



Larry Hamrick, Jr. named Rotary's 'Citizen of Year'

Page 4A

Toys come alive at KM Museum

Page 1B



Destination: Downtown

Take an inside look at plans to revitalize downtown in the first part of a series.

This week: Mountaineer Partnership applies for Main Street program.

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Explosive found in traffic

By KYRA ALEXANDER

Staff writer

Monday, June 29th, 11:26 a.m. - a passing motorist traveling down U.S. Hwy. 74 near Long Branch Road noticed something mysterious in the roadway. What looked like a pipe turned out to be a homemade explosive device precariously placed in traffic.

First responders with Cleveland County Emergency Management found the device in the east bound left-hand turn lane. They radioed for backup.

Members of the Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department, Cleveland County Sher-

iff's Department, Shelby Police Department, Highway Patrol, and Gaston County Bomb Squad blocked both directions of travel halting traffic as far west as Marion Street and as far east as Kings Mountain exits.

Gaston County Police Sgt. C. W. McCants, who is also with the bomb squad, said that the device was about 7" long and 3/4" in diameter and appeared to be homemade. Upon further investigation of the device's contents, he identified the item as "an improvised pyrotechnic device made readily available to pyrotechnics".

Although the term "pyrotechnics" commonly relates to fireworks, the device had

been "improvised."

McCants continued in stating that the instrument resembled "the shape" of a stick of dynamite, wrapped in duct tape.

"After our option one didn't work we went to option two, which was to counter charge it with another explosive," McCants said.

Had the device been detonated in public it might not have caused total destruction, but McCants stated that it was still "dangerous".

According to Perry Davis, Assistant Cleveland County Fire Marshal, the device was detonated sometime after lunch and the highway was reopened at 1:34 p.m.

Hangin' out: Police find suspect hanging from the rafters of an apartment after he allegedly fell through the attic in which he was hiding.

Page 2A

These buds are for you



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

Left to right, Billy Davis and Dewey Davis drive stakes into the garden for the tomato plants.

By EMILY WEAVER
Editor

How does your garden grow?
Grover community to reap seeds church has sown

Something grows in Grover. It was planted by a church for a community plagued by the economy. Its roots dig deep. Its stems pierce the soil. Its leaves feather toward the sky. Its fruit could be yours.

Bethany Baptist Church has started a community garden. The congregation decided to start the garden in the spring. A few church members and other helpers have tilled the soil, sowed the seeds and are getting dozens of fresh produce ready for harvest. Now many of the "fruits of their labor" are ripe for the picking.

See GARDEN, Page 4A

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

KM, Grover get over half-million in state grants

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff writer

The City of Kings Mountain and Town of Grover have received grants through the Rural Economic Development Center Inc. under the Clean Water Partner's Infrastructure Fund totaling \$532,560.

Kings Mountain received the half million dollar grant for rehabilitation of its sewer collection system.

Grover received the \$32,500 grant for a Wastewater Treatment Plant options and infiltration and inflow study.

Senator Debbie Clary and Rep. Tim Moore announced the award grants June 30 and also announced grants of \$40,000 to the City of Shelby for water and sewer asset management plan and \$244,000 to the Town of Spindale for replacement of a force main and gravity sewer line.

See GRANTS, Page 4A

Fire department receives \$22K for new equipment

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff writer

Kings Mountain Fire Department's recent state grant of \$22,872.79 has paid for an all-terrain four-wheel Kubota Diesel 4x4 which can be used for trail rescues and is the newest piece of rescue equipment on hand.

"We would be able to get to a biker or hiker on the trail in trouble and are very pleased to receive the money to pay for the vehicle and for the rescue and extrication equipment necessary in an accident," said Chief Frank Burns.

The grant comes from the 2008 Volunteer Rescue/EMS Fund from the State of North Carolina.

Kings Mountain Fire Department has on hand for motor vehicle accidents the Jaws of Life and Hearst extrication tools for emergency situations.

See PHOTO on Page 8A

CITY CELEBRATION

Fabulous 4th Saturday

Hailed as "the largest fireworks show between Charlotte and Asheville", the City of Kings Mountain's "Fabulous 4th" is slated to be even greater this year.

As a special feature this July 4th, the sounds of exploding fireworks will be precluded by the booms of cannon fire in a tribute to history.

This year's event will feature a special reenactment of a battle forged on a hill, where the city drew its name, that changed the course of time and led to the eventual revolution and independence this country celebrates each July.

The show will begin at the Walking Track, next to the YMCA on Cleveland Avenue, at 6 p.m. with a concert performance by country singer Gary Lee Michael and Friends. The group will take the Neisler Stage at the track first, followed by performances of the Blackwelder Brothers, with their fresh style of Southern gospel music, and Lee Sinclair, with his blend of traditional country music.

A patriotic themed opening at 8:45 p.m. will feature a parade around the walking track park with the traditional Scottish bagpipe sounds of the Loch Norman Pipe Band.

Marti Mongiello, owner of the Inn of the Patriots Bed and Breakfast in Grover, will lead the introduction of the parade.

The KMPD Explorer Scouts will post the colors. Malora

See FOURTH, Page 4A

DOWNTOWN

City approves funds for MSD

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff writer

Kings Mountain City Council obviously agrees that downtown revitalization is alive as they approved Tuesday for another three years the funds for the Municipal Service District first created in 2003.

Mountaineer Pharmacy Inc. administers the funds from levying by the city of a special municipal service district tax in the amount of .2362 per \$100 appraised value of property in the special district which raises \$23,689.80 each year plus matching dollar for dollar by the city on a budget of approximately \$50,000.

The district includes 123 properties, 93 of which are commercial. Twenty of these properties are governmental and 10 are church properties exempt from taxes.

"It's a supplemental tax in the Central business district that these people have volunteered for five years to tax themselves for downtown improvements and downtown is seeing revitalization," said the city's planning director Steve Killian.

Killian said that the city reevaluates the process every three years during public hearing and begins levying the tax with fiscal year beginning July 1.

The ordinance spelled out that funds can be used for a number of projects "including street lighting, specialized streets and sidewalk paving, sidewalk canopies, parking facilities, and promotion and development activities designed to improve the economic well being of the downtown."

North Carolina General Statutes authorizes any city in the state to define one or more municipal service districts and use funds for economic development.

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