

The Herald

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Incentive grant ok'd for Indian Motorcycle

ELIZABETH STEWART
Herald Correspondent

Kings Mountain City Council Tuesday night approved a 10-year tax incentive grant and light industrial zoning that brings production and 95 new jobs closer to the new Indian Motorcycle Company on Battleground Road.

In a related action, the board set a public hearing for March 26 to hear a similar request from Parker Hannifin Corp., which is expanding its Canterbury Road hydraulic division headquarters to add 100 jobs.

Indian Motorcycle is making an investment of \$11 million and design engineers have been hired and development testing is underway with production slated to begin a year from now, said Mayor Rick Murphrey.

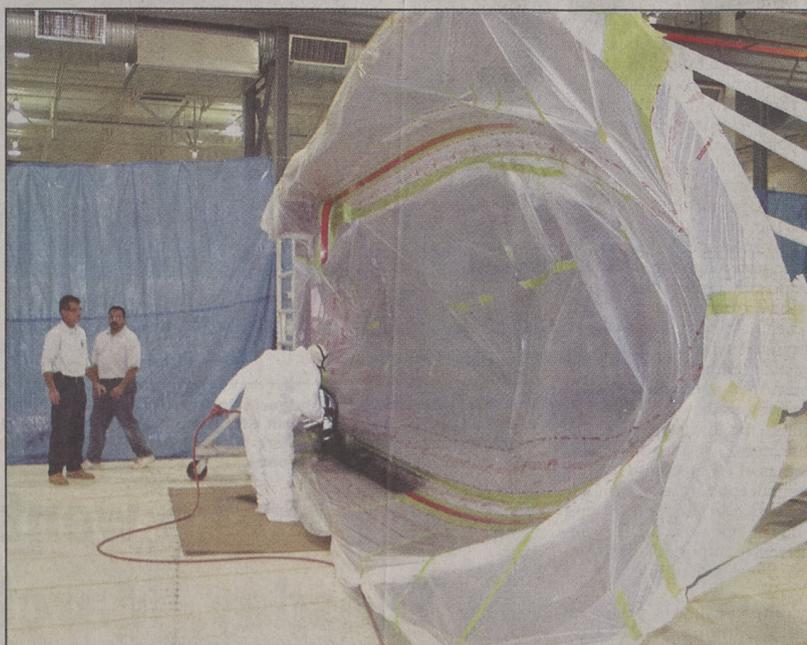
The incentive grant means no city taxes for the company beginning with this fiscal year.

City Attorney Mickey Corry explained that Indian Motorcycle lowered the figure of its net investment which required a second public hearing by council. Corry said the new taxable figure totals \$2,806,000 over a two-year period. Stuart Gilbert, President of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, spoke on behalf of the company.

The mayor said that council established the grant program to encourage entrepreneurs and developers to locate in and make additional property improvement investments in Kings Mountain. Additionally, the city awarded a downtown incentive grant to Tony and Kathy Davidson who plan to make major renovation to their insurance office at 214 S. Railroad Avenue. The Davidsons are the 14th recipients of city grants covering seven different properties.

Council formally applied for a \$440,000 Community Block Grant to install 6,400 linear feet of 8 inch sewer lines and connections to 67 people in 31 family housing units in the Westover neighborhood in West Kings Mountain.

HIGH WATER MARK



Gel Coater for Chris*Craft Jerome Watkins sprays gel on the first boat to be produced at their factory in Kings Mountain, Wednesday morning, while Lamination Mgr. Richard Rice (far left) looks on.

Chris*Craft produces first boat at new Kings Mountain facility

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Get ready fisherman, Chris*Craft's latest creation is every fish seeker's dream boat and is also the first line to be produced in the company's new Kings Mountain plant.

President Steven Heese and Chief Designer/Vice President of Operations Bob Greenberg invited city and county officials to have a sneak peek into the behind the scenes construction of their newest vessel - Catalina 23 center console. The boat is 23 and a half feet long with an 8'4" beam, weighing in (dry) at a whopping 4,484 pounds with the T-Top on.

According to its specifications, the Catalina features a roomy, "self-bailing" cockpit and a spacious bow seating area; "stainless steel thru-hull fittings; fish boxes on both port and starboard; powder coated aluminum leaning post with 20-gallon live well at helm; open cell foam upholstery for convenient drying; custom fiberglass rod boxes on both port and starboard; and (comes with) a 5-year Chris-Care Protection Plan."

The Catalina, like all of the Chris*Craft vessels, is equipped with a Yamaha engine, which tops out at "49.8 mph at 6,050 rpm or 43.3 knots at 6,050 rpm." The cruise speed for the boat is "30.6 mph (26.6 knots) at 4,000 rpm" and its range at cruising is up to "330 miles."

Underneath a bench seat on the bow, is a hidden latrine. The center of the frontal bow seats can be converted into a table for dining and underneath the seats are hidden compartments for supplies. An igloo cooler comes with each Chris*Craft vessel, said Plant Manager Roland Buchholz, along with a CD player and device for checking the depth of the water.

"I've spent the last year engineering it. I've spent the last seven months on site here every week with it. So it's been a lot of fun," Greenberg said.

"We're so excited about such a professional, name-brand company coming to Kings Mountain," said Mayor Rick Murphrey after helping spray paint part of KM's first boat Wednesday morning. "They just have great associates out here, work force and good communication. They have such a good marketing and selling point for our entire community."

Murphrey anticipates that Chris*Craft's global market will bring a lot of recognition to Kings Mountain. "We look forward to many years with our association and we wish them a lot of success."

US Congressman Patrick McHenry toured the facility later in the day. "This is a very impressive company. They have great management and great owners," he said, adding that this will not only prove to be good for Kings Mountain but also for the state.

See Chris*Craft, 5A

Ingles takes 60-day option for property on Shelby Road

ELIZABETH STEWART
Herald Correspondent

Kings Mountain businessman Eddie Yarbro says it will likely be mid-April before Ingles Markets closes the deal on 20 1/2 acres his family owns on Shelby Road and the site of a proposed new super store.

Ingles took a 60-day option to buy the property Feb. 14.

The good news, according to Yarbro, is that the North Carolina Department of Transportation has cleared hurdles by agreeing to switch a traffic signal planned for Shelby Road at Commerce Drive to Countryside Road because of the proposed Ingles.

With the transportation plan in place, Yarbro said the project can move forward. "It's supposed to be one of the largest grocery stores that Ingles builds," he said.

The proposed site is located on US 74 West between Vestibule Church Road and Commerce Drive. "It's the perfect location for more growth in business and housing," said Yarbro who noted he can see the area growing with Ingles as an anchor for more developments.

Yarbro's mother, Ethel, who will be 99 years old on Sept. 17, has been guaranteed by the prospective buyers 'life estate' in her home she has owned 55 years.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said after Tuesday night's city council meeting that discussions have been ongoing for months with Ingles representatives and county and state officials working to bring the Asheville-based market to Kings Mountain.

"Ingles is in our future," he said.

School uniforms on the horizon?

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A new face is smiling on the Cleveland County School Board. New clothes and the possibility of a new election cycle are on the horizon for schools. But intermingled with the fresh approaches at Monday night's meeting was the recognition of a classic Kings Mountain champion. Supt. Bruce Boyles asked East Elementary, NC's Real D.E.A.L. school, to "toot their horn."

"We're so proud of what they did," Boyles said. "This award (Real D.E.A.L.) is a result of a combination of two things, student achievement and teacher

working conditions as measured by the NC teacher working conditions surveys."

Teacher Erica Melton said that their success is based on many attributes, including great leadership, encouragement and inspiration from their Principal Jerry Hoyle; duty-free lunches; common planning time for teachers; high expectations; recognition and honor for good work; teamwork; excellent teachers and faculty; and community support, just to name a few.

S. Dale Oliver was sworn in at the meeting as Cleveland County's newest board member, filling the empty seat left behind

See Uniforms, 5A

Lenten services each Wednesday at local churches

Kings Mountain Ministerial Association will continue its community lenten series from 12-12:30 p.m. each Wednesday through March 28.

The theme this year is from The Beatitudes. Each Wednesday, a different pastor will bring the message, which will last 10 minutes. The host pastor will prepare the order of service and the host church will provide music.

Each service, an offering will be taken for the Crisis Ministry of Kings Mountain. The host church will serve a light lunch afterwards for a donation.

The schedule for the remaining services, speaker and theme include:

Wed. March 7 - Central United Methodist Church; Rev. Moses Neuman will speak on "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness," from Matthew 5:6.

March 14 - Boyce Memorial ARP Church; Rev. John Houze will speak on "Blessed are the merciful," from Matthew 5:7.

March 21 - Kings Mountain Baptist; the speaker See Lent, 9A



Kings Mountain Herald news reporter Emily Weaver holds the first place award she won and the third place award won by the staff at the 2006 NC Press Association Contest awards banquet Thursday night in Raleigh.

Emily's #1

Herald reporter wins first place, staff third in NC Press Association contest

The Herald walked away with two major awards at last Thursday night's North Carolina Press Association awards banquet held at the North Raleigh Hilton.

Emily Weaver, staff writer with The Herald, won first place for the Literacy Features category for her story "Pucker Power." It was written about last year's End of Summer Reading celebration for Mauney Memorial Library's little readers. Children's Librarian Christy Conner had to kiss a pig since the children met and surpassed all of their reading goals. The mayor was also supposed to smooch the pig, but was called into an unexpected meeting. The

judges wrote, "Great success story about reading, should make kids and pig proud."

The staff of The Herald, The Cherryville Eagle and Belmont bannernews won third place for the category of Special Section, vying for recognition out of 18 entries. The winning section was a commemorative, souvenir book on the Battle of Kings Mountain in honor of the Revolutionary War battle's 225th anniversary. The judges gave positive remarks on "The Battle of Kings Mountain," saying "Nice keepsake! I learned a lot of local history! Nice layout!"