

The Herald

Thursday, June 29, 2006 Vol. 118 No. 26 Since 1889 50 Cents 2A

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Inside..

Dogs lend listening ear to young readers at Mauney Memorial Library



HOMEFRONT

84 acres annexed for development

The city annexed 84 acres at Phifer Road and Camelot Drive Tuesday, paving the way for Hardyal Shergill and MAG Land Developers to build 238 single family homes.

Shergill had petitioned the city for voluntary annexation.

The area can be provided with fire services, water and sewer services that are substantially equivalent to those within the corporate limits.

A second annexation request is on the agenda for the July 25 meeting of city council. Randy Bates and Mann Properties want 112 acres at Kings Crossing on Countryside Road annexed by the city for a new subdivision of 380 single family residences.

Ruppe & Woody file for incentives

Ruppe & Woody Associates is applying for an incentive grant from the City of Kings Mountain to buy \$827,000 in new equipment which could add 17 new jobs at its Charles Street industry.

City Council Tuesday set a public hearing on the request at the July 25 city council meeting.

President George A. Ruppe said the company may add additional shifts for a seven day swing shift schedule that would create more jobs. The firm currently has 22 full time employees.

Ruppe said the new jobs would include two fixers, seven knitters, six seamers, one person in quality control and one person in shipping/receiving. He said the addition of the new employees would mean an addition to payroll of \$257,000 annually.

RADAR WATCH

Kings Mountain Police will be running radar July 2-8 at the following locations:

- Sunday, July 2 - York Rd.
- Monday, July 3 - Watterson St.
- Tuesday, July 4 - Kings Mountain Blvd.
- Wednesday, July 5 - Gold St.
- Thursday, July 6 - Shelby Rd.
- Friday, July 7 - Waco Rd.
- Saturday, July 8 - Linwood Rd.

*KMPD also runs radar every day on I-85 and US 74 bypass.

DEATHS

Austine Chambers Moore, 85
 Curtis Carroll, 77
 Helen Harmon Waters, 84
 Phillip L. Shouse III, 68
 Estelle Wright Turner, 80
 Evelyn Wright Scism, 82
 Elvenia Cox, 92 See Page 4A

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This week's advertising sections:

- CVS
- Hyundai
- Food Lion
- Advance Auto
- South East National
- McKenney Dodge
- Home Depot

Special Section:
 See You On Sunday

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

City to negotiate 3-year deal with Mountaineer Partnership

ELIZABETH STEWART
Herald Correspondent

By a 6-1 vote, Kings Mountain City Council Tuesday night approved an ordinance recreating and redefining a Downtown Municipal Service District and authorized City Attorney Mickey Corry to enter into negotiations for

a three-year contract with Mountaineer Partnership. "I don't like taxes in any form," councilman Jerry Mullinax said after the meeting, referring to the self-taxing district, set at a rate of 23.62 cents on the \$100 property valuation with the city matching the MSDA proceeds.

The Municipal Service District was created three years ago and

Partnership President Jonie Smith and businessmen Larry Hamrick Sr. and Jack Majors had high praise for the progress in downtown revitalization and the Main Street USA program that has addressed economic restructuring, operations planning and design, among other things.

Councilman Keith Miller raised several questions in the current

contract which Corry said he would clarify with language in the new contract to state what happens to public funds if the program is dissolved, who owns the public funds, the city or the MSDA, and how are funds designated. He suggested that Partnership officers present a proposed budget to city council in advance of budget

See Partnership, 2A

FABULOUS FOURTH



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

Fireworks light up the sky at last year's Fourth of July celebration at the Kings Mountain Walking Track.

Entertainment, fireworks to highlight celebration Tuesday at walking track

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The evening sky will explode with colors in celebration of Kings Mountain's Fabulous 4th at the Walking Track Stage in the Jake Early Sports Complex on Tuesday, July 4th. What has been labeled "the best fireworks show within a five county radius," will begin at 6 pm with a flyover of ultra lights and a concert by the

Southern Rock band, SmokeBreak.

The Fabulous 4th parade will begin at 9 pm, with the KMPD Honor Guard, Cub Scout Pack 95, the Loch Norman Pipe Band, the 505th NC National Guard, Dale Putnam as the Over Mountain Man, and Mayor Rick Murphrey on horseback in full Revolutionary War garb.

Kings Mountain's award winning singer, Shana Adams, will serenade the crowd with the tra-

ditional "Star Spangled Banner." KMPD Sgt. Lisa Proctor will lead the crowd in the "Pledge of Allegiance." Sabrina Collias will sing "God Bless America," followed by her sister, Celia Collias, singing "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

The mayor will then pronounce his patriotic message with a medley from the Loch Norman Pipe Band. The Honor Guard, with patriotic pride, will

See Fourth, 2A

Most fireworks illegal in North Carolina



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

Roger Cozart of Cherokee Fireworks helps Betty Washburn and Jewel Dills pick out fireworks for their Fourth of July festivities.

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During this time of celebration of our country's independence, some may be wondering if they will be on the right side of the law. The consumer fireworks considered legal in the state of NC, according to NC General Statutes 14-410 through 14-415, are generally classified as sparklers, fountains, and novelty fireworks or items that do not explode or are not intended to spin or to leave the ground and fly through the air. Illegal fireworks are considered those such as firecrackers, ground spinners, roman candles, rockets (including bottle rockets), mortars, explosive or aerial fireworks and the like.

Fireworks law violations are considered misdemeanors and are punishable by law with up to \$500 in fines or up to six months in prison, depending upon the level and severity of the violation.

"Any calls on fireworks that we respond to will be in conjunction with the police department," said KM Fire Inspector Joey Davis. "They're the enforcers and we're the putter-outers."

He said that trucks will be on standby at the Fabulous 4th celebration at the Walking Track as a "precautionary measure." KMFD's job at the July 4th event will be to approve the fireworks permit, approve the site plans and enforce the safe area. But crews will also be at the ready to

See Fireworks, 3A

Grover Board okays budget, talks zoning

Hearing called to discuss doing away with zoning regulations

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The Grover Town Council met for their July Substitute meeting Monday night to present the town's finalized or approved budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. The approved budget calls for a tax rate of 29 cents per \$100 property valuation and a sewer tax rate of nine cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

The revenues for the General Fund are set for a total of \$237,290. It is broken down into Office Operations at \$40,430, Town Hall Operations at \$39,090, Maintenance at \$21,230, Police Department at \$66,574, Fire Department at \$12,000, Environmental Operations at \$41,500, Street Operations at \$7,000, and Community Improvement at \$9,466.

For the Cemetery Fund, revenues are set at \$8,400 with expenditures at \$8,400. The Power Fund revenues are set at \$28,000 with expenditures also at \$28,000. The Water and Sewer Fund revenues are set at a total of \$329,250, broken down into the Office/Administrative Department set at \$93,112, Maintenance at \$61,095, and Operations at \$175,043. The grand total for revenues in all of these funds equal \$602,940.

Council members also discussed the possibility of doing away with zoning laws and restrictions. "My dealings with zoning in the past three years, has not been real satisfactory," said Councilman Calvin Huffman.

See Grover, 5A