

Grover delays  
calling zoning  
public hearing 2A

Two arrested  
for robbery at  
Little Dan's 3A

Kings Mountain's  
state champions  
honored Monday 1B

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# The

# KINGS MOUNTAIN Herald

Thursday, August 10, 2006

Vol. 118 No. 32

Since 1889

50 Cents



1B Sports...

Mike Ware  
inducted  
into South  
Carolina  
Coaches  
Association  
Hall of  
Fame

## HOMEFRONT

### Mayor is hospitalized for heart tests

Kings Mountain mayor Rick Murphrey was hospitalized Monday and was scheduled to undergo a stress test as The Herald went to press Wednesday.

"Early Monday morning Mayor Murphrey woke up coughing a lot and had shortness of breath," said Special Events Dir. Ellis Noell. He was taken to Kings Mountain Hospital, where nurses and staff performed EKGs and other tests. The nurses told him that they were going to take him back to his room, after the tests. He asked 'why?' and they told him that the doctor was going to lunch.

"He's going to lunch?" he asked. Murphrey recently became a member on the hospital's Quality Control Board. "Within about five minutes administrators were in his room and helping him out," Noell said. The doctor told him that a cardiologist was needed and sent him to Gaston Memorial.

He was transported there Tuesday afternoon, and technicians put a tube with a tiny camera on the end, into his veins. The camera searched through his veins and found about a 60-70 percent blockage in some of his arteries. Wednesday morning they gave him some dye, which will travel throughout his entire body, to help nurses and doctors see more of the culprit that is building up in his veins. In the afternoon, he was to be given a stress test to determine the strength of his heart, among other things. Doctors will know for sure after all tests are complete on the next step for medical action.

"Nothing looks doom and gloom. He's in good spirits and spunky as ever," Noell said, with a chuckle. "Of course no man wants to be in the hospital, so he's ready for the tests to be over so he can come home." Prayers are requested for the Murphrey family during this time.

### Photos needed for A Place Called Home

The Herald is in need of old photographs for inclusion in its upcoming special section "A Place Called Home."

The section which is expected to be one of the best ever printed by the paper will hit the streets this fall.

The photos are needed by September 1.

We are especially interested in pictures showing places, people and events in Kings Mountain from the Revolutionary War period until the present time. The older the picture the better!

Pictures may be - but are not limited to - buildings and streets around town, old homes, churches, schools and school groups, parades, textile mills, country stores, and interesting people of the community, past and present.

Pictures will be scanned as they are brought in and promptly returned to the owner.

## DEATHS

Dr. Milton Hagen, 82  
Glenda Lightsey, 72  
Rebecca Sherfield, 71

Page 3A

## Moore: Testa simply a witness KM businessman who gave political contribution called to testify before grand jury in Decker case

EMILY WEAVER

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Former House Rep. Michael Decker (Republican/Democrat - Davidson, Forsyth) plead guilty to the charge of conspiracy to commit extortion, mail fraud and money laundering in federal court on Tuesday, August 1, 2006. He admitted that a fellow House democrat paid him approximately \$50,000 and offered a legislative position to his son if he would switch his republican ticket to democrat and

publicly support Jim Black (D - Mecklenburg) for Speaker of the House. At an alleged dinner meeting, he was handed an envelope containing \$38,000 in checks and \$12,000 in cash for his support, which created a 60-60 split in the House and allowed Black to be renamed NC House Speaker for his third time in 2003.

The House member that proposed and carried out the deal with Decker, remains unnamed. But Black has admitted to the Board of Elections that he gave campaign

funds to Decker after he received his support.

According to www.democracy-nc.org, a "watch dog" for the NC Democratic party, some of Decker's contributions that he received six months prior to the 2003 elections afforded him a few extra luxuries. On February 18, 2003 he purchased a vehicle from We Sell It Central Inc. in Pensacola, Fla. for \$8,249.50. The next day, he purchased an airline ticket to pick up his vehicle in Fla. for \$232. During the month of March, he also forked out nearly

\$6,000 in legal aide.

On February 5, 2003, James Testa, owner of Kings Mountain Travel Plaza, contributed \$1,000 to Decker for his support in lower cigarette taxes, where he makes a majority of his income. He testified before the federal grand jury in Raleigh a few months ago about his contributions.

Rep. Tim Moore (R - Cleveland), who serves as Testa's business attorney, said that although Testa made a legal contribution to both

See Testa, 5A

### Squirrel kayos KM power



GARY STEWART / HERALD

Duke Power employees work to re-energize their substation on Gaston Street Friday after a squirrel caused an explosion that burned insulators and damaged a transformer.

## Margrace station energized to ease burden on hot day

GARY STEWART

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A squirrel that should have been cooling its heels in the shade of a big oak tree tip-toed across some utility lines at the Duke Power substation on Gaston Street Friday morning and knocked out the power to three-fourths of the city's electric customers on one of the hottest days of the year.

The station that serves approximately 4,000 of Kings Mountain's 5,000 customers went down about 7:30 a.m. and was fully restored around noon. The fried squirrel was tossed into nearby weeds.

While Duke was working to re-energize its substation, approximately 15 Kings Mountain Electric Department employees were working feverishly to put the new Margrace substation in use. They were able to back-feed power from that station to restore approximately 3,000 customers by 9:30 a.m.

The new substation wasn't scheduled to go online until August 14, but Electric

Department Director Nick Hendricks was happy it could be used to ease what could have been an extreme emergency on a day when the temperature hit 98 and the heat index was well over 100.

"When we met with Duke down there at their station they told us it could be a couple of hours or a long time, meaning all day," Hendricks said. "We went ahead and energized the new station which we call Delivery Four at the Margrace. It wasn't actually scheduled to go online till August 14, but in this emergency we worked it out with Duke and went online. It paid off pretty good. Duke came back online about 11:30 or 12. We started putting people back on about 9 or 9:30 and had everybody on except for about a thousand customers and we were working hard toward getting them on too. We just thank God we had that station almost ready to go."

The squirrel touched two phases of wire at the Duke substation, causing a flash that blew a transformer and burned some insulators on breakers, Hendricks

See Power, 5A

## KM officer on unpaid leave Accused of pushing wife

EMILY WEAVER

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A Kings Mountain police officer is on unpaid leave pending the completion of an investigation into an alleged domestic incident last week in Boiling Springs.

Boiling Springs Police Chief Marty Thomas and Officer Scott Brown responded to a call around 8:30 am Monday at the Boiling Springs Post Office. Kings Mountain Police Officer David Coburn, 43, was arrested and charged with one count of misdemeanor assault on a female, after a witness said he pushed his estranged wife, Ranece.

The official Boiling Springs Police report states: "On July 31, 2006, Cleveland County Communications received a domestic call at 101 N. Main Street (United States Post Office). Upon arrival Ofc. Brown encountered David Coburn in a Kings Mountain Police uniform. Chf. Thomas went to the rear of the post office and encountered a witness, John Dwiggins. Dwiggins told Chf. Thomas he had seen an altercation and would be glad to tell what he saw. Chf. Thomas then went into the post office and spoke (to) Ranece Coburn. Her statement matched that of John Dwiggins. Both the vic-

See Officer, 3A

### FUN AT THE FAIR



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

Two-year-old Kara Bush rides with her mother Wendy on a ride at Bethware Fair. The fair runs through Saturday night at Bethware School. See story on page 2A.