hours.

Kings Mountain police and firemen searched for the young girl. Fire Chf. Frank Burns found Wilson around 6:45 pm on Guyton Loop, watching other children jump on a trampoline. She was located about a half mile away from her residence.

Second primary is next Tuesday

Mitzi McGraw Johnson and Sharon Hamrick Jones will settle the Democratic nomination for Cleveland County Clerk of Superior Court in a second primary Tuesday, May 30.

Johnson won the May 2 primary 3,192 to 3,139 votes, but that was not enough to claim the nomination without a run-off.

The winner of Tuesday's second primary will advance to the November general election against Republican Claudia Glenn.

Memorial Day service at cemetery

The Kings Mountain Memorial Day Observance will be held on Monday, May 29th, at 10 am at Mountain Rest Cemetery off of Mountain St. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend this event, honoring the lives of heroes.

Opening remarks will be made by Mayor Rick Murphrey. The presentation of colors will be conducted by the KMPD Color Guard. Cleveland County Sheriff Raymond Hamrick will lead the pledge of allegiance and award-winning Shana Adams will sing the National Anthem. Adams, native to Kings Mountain, sang before the president in Charlotte a few weeks ago.

Jeff Goode, a retired Green Beret who knows the ins and outs of being an American soldier, is scheduled to be the keynote speaker. He will present the wreath memorializing fallen soldiers with the mayor. Trumpeter Paul Fulton will play TAPS.

DEATHS

James R. VanDyke, 81
Nathaniel Green, 25
Zelma Greene, 77
Johnie Spencer, 47
Jon Campbell, 20

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This week's advertising sections:
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'A band aid on the dilemma'

High Medicaid costs, other budget challenges discussed at State of the Community Breakfast in Kings Mountain

ELIZABETH STEWART
Herald Correspondent

Fourteen cents from your tax dollar goes for Medicaid and that represents $8.3 million, 11 percent of the proposed county budget.

County commission chairman Ronnie Hawkins said county residents face a real dilemma and challenged area community residents attending the "State of the Community" breakfast sponsored by the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce Tuesday at the H. Lawrence Patrick Center to help stop the 110 percent increase to the county in Medicaid costs by getting on the bandwagon and lobbying state legislators.

"Right now the state mandates this huge amount you

See State, 10A

ELIZABETH STEWART / HERALD
Mayor Rick Murphrey, left, and County Commissioner Jerry Self chat over coffee.

DATE WITH DESTINY

KMHS Sophomore Jeff Robinson works on an experiment testing gene expression and selection, on the Destiny bus Thursday afternoon. He and some of his other classmates from AP Biology would learn a couple of days later, from their teacher Mercedes Humphries, if their lab work was a glowing success. If completed correctly, the winning results would produce a neon-like glow.

Science bus offers rare learning experience for KMHS students

EMILY WEAVER
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Students at KMHS had "A date with Destiny" on Thursday, May 18 in the parking lot near the Science classrooms. DESTINY, which stands for Delivering Edge-cutting Science, Technology, and Internet across North Carolina for Years, is a mobile science unit from the UNC-Chapel Hill's Traveling Science Learning Program. This 40-foot, 33,000 pound bus invited more than 20 KMHS science students, at a time, on board for an hour-long, up-to-date biological lab experiment.

"There were two classes this morning and two classes this afternoon," said Mercedes Humphries, a science teacher at the high school. Her students were allowed to get out of different afternoon classes to participate in this rare learning experiment. She and other science teachers across the state can request the mobile lab to visit their schools dur-

See Destiny, 10A

Rezoning requests on Council agenda

ELIZABETH STEWART
Herald Correspondent

Four public hearings for property rezoning are on the agenda for Tuesday's 7 p.m. meeting of City Council but no action will be taken in at least one of the hearings, which may be continued to the June 27 meeting, according to Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey.

"We had already set the public hearing on James B. Payseur's request to rezone his property in the Crescent Hill neighborhood before the planning and zoning board, which met last month, continued action until June 13," said the mayor.

Planning Board Chairman Jim Childers asked the developers to meet with adjoining property owners to hear their concerns before making a recommendation to city council which has the final decision on zoning questions and to give the board time to review the petition with signatures of 178 people opposed to the rezoning.

"I understand that meetings are ongoing with developers and residents," said the mayor. The second public hearing would be required on June 27 but residents who wish to address the issue Tuesday night may do so.

Payseur wants to rezone his property approximately 135 feet southeast from Joyce and Meadowbrook intersection from Light Industrial to Conditional Use R-6 (CUR-R6). Developer Kevin M. Pedego of Huntersville wants to build 18 multi-family two-story

See Council, 10A

3 never missed a day of school

EMILY WEAVER
eweaver@kingsmountainherald.com

It is hard to imagine a student who has not missed one day in 13 years of school. But KMHS has three graduating seniors with perfect attendance. No matter how rough and tough the daily life of teens can be, these three never wavered.

"I was late sometimes but never absent," said Heather Wilson. She walked to school every morning and walked home every afternoon. Her education began at West Elementary, about a mile and a half from her home. Her mother walked with her until about 7th grade at KMMS, which she said was not as far away.

Leigh Ann Long remembered passing them on their daily treks. "Sometimes it would be raining and we would stop and ask them if they wanted a ride. They'd say, 'Nope we're gonna walk' or 'We've got an umbrella we're all right'," she said.

When Wilson started 9th grade at KMHS (the closest of all three schools to her home) she said that she would ride with someone until she started driving. She is ranked among the top of her class, with a GPA around 4.3.

When asked if she regrets having to walk so much, she said, "No, it kept me healthy as a child." Wilson can't remember a time of suffering from great sickness in her younger years and is thankful of the healthy habits and lifestyle her mother instilled in her.

She has received the Dover Scholarship which will pay for $15,000 of her college education at Gardner-Webb University. "I want to be a History teacher," she said, adding that she will try not to miss any days in college either. Wilson will be going on a mission trip to Honduras with her church, Kings Mountain First Baptist, this summer. She will miss her friends and family at KMHS.

WILSON

GAFFNEY

OBANDO

Lauren Gaffney has also never missed a day. She was ranked among the top 10 in her class last year. "I would get colds," she said, "but nothing that would bring me down or keep me from school." She attended West Elementary and KMMS with Wilson. Her mother is a 5th grade teacher at KMIS and also made sure that she was always present. In high school, she played Volleyball, Softball and was a cheerleader. She has received the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame Scholarship which grants her

See School, 10A