

National Day of Prayer Thursday
Grover to buy backhoe
 Page 5A

May Fellowship Day Thursday
 Page 8A
YMCA's Ozmore to take new post
 Page 3A



Mountaineers clinch SWC 3A baseball crown
Sports Hall of Fame banquet Saturday
 Page 1B

HOT ENOUGH FOR YOU?
 Beat the heat with one of our great Home Comfort Systems!
 Innovation never felt so good.
Dilling Heating Co.
 Sales & Service Since 1955 - Lic. #009350
 1250 Linwood Rd., Kings Mountain

*****CAR-RT LOT**C 008
 307 08-06-09 0025A00 10P 8S
 MAUNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY
 100 S PIEDMONT AVE
 KINGS MOUNTAIN NC 28086-3450

Kings Mountain Herald 50¢

Volume 121 • Issue 18 • Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Wet weather, wet vote

By **EMILY WEAVER,**
LIB STEWART

A total of 1,953 voters cast ballots in Tuesday's mixed beverage referendum. Unofficial results at The Herald's press time gave the wet forces a slim margin win: 1,129 - for; 1,058 - against.

Results from early votes and mail-in absentee ballots showed a tie: 117 - for and 117 - against.

Total figures do not include provisional ballots, which Board of Elections Director Debra Blanton said have been known to swing an election in the past. Provisional ballots are those cast by voters who may not have been included in the system on election day, but are registered to vote.

The Cleveland County Board of Elections will spend the next week investigating the ballots to determine whether or not a provisional vote should count.

The official canvass for the referendum will be conducted by the county Board of Elections on Tuesday, May 12 at 11 a.m. Provisional ballots will be counted by the elections board on Tuesday, May 12 at 9 a.m.

Signs sprouted on lawns urging citizens to vote no. Post cards arrived in mailboxes urging folks to vote yes. But little else seemed to be heard from proponents and opponents in the days leading up to the election.

On Tuesday, though, both forces were out at the polls. Rev. James Lochridge, pastor of Second Baptist Church, manned the corner entrance at the YMCA polling site, wearing a homemade cardboard sandwich sign, covered with scripture.

He said that he was the first to cast his ballot against mixed beverage sales when the Board of Elections opened its doors for early voting on April 16. His mother casted

the second ballot, his wife - the third and his father - the fourth, he said.

Rev. Lochridge arrived at the KMYMCA polling site at 6:15 a.m. Through wind and rain he stayed at his post until the site closed at 7:30 p.m., reading scripture, waving and smiling at the motorists who passed.

After the unofficial results came in, he seemed disappointed. "It's sad but we have to live by the vote of the people," said Rev. Lochridge, one of the leaders of Citizens for Safe Progress, an opposing group. He added, "Some of the ones who put this through don't have to knock on doors and tell families that their loved ones have died in accidents that involved drunk drivers."

Lochridge said that he feared that nice restaurants would not locate here, only those wanting to operate bars. "We will continue to serve the Lord because we know He is in control."

Another opponent of mixed beverage sales, Chip Sloan was at the YMCA polling site.

Just beyond the campaigning border at the Y, stood Gina Collias, Melanie Ballard and Carl Elliott, members of Citizens for Progress, proponents of mixed beverage sales.

Bobby Horne, another member of Citizens for Progress, spent his Tuesday campaigning for a "yes" vote at the library polling site.

"This is not an issue about food or beverage. This is about changing Kings Mountain," Ballard said on Tuesday morning.

She added that Kings Mountain has changed over the years and Tuesday's referendum offered a chance to "re-define" the city.

After the unofficial results came in, Collias and Bobby Horne, both leaders among the Citizens for Progress, pro-



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD
 Citizens for Progress volunteers Melanie Ballard and Carl Elliott stand in front of the YMCA polling site.

ponents of mixed beverage sales, were in good spirits.

See **VOTES**, Page 5A

Council amends city zoning map

by **ELIZABETH STEWART**
 staff writer

Kings Mountain City Council last Tuesday unanimously (6-0) took the recommendation of the planning board and amended the zoning map of the city by changing only a portion of the area requested.

The two lots changed in the two-mile perimeter (off of Phifer Road/Phifer Circle) were those of Gary Randall Kiser and a 1.75 acre portion of the lot owned by Johnny Hutchins. Both want to add on to existing mobile homes because of upcoming weddings in the families.

Neighbors in the city's extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) presented a protest petition against the effort of Kiser and neighbors to rezone several properties located off Phifer Road, Camelot Drive and Phifer Circle from Residential 10 to Residential 20.

After a public hearing, the board also rezoned the property of Shane Adams, 218 Scism Road, from residential to conditional use residential.

In other actions, Council:

+ Set Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 5:30

p.m. for a budget work session at the Patrick Senior Center, 909 E. King St.

+ Set Tuesday, May 28, 2009 at 6 p.m. for a joint City Council and Historic Landmark Commission public hearing for the designation of J. A. Falls House (Withrow Funeral Home) as a historic landmark.

+ Approved permission for Eaton Corporation Bassmasters to hold a non-profit tournament at Moss Lake on Saturday, June 14, 2009 from 4 a.m.-12 p.m.

+ Mayor Rick Murphrey recognized administrative assistant Joy Fox with a five year service award.

+ Updates were given by Mountaineer Partnership Executive Director Adam Hines and Events Coordinator Ellis Noell. Upcoming events in May include: Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at 8 a.m. at Family Worship Center and high noon prayer service at City Hall; May 15 Tourism Day at Welcome Centers; May 25 Memorial Day at Mountain Rest Cemetery; May 28 - 7:30 a.m. State of the City breakfast at the Patrick Center; and May 30 at 8 a.m. - Over the Mountain Triathlon from Moss Lake to the Gazebo at Patriots Park.

P&Z to review request again

by **ELIZABETH STEWART**
 staff writer

By 4-2 vote of the Kings Mountain City Council last Tuesday, the Kings Mountain Planning & Zoning Board will take another look at McCleary-Baer Biofuels' Refinery rezoning request.

Councilmen Rick Moore and Jerry Mullinax cast the 'no' votes. Voting 'yes' were Councilmen Howard Shipp, Mike Butler, Houston Corn, and mayor pro tem Rodney

Gordon. Councilman Dean Spears was absent.

The city's Planning Board, after a public hearing recently, voted 6-1 (John Houze approving) to recommend denial of the zoning change to conditional use heavy industrial, citing that the residential area in the city's two mile ETJ (extra territorial jurisdiction) lacks public water and public sewer needed to support development of an alternative fuel industry. At that hearing adjacent prop-

erty owner Thurman Hicks of Gastonia questioned how the process would affect allergy sufferers and water runoff. He said he was not opposed in principle to the idea of seeking alternative fuel.

Christy McCleary, of Mirada Lane, said that she is currently getting estimates on water and sewer costs, working on safety guides, with environmental experts and seeking grants in planning a unique fer-

See **ZONING**, Page 5A

Surviving the Information Age



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

William Davies and Hazel Davies take a computer class at the library.

Free library classes offer invaluable info

By **EMILY WEAVER**
 Editor

Many science fiction authors have prophesied that computers will one day take over the world. Whether or not this prediction comes true, it is evident that computers are taking over more and more of our lives.

Living in the midst of this "Information Age," many adults are in the dark. But Mauney Memorial Library continues to shed new light on technology, offering free and invaluable computer classes to the public.

Mira Scheffield, who describes herself as a "casual computer user," came to a few classes to strengthen her skills.

"I thought it might help me get a job because that's the first question they ask - if you know how to use a computer," she said.

Although personal reasons have kept her out of the job hunt recently, she is confident that what she has learned in the classes will help.

The free courses offered at the library have covered topics such as computer basics, Internet basics, email, resumes, Microsoft Word, and research.

Sonny Jackson, of Kings Mountain, said that the classes really came in handy for him.

"I umpire baseball and our booking agent from Gastonia, he sends everything by email," he said. The agent advised him to get a computer. "I thought, well if I'm going to get a computer I need to take computer classes."

Jackson has taken the beginner computer and email classes and "really enjoyed it."

Phillip and Vivian Putnam have patronized Mauney Memorial Library for years. Vivian is often there with their grandchildren for story time. Both have come for the

See **COMPUTERS**, Page 5A

Keep up with
 The Herald's
 'tweets' at
twitter.com/kmherald

Visit us today at
 209 S. Battleground Avenue
 Kings Mountain
 704.739.5411 • www.alliancebankandtrust.com
 MEMBER FDIC
 Alliance Bank & Trust
 Building Communities
 The Faces of Hometown Banking