

Technology helps police serve people 2A

Kings Mountain community mourns the death of Mary Helen Patrick 6A



Earl town hall



The Herald

Thursday, June 8, 2006

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Since 1889

50 Cents

Inside..

Shirley Brutko likes calling Kings Mountain home

2A



HOMEFRONT

Stories and photos needed for special section on military

The Herald and other Republic Newspapers in the area will publish a special section on the men and women who are serving or have served us in the military.

"Honor, Glory & Pride" will publish on July 5. Deadline for stories and advertising is June 27.

The Herald is soliciting pictures and information from the public on anyone who is currently serving in the military; and also on persons who have served in the military in the past. There is no charge.

Send your photos and stories to The Herald, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 or bring them to the editor's office at 821 East King Street, Kings Mountain. You may also Email them to gstewart@kingsmountainherald.com.

Photos will be returned after the publication date. For more information call The Herald at 704-739-7496.

KMHS graduation is Thursday night

Commencement exercises for the 2006 graduating class of Kings Mountain High School will be held at John Gamble Stadium on Thursday, June 8th, at 7 p.m. A little over 200 graduates will take their final march on the field to receive a diploma they have worked so hard and for 13 years to obtain. All of the parking lots, practice fields and behind the middle school will be open for guests, who are urged to arrive early to find a good space.

The ninth grade band will play "Pomp and Circumstance" as the honorable graduates take the field. After the Pledge of Allegiance and welcome, the KMHS Chorus will be joined by graduating choral members as they sing a tribute to the parting class. Senior class officers, SPO President Angelica Adams, Valedictorian Cody Barrett, Salutatorian Trey Robinson, and Principal John Yarbrow will serve as speakers for the commencement exercises.

The senior class officers of 2005-2006 are: SPO President: Angelica Adams, SPO Vice President: Trey Robinson, SPO Secretary/Treasurer: Cody Barrett; Senior Class President: Susie Potter, Senior Class Vice President: Andrew Haskett and Senior Class Secretary/Treasurer: Natara Fowler.

DEATHS

Norman Donaldson, 58
Loraine Jones, 94
Mary Helen Patrick
Peggy Davis

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This week's advertising sections:
Food Lion
CVS/Pharmacy

Coming Next Week:
Seniors of Summer

To advertise or subscribe call
The Herald at 704-739-7496

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RONNY FUNDERBURKE
Kings Mountain High's women's softball team won its second straight state title Friday and Saturday in Raleigh. Front row, left to right, Lauren Gaffney and Courtney Tate; second row, Jessica Yarbrow, Chasiti Falls, Amber Milwood, Casey Camp, Morgan Childers and Heather Hale. Back, coaches Don Sweezy and Suzanne Grayson, Kristyn Funderburke, Kristin Cogdill, LaRonda McClain, Brittney Thornburg, Haley Barrett and Kala Buchanan. Read more about the championship on pages 4 and 5A and 1B.

Three wins in 37 innings give Lady Mounties second straight NCHSAA 3A softball crown

GARY STEWART

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Kings Mountain High women's softball coach Suzanne Grayson described last weekend's state championship series at Walnut Creek Softball Complex in Raleigh more like a "case of survivors" rather than a series of ball games.

In what took 37 innings in basically a 29-hour period interrupted by rain, the Lady Mountaineers won three straight 1-0 ball games to claim their second straight North Carolina High School Athletic Association championship.

Morgan Childers pitched all 37 innings for the Mountaineers and was voted the tournament MVP for the second year in a row.

Kings Mountain went 16 innings to defeat a good Southwest Randolph team 1-0 in the opening round for the Western NC championship. The game, which began at 5 p.m., was suspended because of rain and lightning with SW Randolph coming to bat in the bottom of the eighth. The game resumed Saturday at 11 a.m.

Kings Mountain, as it did in every game, scored an unearned run in its last at-bat to win.

Casey Camp reached base on a throwing error that got past the SW Randolph first baseman and rolled all the way to the right field corner. Camp made it all
See Back, 1B



RONNY FUNDERBURKE PHOTO

Kings Mountain pitcher Morgan Childers is excited after striking out two batters with the bases loaded to get out of a jam in state tournament game with Southwestern Randolph.

KM schools rank high in end of grade tests

EMILY WEAVER

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The End Of Grade (EOG) test scores for Cleveland County Schools show Kings Mountain schools to be at the top of the class. In the Writing Assessment among elementary schools: East ranked highest in the region with a proficiency level of 89.5 percent; West ranked 2nd highest with a level of 80 percent; and Bethware came in 4th at 74.5 percent. Kings Mountain Middle and Kings Mountain High ranked 2nd and 3rd in the Writing Assessments of middle and high schools through-

out the region.

From the 3rd Grade Reading scores throughout the county, West Elementary ranked the highest with 94.3 percent, East ranked 3rd with 93.2 percent, Bethware ranked 4th with 92 percent, and North ranked 6th with 91.1 percent. From the 4th Grade Reading scores, East led the county with the highest possible score of perfection (100 percent), West ranked 4th with 96.4 percent, and Bethware ranked 6th with 94.9 percent.

"I could not be more pleased with our students' performance," said West Elementary Principal
See Tests, 8A

Robinson, Funderburke named KM Top Seniors

EMILY WEAVER

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Kings Mountain High School awarded their star pupils and exemplary faculty at the Awards Night on Tuesday, June 6th in the B.N. Barnes Auditorium.

Over 200 awards and scholarships were given to students who have made great strides in their academic careers.

Kristyn Funderburke was awarded Outstanding Senior Girl and Trey Robinson was awarded the American Legion Outstanding Senior Boy.

The Kiwanis Good Citizen award went to Janie Dowda.

Principal John Yarbrow received the Schuessler Award for Graduate Research Excellence.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen Award went to NaTara Fowler. DAR Good Citizen Awards are given to students who fulfill the qualities of good citizenship: dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in home, school and community.

The complete list of awards and scholarship winners will be in next week's Herald.

Budget hearing Tuesday

City will probably increase tax rate by four cents

Kings Mountain City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed 2006-2007 city budget Tuesday night at 7 p.m. at city hall. Input is invited from the public.

For the first time in 12 years, the budget calls for a four cent property tax increase (from 36 to 40 cents per \$100 property valuation) which interim city manager Marilyn Sellers says is due to the soaring costs of gas and which city officials cite as the lowest rate of area municipalities.

The proposed budget of \$29.4 million reflects an increase of \$998,863.

Citizens can view the budget before Tuesday night by visiting the city clerk's office at city hall or at Mauney Memorial Library.

For citizens, the only utility increase proposed in the budget means that a typical inside city resident who uses 8,000 gallons of sewer will 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 monthly or 1.2 cents a day and the outside city resident would pay double that amount or 70 cents a month extra. There is no water or electric increase proposed in the budget for the new fiscal year.

Major projections in the proposed 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 in cemetery lots;

The 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 Tuesday, would mean that the owner of a \$100,000 home would pay \$40 more annually or 11 cents more a day in city property taxes.