

KINGS MOUNTAIN

# The Herald

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## Wipe Out



Cameron Ware inspects peach crop that was totally destroyed by weekend cold snap.

JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

### Peach crops destroyed, berries severely damaged by sub-freezing Easter weather

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The big freeze that swept through the region over the past few days left a trail of waste and broken hearts. With temperatures below freezing and winds gusting at nearly 20 mph, crops had no chance at survival.

Ervin Lineberger at Killdeer Farm in Kings Mountain estimated \$350,000 in damages to their crops. "But that's still assuming we'll have a full crop of muscadine grapes," he said, adding that they will know for sure in about a week or two when they'll be able to see whether or not the buds have stopped growing.

"It's been a rough weekend," he said, with a heavy heart. "We lost a major part of our food crops. All of our peaches and probably 75-80 percent of our blackberry crop is gone. We have 15 acres of blackberries and that's a major part of our income."

Besides blackberries and peaches, the farm also raises strawberries and grapes.

Lineberger said that they lost about 25-30 percent of their strawberry crop, even though they tried to prevent the loss with irrigation. "This is the worst I've ever seen and I've been here 26 years," he said. "The weather people say this is a 1 in 50 year event."

Ben Smith at The Peach Tree Orchard in York, SC, agrees. He said the last freeze of this magnitude occurred in 1955. "We've had some freezes since then, but nothing this bad." York won't have any peaches this year, he added.

His orchard has 75 acres of peaches. All seem to have been destroyed. "It wiped us completely out," he said. "I can't find a good peach anywhere."

Cameron Ware at Mountain View Farm in Kings Mountain faces the same plight. They have about 25 acres in peaches and he said they are all wiped out. "It was a bad investment this year," he added. "We'll have to wait until next year."

Lineberger said two things probably

contributed to the degree of damage from the freeze: being so late in the season for this kind of cold temperature to come and having such a warm spring that pushed it ahead.

"There was really not anything we could have done. In case of the peaches, the high winds prevented any kind of measures we could have taken to prevent damage," he said. They did, however, try to prevent damage to the strawberries with their ground-sprinkler system. "On Saturday night the irrigation worked, but Friday night's wind kept the sprinklers from working and that was the damage night," he said.

Lineberger is hoping that their blackberries will regenerate some buds and have at least a small amount of growth. But the peaches do not have secondary growth in one season.

Despite the similarities in this widespread damage, a stretch of land can be  
See Freze, 7A

### York Road residents voice concerns about KM overlay proposal

Board admits 'fine tuning' needed before recommendation to council

ELIZABETH STEWART  
Herald Correspondent

Sixteen land owners on NC 161 aired their concerns about a proposed York Road Gateway Protection Overlay District Tuesday night and got some favorable response from the 11-member Kings Mountain Planning and Zoning Board.

"We commend you all for coming tonight and we don't feel you put us on the hot seat," said member Phil Hager, who joined his fellow board members in a brainstorming session with the delegation headed by Norman Bumgardner.

Chairman Jim Childers recessed the regular meeting for the group of men and women to talk one-on-one with board members who came down from their seats to the audience to discuss how they could "get on the same page" in plans for the new text amendment as it applies to the extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ).

City Council last month approved by 4-3 vote an overlay district which extends from city limits to city limits.

Board members said some fine tuning is needed, they could not make a recommendation on the zoning ordinance text amendment to Council at its April meeting and invited the landowners back for additional work sessions. They also said the York Road group of 33 landowners would be notified by mail, encouraged the residents to write down their suggestions and turn them into City Hall and to be sure that city staffers had their correct addresses.

Bumgardner said he telephoned all landowners on York Road about Tuesday night's meeting after 10 a.m. Tuesday when he visited City Hall and learned about the meeting. "You might have passed this text amendment as it's written if we had not come," he said, adding, "I am strongly opposed to a new district as it's written because it contains too many loopholes." He said that he and York  
See Overlay, 2A

### Childers breaks tie vote to deny recommendation for storage units

ELIZABETH STEWART  
Herald Correspondent

City Planning & Zoning Chairman Jim Childers broke a tie vote (6-5) for only the second time in 10 years Tuesday night.

He voted with Phil Hager, Hugh Logan, Doug Lawing, Steve Marlowe, and Bob Scoggins to recommend that City Council deny the rezoning of property off Churchill Street where Dan Smith wants to put in more new storage units.

"The units will be in my back door," said Fire Chief Frank Burns, of 1420 Shelby Road. He also spoke on behalf of a 90-year-old neighbor who calls him often about noise and said the proposed units would back up in her yard. "Keep the residential area like it is," he said.

Kathy Burns, 1410 Shelby Rd., said that noise, lights and traffic at all hours of the night came from people loading and unloading items from storage units and she said the new units would be too close to the Westover Church. Board member David Allen said the property owner's plan appeared to be workable with some conditions attached and voted, along with Tommy Hawkins, John Houze, Curtis Presley and Preston Todd for the proposal. City Councilman Dean Spears, speaking for the applicants, Inez Swansson and Joyce Henkle, spoke favorably for the project.

The board, also during a lengthy session, voted to recommend to Council denial of rezoning from residential to Neighborhood business request from Mark Beach, applicant, and property owner Billy Condrey for three parcels at 1102 Gold Street Ext., 1102 Shelby Rd., and 1105 Shelby Road after a protest petition was presented by six  
See Tie Vote, 2A

### Public hearing on four-year council terms set April 19

ELIZABETH STEWART  
Herald Correspondent

A public hearing on lengthening the terms of City Council from two to four years, reversing what voters decided in 1995, has been set for Thursday, April 19, at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at Kings Mountain City Hall.

By a 6-1 vote April 4 Council adopted a resolution of intent to amend the city charter. By a 7-0 vote Council called for the special public hearing.

Councilman Jerry Mullinax, who voted against the resolution of intent, says the change should be up to the people who voted the four-year term out in 1995 and then joined Mayor pro tem Houston Corn and other councilmen Dean Spears, Rodney Gordon, Keith Miller, Howard Shipp and Mike Butler in approving the public hearing date suggested by City Attorney Mickey Corry.

Originally Council had suggested  
See Council, 2A



Brian Kies tries on a tuxedo at Bedazzled in the Westfield Mall.

### The male side of prom preparation

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With the junior-senior prom just weeks away for Kings Mountain High School, many girls are busy planning for the big day on April 21.

If they haven't already bought the perfect dress, they are busy shopping for one and ironing out the beautification details of hair, make-up, skin and nails. Looking and feeling their best is essential. Showing up wearing the same dress as another classmate - a nightmare.

The prom is the epitome of every high school girl's "fairy tale" ball. But what about the "Prince Charmings"? While the girls are

scampering and striving for the look of perfection, what are the boys doing?

Senior David Clark, 17, is acting as "fairy godfather." He and his friends, Brian Kies, 18, and Logan Hardin, 18, have pitched in for the important necessities, like securing a black Hummer limousine for the night. They are all going as a big group of friends, 16 of them in total.

"We just started talking about it and decided we wanted to get a limo. So we just all got together and planned it out. It's kind of hectic because everybody doesn't know what they can do, what they cannot do. So you kind of have to get everybody's say-so before you finalize anything," Hardin said.  
See Prom, 7A