

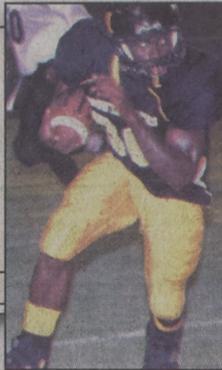
- ☞ Marijuana found in KM back yard
- ☞ Reward offered for missing lawn mower
- ☞ Sizemore found 'not guilty'

**Ground and plans stirring for Gateway Trails**

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**Mounties beat Kennedy 50-12 in opening game**

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# Kings Mountain

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**SILENT NIGHTS IN GROVER**

## It's quiet on Main Street

By EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

7:30 p.m., Friday, August 28 – downtown Grover is dead. Nearly every Friday night for the past few months, before now, the parking lot along Main Street has been crowded with cars.

People came from all over to play the “sweepstakes” and games offered by the new businesses that seemed to have sprouted all of a sudden and left just as suddenly. By Tuesday afternoon last week four of the Main Street businesses, some operating under the auspices of “Internet cafes”, were closed.

The cafes offered Internet services, copies and faxes, but used online sweepstake games as a means of promoting the businesses. Others were stores that just had a few of the video gaming machines in play. All were rumored to have offered pay-outs or “redeem-outs”.

County zoning officials and deputies considered them to be in violation of gaming laws. Profits from these businesses were equated to gambled winnings.

At least two of the downtown establishments seemed to have “folded” last week, allegedly “bluffed” into closing by law enforcement.

Two others, Cyberline and M&M's, seem to be waiting it out, at least for now. On the darkened door of Cyberline is taped a sign that reads “Closed for software updates. Call us tomorrow.”

But what happened? Are they really updating their software? Where did the businesses go?

Two Grover business owners, who only spoke to The Herald on condition of anonymity, said that one FBI agent



**EMILY WEAVER/HERALD**  
On most Friday nights in downtown Grover, over the past few months, cars would pack the parking lot along Main Street. The lot was empty last Friday night.

visited the establishments with members of the Cleveland County Sheriff's vice squad last Monday.

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**■ 'SUSPICIOUS FIRE'**

## Officials need help in arson investigation

Who set fire to a house at 205 Lackey Street on August 24?

That's what Kings Mountain Fire Department and Kings Mountain Police Department want to know and they need help from the public.

“We may not be able to make a final determination as to what happened unless somebody comes up and says who did it,” says Fire Chief Frank Burns.

Burns said firemen were called about midnight August 24 to 205 Lackey Street and found a fully involved house fire in two front rooms. Firefighters had the fire under control five minutes after their arrival, he said. Firemen ruled the fire “suspicious.”

Kings Mountain and Oak Grove Volunteer Fire Department responded to the blaze as well as Cleveland County EMS. The State Bureau of Investigation brought in an arson dog to sniff out accelerant but none was found, said Burns. He said the fire had two points of origin, the kitchen and front room.

Burns said the house had not been set up for residents but that one unidentified man at the scene reported that he lived there.

“There were no beds in the house,” said Burns. No one was injured.

The day after the fire city officials posted a “condemned” sign on the outside of the house.

**■ NEW JOBS**

## 62 jobs on the horizon

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Staff Writer

City utilities are hooked up at Spectrum Mills on Waco Road and preparation work is in the works for a new operation that could provide 62 new jobs.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said that the city is working in an ongoing process with Byeng Ahn, of Fullerton, CA, and with county and state officials to “hopefully get the old Spectrum plant running again in the next couple months.”

Spectrum Dyed Yarns closed in 2008 and put several hundred people out of work.

Murphrey said the city has received a grant for \$7,500 from the North Carolina Rural Center to run a water main to serve houses on private property once owned by Spectrum where wells went dry.

“The new company bought the mill property and the relocation of the water line was necessary,” he said, adding, “This is a work in progress.”

The most recent grant brings to three the City of Kings Mountain has received recently. A Community Block Grant of \$599,550 will install more than 5,000 feet of water line to serve 22 single family homes on Battleground Avenue and a Rural Economic Center Grant for a half million (\$500,000) will be used to rehabilitate or replace 5,000 feet of sewer system lines in three areas of the city.

## Council denies zoning request for horses, makes changes to laws

By EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

In a unanimous decision Kings Mountain City Council denied Kevin Cooke's request to rezone property at 1537 N. Piedmont Ave. – a part of the late John Henry Moss' estate – from Residential to Conditional Use Residential.

“The Planning and Zoning board voted unanimously to recommend that city council not rezone the property as requested,” Planning Director Steve Killian told the council Tuesday night. “The request was for, at a minimum, horses as a livestock use. No specific provision was included that would have excluded mobile homes and other non-Residential (R-10) uses, swine and poultry as this sort of application typically contains.”

The nearly half-an-acre property lies outside of the NC Hwy. 216 right-of-way, and Killian said that the rear yard, where the horse pasture would be located, is only about 10,000 square feet.

The P&Z board “felt that the impact on neighbors, the existence of 10 or so dogs in the area of the future barn,

and the small size of the horse pasture, along with an unspecified number of horses, would not support a positive findings of fact,” according to Killian.

In his zoning application, Cooke noted that he sought conditional use zoning so that he could be allowed to have a horse for his daughter.

No one spoke in favor or against the zoning petition during the public hearing Tuesday night.

In other action, the council voted unanimously to amend the city's Community Appearance Standards Code regarding “chronic violators” of the “overgrown grass and weeds” ordinance.

Codes Director Holly Black told the council that the North Carolina General Assembly ratified a bill, signed into law by the governor, which gives municipalities the “right to enact an ordinance that deals with chronic violators of their overgrown vegetation codes.”

The law goes into effect Oct. 1 and defines a “chronic violator” as “a person who owns property whereupon, in

See ZONING, Page 3A

**■ DRUG BUST**

## Grover Police arrest women for growing pot

By EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

A domestic situation led to a big drug bust in Grover on August 24.

Grover Police Chief Todd Martin said that they had responded to a domestic violence call, which eventually led to a tip that someone was growing marijuana at a residence inside town limits.

In the investigation that followed, they were able to locate a plant behind the home.

After both residents gave verbal consent, Martin said that he and Ofc. Shane Hamrick searched the residence at 308 Mulberry Road.

Inside the residence, Martin said that

they found more marijuana, additional drug paraphernalia and equipment like that used in the indoor manufacturing of marijuana.

“This was a good bust for Grover because we get tips all of the time that it's here and we finally found it,” Chief Martin said.

Kristin Enlow Anthony, 35, and Patricia Price Robertson, 36, were charged with manufacturing marijuana and were placed in the Cleveland County Detention Center under \$5,000 secured bonds.

The bust lasted from 10 p.m. on the night of August 23rd until 8 a.m. Monday morning.

“It was a long process,” Martin said. Anthony and Robertson were arrested without incident.

## Shoppers feel pinch in penny tax increase

Kings Mountain shoppers will feel a pinch in their wallets this week as sales tax went up a penny, bringing the rate to 7.75 percent.

At the same time, cigarette excise tax went up Tuesday from 35 to 45 cents a pack, beer excise tax rose to about 5 cents on a six pack, a 4 cent increase per bottle of wine, and excise tax on liquor sold in ABC stores from 25 to 30 percent of the retail price. The sales tax on food remains 2 percent.

Additionally, virtually all court costs are up and getting a speeding ticket will hit drivers harder.

**RESERVOIR**

## Officials continue to push for lake

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
staff writer

Water officials in Upper Cleveland County continue to push for a reservoir even though advisors say the alternative option may be purchasing water from adjacent towns.

Meantime, Kings Mountain city officials are meeting with representatives of the US Corps of Engineers this week to find out the next step in the city's plans for a second lake.

“Kings Mountain has a hookup that could supply water to Upper Cleveland,” said Mayor Rick Mur-

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