

BUMGARNER

From 1A

in action. Members of his family served in every war from WWI through Vietnam. Even though he entered the service immediately following graduation from Western Carolina University in 1981, Colonel Bumgarner hasn't been on the battlefield yet. As much as he's moved around, though, it wouldn't surprise him to eventually end up fighting "in Iraq or somewhere else."

Bumgarner credits his father and Coach Jones as the two role models who shaped his career.

"To me, there's not a better man on the face of the earth than Bob Jones," he says. "He taught me so much more than football. A football coach can have his ups and downs. Just like Guantanamo, he's in a fish bowl all the time. People criticize coaches at the drop of a hat. But he was a man of principle. He taught me discipline. He taught me about life. His influence is why I have two boys that I have kept in sports. They're very disciplined kids that will go out and do something good in life, because of guys like Coach Jones who taught me and I passed it on to my boys. If everybody played sports we'd have fewer problems."

Bumgarner's sons are both collegiate athletes.

Being a college quarterback at West Point was Bumgarner's dream when he was at KMHS. He earned an appointment to West Point and a \$100,000 scholarship. He was the quarterback on the freshman football team, but he was unhappy there and dropped out.

With the help of Coach Jones and the late Western Carolina University football coach, Bob Waters, he entered WCU to play football but then learned that the NCAA would require him to sit out of football for a year. Needing a way to finance his education, he turned to ROTC and focused on a military career.

But he would have loved to be a football coach in Kings Mountain or somewhere close by.

"That's what I really wanted to do," he says. "When I was coming out of high school I had two dreams - either be a secret service agent or a football coach. Coach Jones was my idol and he was everything in the world to me. The sun raised and set on that man. I wanted to be just like him. I wanted to be on that sideline on Friday night."

The lessons he learned on the field at KMHS come back

to him daily, he says, and were especially useful during his time at Guantanamo.

"It's all about being disciplined and dedicated to what you're doing - willing to give your all to the effort," he says. "If you go into a job like Guantanamo not disciplined, it would be very easy for the detainee. They taunt you constantly. If you ever lose control or do something to one of them it will hurt you personally and also hurt the United States."

Bumgarner worked 20-hour days, seven days a week during his time there. He says the dedication he learned in football got him through it. "In football it's team before self," he says. "It's the same thing in the Army. It's not about you. It's about your organization and your country. It's about your team."

Bumgarner says when giving a speech to his men, he always draws on football experiences to drive home his points of dedication, pride discipline and professionalism.

"There's so much negative press about what's going on down there in Guantanamo," he says. "When people call you up from home and say 'what are you doing down there?', 'are you torturing somebody?' I always tried to paint the picture that we're doing things exactly right because we're professionals."

"Coach Jones talked a lot about being professional," he said. "I carried this over to the job down there. He never believed in anything being half-way. You did everything right. He'd say doing something half-way was 'bush league.' I use that very same thing with my folks. You can do things 100 percent and do them right. There's no room for bush league. We are playing in the major leagues. We're professionals at what we do."

With 26 years of service behind him and having reached the highest pay scale for a colonel, Bumgarner thinks often of retirement and coming home to the Kings Mountain area, maybe as early as next year. He said he'd love to be a police chief in a small town near Kings Mountain. At age 47 and with his education, he could follow his dad's footsteps into education. And even be a football coach.

"We moved a lot when my dad was in service," he recalled. "He retired when I was in the seventh grade. We lived in a lot of different states but when he would go overseas mom would always come back to Kings Mountain because that was her home. Kings Mountain is still my home."

HOW TO REACH US

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Annexation hearing Tuesday

City to consider taking in new Countryside Road development

ELIZABETH STEWART

Herald Correspondent

The city will probably annex 112 acres during a public hearing Tuesday night by city council.

Randy Bates and Mann Properties are applying for voluntary annexation of Kings Crossing on Countryside Road where the developers plan a new subdivision of 380 single family residences bringing the total to 196 acres and 618 proposed new homes announced by developers in recent weeks.

On June 27 the city annexed 84 acres on Phifer Road and Camelot Drive paving the way for Hardyal Shergill

and MAG Land Developers to build 238 single family homes.

A second public hearing slated for Tuesday night is a petition for rezoning by Jimmy Payseur who plans to build single family residences in the Meadowbrook community. The Planning and Zoning Board heard the request at a recent meeting and voted to recommend the rezoning to the city council.

The third public hearing is a request from Ruppe & Woody Associates, applying for an incentive grant to buy new equipment at its Charles Street plant. Mayor Rick Murphrey said the city has an incentive grant program available to new and existing industries

and that Ruppe & Woody are expanding with plans to add additional shifts and create additional jobs.

Other business on the agenda will include an update by HDR Engineering and the Moss Lake ad hoc committee. Several months ago the mayor appointed the new committee to look into the feasibility of a second lake adjacent to Moss lake and the members have been meeting with engineers to develop an assessment plan. Members of the ad hoc committee are John Henry Moss, chairman; John Harris, Houston Corn, Jim Childers, and Dr. John C. McGill.

City Council meets at 7 p.m. in council chambers at Kings Mountain City Hall. The public is invited.



EMILY WEAVER / HERALD

Storm blew limbs against mobile home on Highway 216 south of Kings Mountain.

STORM

From 1A

the storm and returned to find her neighbor's trailer seven feet closer and limbs, still partially connected to a large Oak tree, resting on her roof. The landlord for Country Woods left for a week's vacation Sunday.

Traffic lights on Battleground Avenue were still flashing around 1 pm Monday and a tree was resting on power lines about a mile further down Highway 216. Trees that line Margrace Road at Bradford Place trailer park were split in half. But Chris Revels at Kings Mountain National Park said that what has been labeled the worst storm this season, could have been a lot worse.

"The damage we had was normal during some of these heavy thunderstorms," he said. "We haven't checked all of the trails yet, but I'd say we had light to moderate

(damage). We try to do a pretty good job of keeping weak looking trees cut back so they won't cause as much damage if they do fall."

Ranger Traci Bash at Kings Mountain State Park said, "We had some limbs come down and some structural damage but we're cleaning it up." Neither parks confirmed any tornado-like activity.

There is not much that people can do to prepare for wild, unpredictable storms. But authorities say that during a tornado watch or warning residents in the caution areas should go to the safest room or spot in their house, like in the basement, storm shelter, or in a first-floor room or hallway that has no windows. People are told to squat close to the floor with pillows, cushions or a mattress over their bodies. Bathtubs are secure structures to squat in if your bathroom is a safe place. Anyone stuck outside or driving

should try to find some form of shelter. According to tornadoproject.com, "Many people have been killed in cars while they were trying to outrun the tornado, and although it is sometimes possible to escape, it is generally not a good idea." An underpass can sometimes be a safe place but debris flying underneath it can be deadly. If absolutely no shelter can be found, people are urged to find a ditch to lie in. Tornadoes are often characterized by loud, train-like noises and funnel shape clouds, dark, greenish-black skies and an eerie calm before the storm. They are caused when different temperatures and humidity meet to form thunderclouds.

A Tornado Watch means that the conditions are right for a tornado to appear and people should take precautions and be on the look-out. A Tornado Warning means that one or more has been spotted and the possible threat is now a reality.

City gets \$700,000 grant

ELIZABETH STEWART

Herald Correspondent

The city has been awarded a \$700,000 grant from the State Department of Commerce, Division of Community Assistance, for sewer lines and rehabilitation of homes in the Galilee Community of Kings Mountain.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said the grant will provide 10 homes with sewer, rehabilitate seven homes, dismantle one vacant residence and replace two mobile homes. The city's matching portion of the grant is \$75,000.

"This grant will eliminate severe water and wastewater problems for these homeowners and create a healthy environment for many of our citizens," said the mayor.

Murphrey said it will be late fall before the city takes bids on the project and it will probably be late spring of 2007 before improvements are completed.

The North Carolina Department of Commerce will announce the 46 recipients of grants at a July 31 meeting at 12:15 in Raleigh at the North Carolina Museum of History Auditorium. The 2006 CD Block Grants are for concentrated needs in scattered sites across the state where municipalities have applied for funds to correct sewer and environmental concerns and where residents qualify for housing assistance.

The CDBG funds will rehabilitate a total of 267 homes in North Carolina.

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