

LOCAL

First snowfall more beauty than beast

EMILY WEAVER

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The students at East Elementary prayed for snow and on Thursday, their prayers were answered. The City of Kings Mountain woke up to its first snow of 2008 on Thursday morning.

Schools were closed. Classes were canceled. The children were free. No final exams today! Thursday's snow pushed End of Course tests at KMHS to Friday and last Friday's tests are scheduled for tomorrow.

It was unknown before press time how many snow angels were made throughout Kings Mountain or how many snowman couples, named "Willy Melt" and "Betty Will" were carved to life. But it is known that Thursday's snow was more of a beauty than a beast.

The white cold powder of Winter's affection dusted the land, trees, shrubs and rooftops. Many weathermen had predicted ice and although trees, overhangings and signs were trimmed with icicles, snow appeared more prevalent. Ranging in depths of half an inch to an inch or two, the snow blanketed the ground but didn't seem to wreak as much havoc on the roadways thanks to the salt and sand spreader trucks that idled nearby.

Public Works Director Jackie Barnette said that they saw just a few slick spots on Thursday morning. He sent the trucks out about 2:30 a.m. on Thursday. "We just hit a couple of streets that always get icy," he said. "We try to get the main roads first."

The spreader trucks poured the salty sand solution on Gold and Mountain Streets on Thursday morning, he said, in places that needed it. "We didn't have any problems."

City Electric Director Nick Hendricks said that they did not experience any power outages from the snow or ice. "As always we're prepared to go in any situation that we encounter," he said. "We keep an eye on it (a storm) and if it does come we're ready. But as of to date (we've had) no calls due to weather."

The snow began to melt into



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD
It was a winter wonderland as Kings Mountain celebrated its first snow of the year.

muddy puddles late Thursday afternoon. But some of it still remained on Friday giving cause to the old wives' tale that suggests it was waiting for more. And more snow came on Saturday. But it didn't stick around. Barnette said that the trucks didn't come out on Saturday. The two fronts, a blast of arctic air from the north and a stream of precipitation from the Gulf, didn't quite match up over the region as predicted. The storm that was forecasted to bring ice and poor road conditions turned out to be all wet.

According to Weather Underground (wunderground.com), the heavy snow that was forecasted for Saturday, began as light rain around 8 a.m. With temperatures above freezing for most of the day, when the rain did turn to snow it didn't stick. The 1-3 inches of snowfall predicted for Saturday was instead about a quarter of an inch of precipitation that was absorbed into the thirsty earth.

Mountain Street rezoning request goes before City Council Tuesday

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A public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday's Kings Mountain City Council meeting for the final decision of whether or not to grant Tribek Properties' request to rezone various properties on W. Mountain and W. King streets from Single Family Residential to Conditional Use Office.

Tribek Properties has requested the rezoning on behalf of Walgreen's, that has expressed interest in opening up a drug store on the property. The request has met with some debate in the community. Some residents of Mountain Street have rallied to keep the drug store out of their neighborhood. The final say of whether or not the properties will be rezoned is up to the council.

Also on the agenda for Tuesday's meeting are the following consent agenda items, which will be adopted or denied by a single vote unless they are removed:

- Re-appointments or appointments for the following people: Julie Moore to the ABC Board, term expiring January 31, 2011; Vi Burgess to the Kings Mountain Tourism Development Authority to fill the unexpired term of Don Panyda, term expiring June 30, 2009; council members Houston Corn, Mike Butler and Dean Spears to the Utility Committee; and Mayor Rick Murphrey to the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission Board of Directors, term expiring April 2011.

- The following public hearings to be set for February 26, 2008, at 7 p.m. to consider requests by: Tony and Kathy Davidson to rezone properties located at 1205 Shelby Road from Residential to Conditional

- Use Office; Mark Beach Properties, Inc. to rezone properties located at W. Mountain Street from Single Family Residential to Conditional Use General Business; and Barbara Parker to rezone properties located at 811 Margrace from Residential R-10 to Residential R-20.

- Approve Cory Warren to dredge a limited portion of Moss Lake located at 104 Nelson Cove, Shelby.

- Adopt resolution approving Phifer Downs Subdivision Preliminary Plat.

- Approve request by Kings Mountain Properties, LLC for an order granting modifications of the City of Kings Mountain's Subdivision Ordinance.

- Approve request from Brothers in Christ Outreach Ministry to hold a Bass Tournament at Moss Lake on Saturday, April 12, 2008.

- Approve permission for Arnold Ledford to hold non-charity "Thursday Night Bass Tournaments" at Moss Lake from April 3-October 30, 2008.

- Approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$33,827 for the police department restricted cash line items.

- Adopt an ordinance establishing a capital projects fund in the amount of \$210,000 for the repairs and improvements to the library and a resolution approving BB&T's financing terms for the project.

- Approve City of Kings Mountain CDBG Infrastructure Project policies, procedures, plans, resolution and ordinance for the 2008 Kings Falls Housing Development CDBG Project.

- Adopt resolution awarding a Downtown Incentive Grant for John Bullock.

- Approve request for "No Parking," "Loading and Unloading" in front of Roger's BBQ on S. Cherokee and W. Gold streets.

Davidson completes Navy basic training

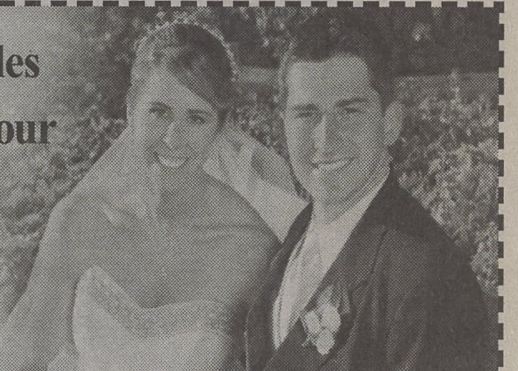
Navy Seaman Recruit Joseph L. Davidson, son of Kathy L. Davidson of Crockett, Texas and Fred D. Davidson of Grover, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Davidson is a 2006 graduate of Latexo High School of Latexo, Texas.

CORRECTION

In last week's article "Ronda's Kitchen opens Monday," Mike Hartman's daughter was incorrectly identified as Sherry Hullender. She is Ronda Hartman's daughter. Mike's daughter is Nikki Rhames. Also the Kitchen's hours are from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. and not 10 a.m.-8 p.m. as previously reported.

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