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6-year-old cancer victim needs your help...Page 4

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

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EXPANDING BOUNDARIES

PRESENT & PROPOSED BOUNDARY MAP



This present boundary map shows the proposed annexation of nearly 500 acres.

City decides to go ahead with 500-acre annexation

By ELIZABETH STEWART staff writer

By a 5-2 vote Kings Mountain City Council voted last Tuesday to move ahead with a service plan for possible annexation of nearly 500 acres in two municipal areas - one of the city's largest annexations.

Councilmen Rick Moore and Jerry Mullinax voted against the preliminary step in the lengthy process, which if passed in ordinance form in November, could bring the area of 380 people into the city limits in July 2010.

"Why are we jumping so fast?" asked Moore, who like other councilmen asked questions about projected costs.

"This is a service that Kings Mountain can offer," said Mayor Rick Murphrey.

Letters went out Thursday to all property owners in the area of Countryside and Crocker Ridge. An informational meeting is planned September 17 and a public hearing will be held in October.

Residents in the two areas termed "2010-H" and "2010-I" will be invited to come to city hall to talk one-on-one with city staff and officials.

"The average citizen may not want to take advantage of water and sewer until they have problems," said Mayor pro tem Rodney Gordon.

Councilman Dean Spears asked if water and sewer lines could be run in the areas in five years following the effective date of annexation in 2010. Planning Director Steve Killian and

planner Steve Austin said that 51 percent of citizens in the annexed area would need to petition for sewer, the city paying 25 percent of the cost and property owners paying 75 percent over a 10 year period.

Rolling services such as police and fire protection and garbage pickup would be effective in July 2010 with annexation. Gordon said citizens could see a drop in insurance rates by using city services.

Maps of the proposed service areas were distributed to the council members.

Killian said there are 18 homes along Crocker Ridge that have not yet been voluntarily annexed into the city, as well as 175 lots along Shelby Road near Countryside.

He said the plan meets state requirements for urbanization, major water lines and major sewer lines. However, he added, there has been some confusion about the cost of water and sewer and who is responsible for it.

Some of that confusion, he said, stems from an annexation that took place several years ago for a part of the cost associated with septic tanks and a grant was secured for a portion of the cost. He called the situation a "special needs circumstance".

"We want to make sure that the public understands what we will do and what the customer will be expected to do," he said.

The mayor said that the 330 residents in the two areas are encouraged to attend the September 17 informational meeting at 6 p.m. at city hall.

"The adoption of the annexation services plan was just the first step in the process," he added.

WEEKEND WRECKS

2 crashes send 10 to hospital, one dead

By EMILY WEAVER Editor

Two separate wrecks along major highways this weekend sent 11 to the hospital. Ten survived.

Aug. 22, 2:36 p.m. - Kimberly Wilson, of Cherryville, was carrying six passengers, traveling north on I-85 when KM Police Cpl. Mark Butler reported she lost control, struck a guardrail and overturned.

All seven occupants, ranging in ages from 35 to 2 years old, were transported by Cleveland County EMS to Cleveland Regional Medical Center to be checked out. The wreck happened one day before one of the passengers would turn 13. No serious injuries seemed to have been sustained. All survived.

Wilson was charged with driving while license revoked, having unsafe tires and with a child seat violation.

Aug. 23, 2:46 a.m. - Forty-four-year-old Wallace Wall, of Shelby, was traveling west

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT



DEVIN RICKUS

New stars rising at 'Extreme Talent'

By EMILY WEAVER Editor

Extreme Talent Productions in downtown Kings Mountain has several rising stars in their midst.

Twelve-year-old Jaeleigh Clark has been featured on the cover of the "Justice for Girls" catalogue twice since the talent agency opened on Railroad Avenue last year. She has appeared inside several other issues over the past two years.

Justice for Girls is a national chain store, featuring the latest in girls clothing and pre-teen fashion accessories, according to its website shopjustice.com

Clark was also featured on the runway this past summer, promoting the "Baby Phat" line of clothing by fashion model Kimora Lee Simmons.

While in New York, she also auditioned for a part on the upcoming "Spiderman 4" film. Another local talented actor, Dan

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McHenry addresses packed hall

By EMILY WEAVER Editor

It was standing room only inside Mildred H. Keeter Auditorium at Cleveland Community College Thursday night as hundreds of people assembled to speak to their representative.

This was Congressman Patrick McHenry's 50th town hall meeting since he was elected to serve in the capitol.

After the auditorium was deemed full, dozens more were turned away or directed into a back room at the college where a television camera was set up to view the town hall remotely.

The three main agenda items McHenry spoke about were the stimulus plan, cap and trade and health care.

He said that the stimulus plan has failed. New numbers show that the \$7.1 trillion budget deficit the country is expected to face in 10 years, will actually be closer to \$9 trillion, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget office on Tuesday.

McHenry told the crowd that the "cap



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD KM small business owner Mark Beach asks Congressman Patrick McHenry about the state of politics. Right, McHenry puts his foot on the current healthcare bill before Congress.

and tax" (Cap and Trade) bill will cost the average family an extra \$1,400 per year. The bill, which places mandatory limits on the emissions of greenhouse gases that lead

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