

LOCAL



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

April Mickles at Family Dollar on Shelby Road makes sure the school supplies are in stock for the upcoming Sales Tax Holiday.

Tax-free weekend begins Friday in North and South Carolina

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A common complaint among Americans near the beginning of every year seems to be taxes. Those greedy politicians continue to charge you for everything and take bites out of the fruits of your labor! But there is at least one weekend a year when one of the taxes can not touch you - the Sales Tax Holiday.

Beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, August 3, until 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, August 5, you will have a chance to beat the system by purchasing selected items tax-free. During the holiday, no sales taxes will be charged on: Clothing, footwear, and school supplies of \$100 or less per item; sports and recreation equipment of \$50 or less per item; computers of \$3,500 or less per item; and computer supplies of \$250 or less per item.

However, sales taxes will still apply to: clothing accessories, jewelry, cosmetics, protective equipment, wallets, furniture, items used in a trade or business, and rentals, according to the NC Department of Revenue.

NCDOR states that "clothing" is defined as "all human wearing apparel suitable for general use including coats, jackets, hats, hosiery, scarves and shoes." Also falling under the clothing category that will be tax-exempt are: aprons, athletic supporters, baby receiving blankets, bathing suits, belts and suspenders, boots, costumes (excluding masks sold separately), diapers, earmuffs, gloves, mittens, formal wear (excluding rentals), underwear, insoles for shoes, jogging suits, lab coats, neckties, rainwear, rubber pants, sandals, uniforms and wedding apparel (excluding rentals).

According to NCDOR, "sport or recreational equipment" is defined as "items designed for human use and worn in conjunction with an athletic or recreational activity that are suitable for general use." This category includes: ballet and tap shoes, cleated or spiked athletic shoes, sporting gloves, goggles, hand and elbow guards, helmets, life preservers and vests, mouth guards, roller and ice skates, shin guards, shoulder pads, ski boots, waders, wet suits and fins.

"For purposes of the exemp-

tion during the sales tax holiday, a computer includes a central processing unit, monitor, keyboard, mouse and speakers since these items are deemed to be necessary in the operation of the computer. The separate sale of a monitor, keyboard, mouse, or speakers is subject to the applicable tax when the item is not sold in conjunction with a central processing unit," according to NCDOR.

Computer storage media, handheld electronic schedulers (excluding cell phones), personal digital assistants (excluding cell phones), computer printers and printer supplies will all be tax-exempt during the weekend.

One of the main reasons for the holiday is to help families in their purchase of school supplies. Items in this category include, but are not limited to: binders, book bags, calculators, composition books, crayons, erasers, folders, glue, highlighters, index cards and boxes, legal pads, lunch boxes, markers, notebooks, paper, pencils, pens, protractors, reference books and maps, rulers, scissors, textbooks, workbooks and writing tablets.

Two businesses satellite-annexed

ELIZABETH STEWART

Herald Correspondent

By a 6-1 vote, Kings Mountain City Council Tuesday night satellite annexed two pieces of property, bringing into the city limits 5.6 acres.

RARB Properties, 2120 Shelby Rd., and Moore's Market & Grill, 102 Goforth Rd., cited a need for increased police emergency and fire protection.

Robert Arey Jr., co-owner since 1999 with Robert Burns of One Stop Food Stores, and Rep. Tim and Julie Moore said robberies and fires in the area necessitated faster emergency service which would be possible with city benefits.

Police Chief Melvin Proctor, responding to question by Councilman Jerry Mullinax, said the city service could be "somewhat taxing" for police.

Moore said that Moore's Market employs 14 people and with expansion of produce sales would add two new employees.

Arey added, "Increased police and fire protection from annexation will help increase the safety

of our employees and business." With annexation of the Ingles Markets property across the street from his business he said One Stop Food would be at a competitive disadvantage without annexation.

Several neighbors of Moore's Market & Grill were in the audience for the public hearing and his application for voluntary annexation was supported by letters from adjoining neighbors of the property.

The Moore business is less than a quarter mile from The Ole Country Store, also previously satellite annexed by Kings Mountain, and 1.2 miles from the nearest contiguous point of the city limits.

One Stop Stores does not exceed three miles from the city's corporate limits.

Councilman Keith Miller, who cast the dissenting vote, did not voice an opinion during the taking of the vote. However, after the meeting he agreed that the annexation would mean better police and fire protection for both businesses but would it be at more expense to the city.

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