

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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KINGS MOUNTAIN FAB 4TH City's fireworks extravaganza Wednesday at Walking Track

EMILY WEAVER

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July 4th is America's birthday and a time for fireworks, and Kings Mountain will celebrate the nation's 231st birthday Wednesday at the annual Fabulous 4th festival at the Walking Track in the Jake Early Sports Complex beside the YMCA.

What has been labeled "the best fireworks show within a five county radius," will begin at 6 p.m. with the tunes of Chris Marks & The Hillbilly Deluxe band. Performing a variety of classics from 80's rock, southern rock, rock-n-roll, motown, beach, country and other genres, the four-man local band will fill the track with the sounds of "yesteryear."

In the band, Steele Vaught, of Salisbury, plays lead guitar and vocalist; Tony Barbee, of Locust, is the lead vocalist, harmony vocalist and drummer; Johnny Webb, of Salisbury, is also the lead and harmony vocalist and plays the keyboard and Hammond organ; Ronnie Caudle, of Aquadale, is a harmony vocalist
See Fourth, 11A

KM'S JULY 4TH SCHEDULE

6 p.m. - Ultra lights flyover, Welcome/Introduction of band by Special Events Director Ellis Noell, concert by Chris Marks & Hillbilly Deluxe.

9 p.m. - Welcome, Parade, Introductions by KMPD Det. Lt. Lisa Proctor, "National Anthem" sung by Shana Adams, Pledge of Allegiance led by Proctor, "God Bless America" sung by Sabrina Collias, "My Country 'tis of Thee" sung by Celia Collias, Mayor Rick Murphrey's 4th of July address, Patriotic Medley by Loch Norman Pipe Band, Call to retrieve and retrieval of colors, Mayor and "Newman's" ride to "Proud to be an American," call and answer for musket fire, and lights out for fireworks.

City buildings are going green

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Following in the footsteps of Al Gore ("Inconvenient Truth") and the Academy Awards, the City of Kings Mountain is now "going green."

There are two projects in the works right now to help the city save not only money and energy, but to cut down on waste in an effort to save the planet. The Federal Energy Policy Act was signed into law in 2005. "It was the first change in U.S. energy policies in 13 years. It requires federal sectors to reduce energy consumption by two percent, each year through 2015," said Mayor Rick Murphrey. "The state of NC, in moving to support this goal, authorized the program Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) to help local governments achieve energy savings. About a year ago the city began a process to improve operating efficiencies and to fund improvements with guaranteed energy savings under EPC."

The state program authorizes certain companies to come into municipalities and make them more energy efficient. It also gives the cities cheaper rates on their financial loans. "We've selected Siemens (Building Technologies) to come into our city to evaluate and look at all of the energy systems, including lighting, heating, air conditioning, controls, traffic signals, street lights, utility poles, meters, all of
See Green, 11A

CHARLESTON SUPPORT



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

Members of the Kings Mountain Fire Department gathered outside of Station 1 on Monday afternoon to sign a banner that will be sent to the Charleston Fire Department next week. Left to right: Mayor Rick Murphrey, Capt. Jamie Black, FF Bill Parker, Volunteer Randy Short, Capt. Bobby King, and Austin and Nathan Sipes. Assistant Chief Johnnie Caldwell and Chief Frank Burns sign the banner.

Sending prayers to fallen brothers

EMILY WEAVER

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Members of the Kings Mountain Fire Department did not go untouched by the horrific news of the great Charleston fire that claimed the lives of nine firemen last week.

The cries of their brothers are loud. It carries for miles and pricks the heart of anyone in turnout gear. Although nothing and no one can replace the great loss of the fallen nine, KMFD is sending its thoughts and prayers to the Charleston Fire Department in the form of a signed banner.

A handful of members gathered outside of Station 1 on Monday afternoon to pen their thoughts on the sign. The 3x5 banner, printed by The Printin' Press, is decorated with "A Fireman's Prayer."

The banner will be on display in the lobby of City Hall for the public to sign until Friday at 5 pm. Chief Frank Burns said that they hope to get it to Charleston Fire Department by the first of next week. Two by two, in silence, they signed their messages.

"Our firemen do such a wonderful

A FIREMAN'S PRAYER

"When I am called to duty, God, wherever flames may rage, give me the strength to save some life whatever be its age. Help me embrace a little child before it is too late or save an older person from the horror of that fate. Enable me to be alert and hear the weakest shout and quickly and (effectively) to put the fire out. I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me, to guard my every neighbor and protect their property. And if according to your will, I have to lose my life, please bless with your protecting hand my children and my wife."

- By A. W. "Smokey" Linn of Wichita, Kansas

job. They're dedicated and committed to serving their community in a very dangerous job," said Mayor Rick Murphrey, adding that the city is very proud of its fire department. "We wanted to send something to the people of Charleston to let them know that we remember them and we won't forget them. Our hearts and prayers go out to the families of those

who lost their lives in service."

The mayor and fire chief sent e-mails to the mayor and fire department in Charleston to share their support. Murphrey said that he hopes this banner will uplift their spirits in this dark hour.

Burns said that he heard the news on CNN at about 6 a.m. Tuesday. He said that although what happened in Charleston is a great tragedy, "It could happen to any town at any time."

Assistant Chief Johnnie Caldwell has been with the Kings Mountain Fire Department 35 years. When asked if the Charleston tragedy brings back memories of the "great fire of Shelby" in 1979, he shook his head. "No, not really. It was a whole different set of circumstances. We lost more in Charleston than we did in Shelby (with 4 firemen and 1 gas employee)," he said. But both tragedies are haunted with gruesome sights. He had been in the service about seven years when he was called out to the destruction on Warren Street. He had to help dig out his "fallen brother," Nick Sharts, and a
See Charleston, 11A

Former KM coach Hussey dies of stroke

GARY STEWART

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Former Kings Mountain High School baseball and basketball coach Bobby Hussey, 67, died Tuesday after suffering a massive stroke on Monday morning.

Visitation is from 6-8 p.m. tonight at Raymer Funeral Home in Huntersville. The funeral is Friday at 10:30 a.m. at Denver United Methodist Church.

Hussey's oldest son, Bo, said his father had been diagnosed with dementia about a year ago and had been in a Charlotte memory care facility for the past 10 months.

"It is unbelievable what can happen to the human brain," Bo Hussey said. "This is tough but we all know he's in a better place."

Hussey coached at KMHS from 1963-70, serving as an assistant football coach under Bill Bates and as head girls basketball coach before assuming the duties of head baseball coach in the spring of 1967 and head basketball coach in the fall of 1967. He was inducted into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame in 1999.

Hussey built phenomenal programs in both sports. In three years as basketball coach, he led the Mountaineers to a 66-7 overall record and two Southwestern 3A Conference titles. His 1967-68 team, led by All-Americans George Adams and Otis Cole, finished 25-1 overall, losing the Western NC High School Athletic Association championship game to Kannapolis. His last team here, the 1969-70 team led by Cole, won 23 straight games
See Hussey, 11A

AFTER 5 ALIVE

Summer concert series kicks off at Patriots Park

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Check your pulse. Still alive? Then go to Patriot's Park after 5 today for this year's first After 5 Alive.

The Kings Mountain Business & Professionals Association and Mountaineer Partnership have joined forces once again to provide the best After 5 Alives in Kings Mountain. Each event, free to the public, will be held at the Gazebo in Patriots Park from 5:30-9 p.m.

There are a few changes in store this year, in regards to music and spirits. Three After 5 Alives are scheduled this summer to be held on the last Thursday of June and July and on Thursday, August 23. Live music from nearby bands will headline each event. Tonight's con-
See After, 11A



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

A bad thunderstorm that rumbled through Kings Mountain on Sunday snapped a tree limb, breaking a power line and causing damage to a citizen's truck at 303 Watterson Street.

KM takes hard hit from thunderstorms

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Kings Mountain Fire Department was out until about 2:30 Monday morning answering calls from two bad thunderstorms that rumbled through town Sunday night.

Fire Chief Frank Burns said that lightning struck the hand rails that led to the front door of a house at 708 Hillside Drive. The lightning traveled up the rails, blew out part of the front wall and exploded plaster off of the interior. Continuing its tantrum, the lightning traveled to the closet, blowing the door off of its hinges and splintering the wood. "It opened it so hard that it knocked the whole end of the wall down," Burns said, adding that it also blew a chunk out of the floor joists.

With all of the damage, the lightning, surprisingly, did not cause a fire. "It smoked it up pretty bad, but thankfully there was no fire," he said. "We've had a lot of people call who say they've had lightning damage, like the phone has quit working or their TV has blown out. Our main radio blew out."

But luckily, the department has back-up radios, which they needed to answer another call to 303 N. Watterson Street. Lightning struck a tree, sending a limb crashing onto a truck parked outside and snapping a power line.

"We had a total of about 12 calls last night. A lot of them were just nearby lightning strikes, power lines being torn down, and tree
See Storm, 11A