



More Fabulous Fourth pics P&Z board to hear protest petition **Page 8A**

Legion Post 155 swept by Hickory in final round **Page 2B**

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# Kings Mountain Herald 50¢

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JOHN H. MOSS

## John Moss dies at 90

Tributes honor former mayor at service Monday

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
 staff writer

Flags flew at half mast in Kings Mountain Monday in honor and in memory of former Mayor John Henry Moss, who died July 1, 2009 and who was remembered in tributes at his 11 a.m. Celebration of Life service at First Baptist Church.

Mayor of Kings Mountain for 22 1/2 years before his retirement 20 years ago, Moss was remembered, not only as Kings Mountain's longest serving mayor and chief executive officer, but for religious, civic, and professional baseball accomplishments over a lifetime of 90 1/2 years.

A Kings Mountain Police Honor Guard stood solemnly as the public came to Harris Funeral Home Sunday for visitation. The honor guard presented the colors at the church service and escorted the family and honorary pallbearers Rick Murphrey, Woody Fish, Alan Stein, Denise Stallings Jim Childers, Will Herndon, Dr. John McGill, Tony Ruppe, Kelly Bunch, Jim Lybrand, Glee E. Bridges, and Larry Hamrick Sr. Ushers were Will Herndon, Fred Kiser, Jeff Mauney and Bob Suber. The Celebration of Life service included congregational singing with accompaniment by organist Carolyn Rhyne.

Paying tribute were his niece, Linda Welch, Alan Stein, President of the Lexington Legends and Board member of the South Atlantic Baseball League,

Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey, Woody Fish, Gardner-Webb University official and Denise Stallings, executive of the Cleveland County Health Department, who served with Moss on the Cleveland County Sports Commission.

His pastor, Rev. Bill Jeffcoat, of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, delivered the sermon and focused on scriptures, including the Biblical passage, "I have fought the good fight," as he shared with other speakers the legacies of John Henry Moss. The former mayor was hailed as a good friend, a hard worker, a leader, a giant, a family man compassionate to children, his God-given gifts of leadership and service and a baseball legend in 43 cities he impacted in 115 ownership groups, the "King of Baseball" and 50 year president of the South Atlantic League which was first the Western Carolina League organized by Moss.

A father and grandfather figure, a mentor, a facilitator, a teacher, a Southern gentleman, is how Stein described Moss.

"As he neared death John never retired," said Murphrey "He just kept working to improve the quality of life for everyone.

Murphrey said Moss inspired him to get **See MOSS, Page 3A**

**INSIDE**  
 Citizens remember the former mayor  
 See Pages 4A, 1B

## Suspected serial shooter shot

Gunman's trail leads officers from Gaffney to Gaston

By EMILY WEAVER  
 Editor

The same man, who police believe wreaked havoc and took the lives of five people during a week-long killing spree in Gaffney, was shot and killed early Monday morning in Gaston County.

The manhunt for the serial killer spread across state and county lines over the Independence holiday weekend. Officers from the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, Grover Police Department and State Highway Patrol aided South Carolina law enforcement in patrolling the border and setting up road blocks to find the suspect plastered on wanted posters.

It was rumored that at one license check in Grover a man leapt from a vehicle much like the champagne-colored Ford SUV on the wanted posters to evade arrest.

But that rumor was false, according to Grover Police Chief Todd Martin.

He has been working with other law enforcement agencies on the case.

"We have set up check stations at the state line for several days now," he said. "We have not had any sign of him in Grover."

But hundreds of calls offering tips, leads and sightings poured into law enforcement offices in Cherokee and Cleveland counties.

"We're checking every avenue. We're leaving no stone unturned at this time," said CCSD Chief Danny Gordon on Monday, before the official announcement that the serial killer had been identified as the man shot in Dallas. "We want people to call and

let us know."

In Gaston County, the call that would allegedly "crack the case" came in around 2:44 a.m., according to Gaston County Police Chief Bill Farley.

In a press conference Monday evening he said that they received a call regarding suspicious activity and perhaps a burglary in progress at 725 Dallas Spencer Mountain Road.

When officers arrived at the house, which has been described by other media as "vacant", they "determined two of the individuals lived at the residence and the third subject was an acquaintance."

Farley said that the "acquaintance" gave false information to the police at first. But "through further investigation officers were able to determine his true identity and found he was wanted for a parole violation," he

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**ELECTION 2009**



FABULOUS FOURTH

EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

Fireworks light up the summer sky in Kings Mountain.

## Thousands enjoy 'Fabulous Fourth'

Crowds of spectators nearing 10,000 turned out for this year's Fabulous Fourth at the Kings Mountain walking track on Saturday night.

And even though budgets were tight this year, the fireworks were grander than ever. Pyrotechnician of the show and former mayor Scott Neisler estimated that they

fired close to 1,000 shots Saturday night in a musically-themed fireworks show that lasted close to 19 minutes.

But before the explosions of colorful art lit up the night sky, the explosions of cannons rang out.

Reenactors of the Back Country Militia and the South Fork Boys **See FOURTH, Page 3A**

## For the love of the show

Scott Neisler enjoys bringing light to KM

By EMILY WEAVER  
 Editor

Former mayor Scott Neisler loves his hometown. For the past 20 years he has expressed his adoration by giving Kings Mountain one of the best fireworks shows in the state.

He and his crew of half-a-

**See SHOW, Page 3A**



KYRA ALEXANDER/HERALD  
 Scott Neisler holds one of the fireworks used in the show.

## Incumbents file to run

by ELIZABETH STEWART  
 staff writer

The three incumbent Kings Mountain city councilmen filed for reelection Monday as candidate filing period opened at the Cleveland County Board of Elections.

Filing for four-year terms are Mike Butler, Ward 2; Jerry Mullinax, Ward 3; and Dean Spears, At-Large.

In the school board race, incumbent Connie Phifer Savell of Kings Mountain filed for reelection and Grover resident Kathy Falls, 302 Timberland Drive, also filed for a seat on the nine member board for which four seats are up for grabs in November.

Candidate filing ends July 17 at noon at the Board of Elections. Filing fee for city council is \$35. Filing fee for the Cleveland County Board of Education is \$20.

Incumbent city councilmen say they are running on their records.

Terms of mayor pro tem Rodney Gordon, Ward 4; Howard Shipp, Ward 1; Rick Moore, Ward 5; At Large councilman Houston Corn and Mayor Rick Murphrey do not expire this election year.

In Grover terms of council members Cindy O'Brien, J. D. Ledford and Brent White are up in November.

Four seats on the nine-member Cleveland County Board of Education are also up in November. Terms of Connie P. Savall, Dr George Litton, Mary Evans and Philip Glover are up.

Voter registration forms are available at Mauney Memorial Library, Kings Mountain High School and Kings Mountain Post Office.

**OVERBOARD**

## All safe after boat capsizes

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
 staff writer

Their boat just took a nose dive and went down and suddenly four people were in 30-50 feet of scary water on Moss Lake screaming for help.

Sgt. Bob Myers said a pre-July 4th holiday outing by two Shelby couples almost turned tragic Thursday about noon but thanks to a good samaritan on the shore who saw the accident and got help Cathy and James Mosley and Elizabeth and Grant Campbell were safe and not injured.

Myers said Mosley was operating the 15 footer when it hit a wake and capsized off Quail Hollow Road.

Wayne Jones, 128 Quail Hollow Drive, told police that he witnessed the boat moving slowly on the water but the bow of the boat suddenly hit a wake and went down dumping its passengers in the water. All passengers had life jackets and two could swim. A third passenger could swim "a little" and the fourth also used a life jacket to hang

**See OVERBOARD, Page 3A**

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