



KMIS students attend career fair

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Left, Eleven-year-old Taylor Shipman and Daisie Hullender, 10, both from KM Intermediate enjoy the recent Cleveland County Schools career fair.

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BUILDING A DREAM

Historic resort, theme park on the way?

By ELIZABETH STEWART
 staff writer

GROVER – Martin CJ Mongiello, the proprietor of the Inn of the Patriots in Grover, is a Yankee by birth but a true Southerner at heart.

His dream to build a Living History Center Resort and Theme Park in Cleveland County as a top tourist attraction could be considered “a dream” by some skeptics but Mongiello is pitching the project to the Cleveland Chamber, city, county and Shelby elected officials, as well as officials of the Kings Mountain National Military Park, and any other interested citizens and history buffs.

A new resort and theme park would feature cannons, dueling with sabers, trials, live battles with the British, painting, music, weaving, blacksmithing, and horsemen charging across the foothills at a full gallop towards war with sabers drawn. Modern, full luxury accommodations would be provided complete with Jacuzzi and king-sized beds.

Says Mongiello, “Just look at the success of Old Salem in Winston-Salem as a tourist attraction and envision what could be done for this area because Kings Mountain is where freedom rang for all to see,” he said this week.

Mongiello is talking to people about investing in the project he estimates to take 2-5 years to complete and is looking for up to 25-50 acres of land to build a 12-room Colonel Frederick Hambright Inn, a Colonel Cleveland Museum, and Phifer Hall, facilities which would also accommodate weddings and other events. Committees are looking at minimum sites of 10 acres in this



Provided by Marti Mongiello, the photo of this log cabin is similar to the appearance of his proposed resort.

area and also in nearby South Carolina. Some 51 people would be employed but many others would reenactors in volunteer roles.

Behind the proposed lodge he envisions putting up three camps: one for the South Fork Boys, a NC militia that Frederick Hambright/Hambrecht belonged to where characters on scene would depict those mountain men from the Battle of Kings Mountain; the middle camp an Indian camp with bare-chested characters in Indian attire and on the right of the encampment would be the British camp. Guests at the Inn would not pay to visit the location but tickets to the public would be as low as five dollars. Additionally, visitors would have opportunity to sign a legal waiver to fire a flintlock rifle. At the Indian camp visitors could throw a toma-

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hawk or spear, fire a blowgun or shoot bow and arrow. At the British camp cannon firing would be the drawing card.

“The unique aspect of our resort is that you can live inside it for a week, a day or year round. You can also dress in our costume department and command armies on the battlefield to make and execute war as a private or General. Should you lose the day’s battles, you may have to dine across the table

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CROSSWALK



Jim Belt as “The Centurion”

Easter drama begins March 27

By ELIZABETH STEWART
 Staff writer

The passion of Jesus Christ on Calvary’s cross will come alive for crowds expected to see the 9th annual Easter season presentation of Cross Walk two weekends – Friday and Saturday, March 27 and 28 and Friday and Saturday, April 3 and 4 – in downtown Kings Mountain.

Regal Ventures Creative Ministries, the event planning organization directed by Reg Alexander, combines the dramatic events during Holy Week in a passion play that has been hailed as the South’s “most unusual Passion Play.”

A pre-show by the musical family, Cross Reference, will open the show each evening. Tickets at \$5 are available at Regal Ventures, 104 E. Gold Street. No tickets are necessary for children preschool age or younger. Due to restraints in the size of the audience, advance ticket purchase is encouraged because

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NO DISRUPTIONS

City looks at new equipment

City seeks \$1.4 million grant

By ELIZABETH STEWART
 Staff writer

By unanimous vote, Kings Mountain City Council voted Monday to move ahead on plans for improvements at the water plant by seeking \$1.4 million from the state in the latest economic stimulus package, the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan, to pay for emergency generators at the water plant and the booster pump station.

In a related action, the board also filed for the county application for funding of \$850,000 for construction of a 12-inch water line to serve Southern Power, the new electric plant proposed in Grover.

The catch is that if the city gets the money it will have to pay back half the cost of the state loan (\$700,000) over a 20-year period with zero interest.

Several city council members had reservations. “How will we pay back the money? Are the generators necessary?”

“How many times has the city run out of water?” asked Councilman Rick Moore, the most vocal of the commissioners who asked questions. “How many times has the power

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Left to right, Mayor Rick Murphrey, City Manager Marilyn Sellers and Councilman Dean Spears look at new equipment water utility workers Duane Knaperak (left) and Willie Inman were trying out Tuesday morning on a water line along E. Gold Street.

By ELIZABETH STEWART
 Staff writer

Kings Mountain city officials are looking at a new piece of equipment – Hydra-Stop-Insta-Valve-Plus that could save time, is safe, and will result in no cut off of water service while workers are making repairs.

Installation is as easy as 1-2-3, according to the demonstration Tuesday morning by company officials who told Water Supt. Dennis Wells, Mayor Rick Murphrey, City Manager Marilyn Sellers and City Councilman Dean Spears that “you just install the fitting, make the tap, then install the valve. It’s really that simple.”

Once installed, Insta-Valve Plus operates with a stan-

dard valve key. This revolutionary valving system works with existing Hydra-Stop equipment or as a stand-alone system. It can be inserted practically anywhere, giving the professionals the control over distribution systems.

Insta-Valve-Plus requires only one cut, no reaming and causes no excessive pipe strength loss. The machinery costs \$35,000.

“It’s the easy way to install valves and not dig up lines and no disruption of service,” says the mayor. He said the new equipment would replace the need for maintenance crews to shut down in order to repair or service under-pressure water lines.

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