

## Live trees can be fire hazard

EMILY WEAVER

eweaver@kingsmountainherald.com

Live Christmas trees can be a live fire hazard this holiday season, warns KM Fire Chf. Frank Burns. "Live Christmas trees in churches or in the lobbies of businesses, under the North Carolina state fire codes, are required to have been treated with a flame retardant material," he said.

Firefighters will be inspecting trees in businesses and churches, looking for a letter stating that the trees have been treated to the directions on the package. "We will actually take a sample of the tree and take it outside to see if it will burn and if it's properly treated, it won't burn," he said.

Burns said that there are several products in the market that can be used to treat the trees. One of them is Tree-Safe, a flame retardant latex-based coating for Christmas trees. Flame retardant treatments are available at most hardware stores, like Bridges, Hometown, and Lowe's, and at some live Christmas tree stands.

"There is a big danger, especially if people put their trees up early. They can dry out quicker. So we would recommend that they wait within about two weeks until Christmas before they put them up. Make sure they are kept in a cool place, well-watered and preferably out of the exit travel path so that if

disaster does strike, people will still have a way out," Burns said.

"We have had Christmas tree fires in the past and they burn, especially if they're dry. They burn like gasoline," he said. "I know several years ago we had a house fire out in the county where a lady struck a match and was going to light a candle. Well those stick matches, sometimes the head of the match will fly off of it. It flew off and went right into the Christmas tree and set her house on fire two days before Christmas. The danger is real," Burns said.

Besides being wary around greenery, candles can also pose a problem this season. "People should not have candles around

live greenery because if something were to happen, like the candle turn over, it would set the greenery on fire and it will spread pretty quick," he said. "Churches and places of assembly are required to have a permit to have lit candles inside or at their services."

Burns said that if a permit is needed, call the department and they will be happy to help. For all emergencies, dial 911. For permits, the station's phone number is 704-734-0555.

Artificial trees are ok, he said. They are treated or supposed to be made with a flame retardant material.

Would you like to work with funeral directors who understand how valuable it is for you and your family to have a truly meaningful funeral experience?

When the time comes to honor a loved one's memory in a personal way, give us a call.

### Carpenter's Funeral Home, Inc.

"Shaping the Future of Caring"

J. Carroll Carpenter  
Funeral Director  
John W. Porter  
Funeral Director

For a Life Worth Celebrating

P.O. Box 607  
Cherryville, NC 28021  
Tel: (704) 435-6711

Proud Member

2006

NFPA

National Funeral Directors Association

## Food Lion remodeling, Advance Auto Parts to open

EMILY WEAVER

eweaver@kingsmountainherald.com

Construction is prominent in Kings Mountain this holiday season. Cranes, bulldozers and backhoes are just as visible around the 600 block of E. King Street as Christmas lights are through downtown. Land is being leveled for the new office suite across the street from Frady's Florist, which will house the new location of Prescriptions Plus Pharmacy and the Baker Family Dentists. The site of the new Auto Zone, behind

Eckerd's, is also seeing a little change as construction crews work diligently to get the land ready for the new auto parts store.

Food Lion at 610 E. King Street is currently remodeling their store. They hope to be done by the end of February. Store Mgr. Kathy Edwards said that they do not have any plans to close during their remodeling. Despite the missing FOOD LION that has been removed from atop their store, they are still open and plan to remain that way.

Edwards said that she is not

sure what the new design or what any of the changes will be, only that they are remodeling and plan to be done around the end of February 2007.

Advance Auto Parts will be ready for Christmas in advance, opening up their new location on the corner of King Street and Hwy. 161 on Sunday, December 17. Both locations will be open throughout the holiday season. Advance Auto Parts Spokeswoman Laurie Stacey said that even though the store's doors will be open to customers

on December 17, the kick off for the month-long grand opening celebration is set for January 14, 2007. The grand opening will be complete with sales promotions and activities. A spokeswoman for WKKT FM 96.9 the Kat country radio station said that they will be at the new store to celebrate the grand opening on January 27, 2007, giving out free T-shirts and other prizes. However, the date of WKKT FM's visit was not confirmed by Advance. "We're still trying to hammer out all of the details. Nothing is final yet," Stacey said.

## Church to operate Grover WWTP

EMILY WEAVER

eweaver@kingsmountainherald.com

Grover Council decided to change operation of the Town's Waste Water Treatment Plant at its meeting Monday night. The town is currently under contract with Goldie & Associates for the operation of the plant but voted to approve a contract with for-

mer operator Mike Church.

Mayor Robbie Sides said the town pays \$3,101 per month for the operator from Goldie.

Church operated the town's WWTP for 10 years before he became bogged down with his full-time job and had to leave, Sides said.

"Since he does our water testing and stuff already, he is classi-

fied as a part-time employee," Sides told the council. For Church to once again be hired as the treatment plant operator, it would cost the town \$2,615 per month, for an overall savings of \$919 per month and a yearly savings of \$11,028. The town currently pays Church \$433 per month for his part-time work. Bringing him on board as the

WWTP operator will eliminate the part-time salary.

Sides said that he's never heard anything but compliments about Church and to his knowledge has never needed to use a pump truck when he was running the plant. The town is currently facing \$3,920 worth of bills for having to pump the plant three times this year.

## PO-KNEE

From 1A

\$75,000 it would cost to construct a plastic replica he needed to expedite the patent process.

One day a few years ago his wife Beverly told him that he needed to watch Oprah that afternoon. Her show was about the Million Dollar Idea Give-A-Way from QVC, where \$1 million would be given to an inventor with the best idea. He watched the show with about as much excitement as if he were watching a soap opera. Just as he was about to turn the channel, he saw it. The winner of the Million Dollar Idea Give-A-Way was coming up and his idea looked hauntingly familiar. Robert Klick won \$1 million for his creation, Po-Knee. Klick, another inventor who had never met Hawks and lived 1,400 miles away, had come up with the same idea. The only difference was that Klick was

able to make the replica and get the patent.

"He's lucky that I was the king of procrastination or he wouldn't have this," Hawks said.

With anger boiling through his veins he sat down to write a letter. "The first two or three days he wouldn't have wanted to hear that first letter. He wouldn't have wanted to read that one. But then I calmed down and said, 'Well, all I can do is congratulate him and give him another version,'" he said.

Considering what Jesus would have done in his situation, he wrote a new letter congratulating Klick for his success with their idea and told him about his idea for a bull. With humility and love he explained and showed legally documented proof that he had had the same idea years ago. He praised Klick for seeing it through to the patent.

"I was just glad to see that

something I actually thought of had merit and won \$1 million, that gave me a lot of confidence," he said.

And the reward he received for his humble act is what he calls a blessing. Klick called him and told him that out of the 99 letters people had sent him screaming that it was their idea, his was the only one that congratulated him and showed proof. Klick added Hawks' idea for the bull version to his on-line inventory. It stays sold-out.

Hawks is now in business with Klick and is in charge of sales/distributorship on the east coast. Hawks is now embarking on a new journey, a journey to sell Klick's product to 17 eastern states. He will begin this endeavor at a booth set up for Mountaineer Christmas this Friday, selling Po-Knees to the grandparents and parents of the little riders in Kings Mountain.

Among the inventory is Kne-

Biscuit, a pony with racing mask and saddle blanket, Frannie, Beauty, Pinto, Mystic Unicorn, Bull-Knee and Donkey. All of the Po-Knees are equipped with sound box and make noises when their ears are pinched. Donkey speaks with the voice of Eddie Murphy from the animated motion picture "Shrek," saying wise cracks, like "Are we there yet?" The Donkeys and Bulls are also rockers on which bigger kids can sit and rock them in the floor. All of the Po-Knees come with straps to secure tightly on ones leg and are for children 6 months-45 pounds.

The Hawks have a vision for one day opening up a store to sell their product, but until then they will be selling it at local festivals, flea markets, on-line and at other ventures across the east coast. The horse Po-Knees sell for \$45 each and the Donkeys and Bulls sell for \$47. For more information, visit poknee.com.

## NEW BRICK HOMES FOR SALE AT SIDING HOME PRICES

Will do painting, wall papering, vinyl siding, wood floors & decks.

BDF Construction Co., Inc.

Todd: 704.937.9354

704.473.0821 (cell)

Dub: 704.937.0102



# Emmanuel

Christmas musical celebrating the birth of Jesus

presented by

## Bethany Baptist Church Adult Choir & Drama Team

December 9 & 10 at 6 pm

Cleveland Avenue • Grover, NC • Nursery Provided

Give the Gift of a Lifelong Smile!

-Khriisa Purkey  
Dr. Hannon's Patient

## Hannon•Orthodontics

Specialist in Orthodontics for Over 25 Years!

704.865.8521  
Gastonia • Shelby

Invisalign® • Insurance Accepted • Affordable Payments

Call TODAY for a FREE Orthodontic Exam (\$265 Value) Offer Expires 12-29-06 • Hablamos Español

# The Herald

Published every Thursday

Periodicals postage at Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
USPS 118-880 by Republic Newspapers, Inc.

Postmaster, send address changes to:  
P. O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
Phone (704) 739-7496 • Fax (704) 739-0611  
Office: 824-1 East King Street • Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
E-mail: heraldnews@kingsmountainherald.com

Bill Parsons (bparsons@kingsmountainherald.com).....Publisher  
Gary Stewart (gstewart@kingsmountainherald.com).....Editor  
Emily Weaver.....Staff Writer  
Nancy Miller.....Advertising Coordinator  
Jeannine McDonald.....Senior Graphic Artist  
Dan Shoemaker.....Graphic Artist  
Kathy Reynolds.....Circulation/Office Clerk  
Jany Ollis.....Receptionist  
Betty Johnson.....Mailroom Supervisor  
Helen Wells.....Inserters  
Mary Wood.....Inserters

Mail Subscription Rates

Payable in Advance. All Prices include 6% NC State Sales Tax.

	1 Year	6 Months
Gaston & Cleveland County	\$27.00	\$17.50
Other NC Counties	\$28.50	\$19.25
Outside NC	\$35.50	\$21.25

Member  
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

Republic  
Newspapers, Inc.

Member  
North Carolina Press Association

We reserve the right to refuse any advertisements or news that we deem inappropriate or offensive to our readership.

The perfect gift is waiting at Arnold's

## Gift Gallery

hot•diamonds

STERLING SILVER AND DIAMONDS

Necklace \$89<sup>95</sup>  
Earrings \$79<sup>95</sup>

Free gift wrapping

ARNOLD'S  
Jewelry & Gift Gallery

Celebrating 33 Years In Uptown Shelby

704-487-4521 • 1-800-827-1873  
226 S. Washington Street  
Uptown Shelby, NC

Arnold's Charge Accounts & Layaways Welcome  
All Major Credit Cards Accepted  
Visit us a www.arnoldsjewelry.com

## DECEMBER bargains of the month

Great Low Prices!

By combining the buying strength of thousands of True Value stores, you get great low prices on quality top-name brands.

Sale ends 12/31/06

Find many more items on sale and fast, helpful service.

### BRIDGES HARDWARE AND HOME CENTER

100 S. Cansler St. at East King St.

704-739-5461

www.bridgeshardware.com

8<sup>99</sup>  
Wrap 'N Craft Vertical Storage Container  
Fits 20 rolls of 30" wrapping paper with lid that opens for additional storage for scissors, tape or bows. Slim design is convenient for tight spaces. W 796 542 P4  
While supplies last. Contents not included.

12<sup>99</sup>  
25' Auto-Powered Tape Measure  
Extends and retracts at the push of a button. LED light. Use as auto or manual tape. Includes 4 AAA batteries. R 681 294 B6  
While supplies last.

9<sup>99</sup>  
Master Tradesman Aluminum Flashlight 30 white long-life LEDs. Includes 3 D batteries. With push-button on/off switch. R 698 868 B4  
While supplies last.

True Value  
START RIGHT. START HERE.