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Kings Mountain Herald 50¢

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REMEMBERING 9-11

Patriot Day observance set for noon at city hall

In remembrance of 9-11, the City of Kings Mountain will have a Patriot Day observance at 12 noon on Friday, September 11, 2009 at the Plaza at City Hall.

"On September 11, 2001 life changed forever across America and every part of the Globe," states Mayor Rick Murphrey.

The Kings Mountain Fire Department will lower the flag in front of City Hall to half-mast at 8:46 a.m.

The observance will continue at noon with the Patriot Day Program. The public is invited to participate.

For more information, call 704-734-0333.

Grover hearing tonight

The Grover Board of Adjustments will meet tonight at 7 p.m. at Town Hall to hear the cases of two downtown business owners seeking to reopen their businesses downtown.

The businesses, both operating as Internet cafes, which have offered sweepstakes games to promote their businesses, closed down two weeks ago with a couple of others, who were allegedly operating video gaming machines.

Although law enforcement has said that the computers used for these games are not illegal, many doors have darkened along Grover's Main Street until zoning issues can be resolved.

Information meeting set for Sept. 17

Property owners holding freehold interest in property lying within the 500 acres the city proposes to annex - Countryside Road and Crocker Ridge - are invited to attend a public information meeting by Kings Mountain City Council Thursday, Sept. 17, at 7 p.m. at Kings Mountain City Hall.

Planning Director Steve Killian and his staff and other city officials will also be available at City Hall from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and 2-5

See MEETING, 7A

New restaurant to join Fast Food Row?



Signs around town advertise a Cook Out that may be coming to KM.

Cook Out in KM?

By ELIZABETH STEWART Staff writer

Signs are out in town that Cook Out, Inc. is coming to the lot on NC 161 (York Road) between Reel Motors and Subway.

Codes Director Holly Black said this week that she is reviewing plans for the fast food restaurant and that the state has approved the company's food service plan but both Black and Mayor Rick Murphrey said no permits had been secured by the company.

If the restaurant opens here, it will be Cook Out's fourth location in the area. Two locations in Gastonia and one in

Shelby do not have indoor seating. Black said the plans she has in her office call for some limited indoor seating as well as two pickup windows in the drive-through.

Cook Out specializes in grilled hamburgers and hotdogs (cook-out style), chicken sandwiches, and North Carolina barbecue. Cook Out is also known for its variety of 41 different "Creamery" Premium milkshakes with choices like "Banana Pudding" and "Chocolate Cherry."

AWARD-WINNING CITY



photo by Lib Stewart

Mayor Rick Murphrey, left, City Manager Marilyn Sellers and Utilities Supt. Nick Hendricks show off the seven awards won by city employees for outstanding achievement in several key areas. The city won in all competitive areas of the 2009 Public Power event.

City wins 7 awards

The City of Kings Mountain won all seven Public Power Awards of Excellence awards among 21 communities honored by ElectriCities of North Carolina at the annual NCEMPA and NCMPAI board of commissioners meetings Tuesday.

Mayor Rick Murphrey, City Manager Mar-

ilyn Sellers and Utilities Supt. Nick Hendricks attended the meeting in Charlotte.

"This was a team effort on the part of all our employees of the city," said the mayor in accepting the awards for Grassroots/Building Political Strength; Economic Development; Communication; Key Accounts;

Energy Efficiency and Training.

The Grassroots Strength award recognized efforts by the city in legislative issues important to public power, initiation of local grassroots events, and participation in federal and state legislative events.

The Economic Development See AWARDS, 3A

CRIME PREVENTION

City notices rise in thefts

By EMILY WEAVER Editor

In the past month, 53 thefts were reported to the Kings Mountain Police Department.

Of those 53 reports, 13 came from residents who told police their lawn mowers and other landscaping items were snatched from their yards.

"(Thefts of) lawn equipment is a big thing we're seeing lately," said Det. Cpl. Todd McDougal, of the Kings Mountain Police. "We're seeing an increase."

He says that the economy may be a big factor in this steady rise of thefts.

With hundreds of people, locally, out of work and a 15 percent unemployment rate still plaguing the county, the need for food and money for bills has not gone away. Some may be turning to crimes to raise a quick buck.

Are crooks getting more desperate these days? Not necessarily, McDougal says.

"The thing about it is there is more numbers of people in that situation. For those people that are in that lifestyle, they're not desperate," he said. "Being a thief is not out of desperation."

See THEFTS, 7A

SCHOOLS

CCS saves the year for KMHS

By EMILY WEAVER Editor

Nearly 300 students had signed up to take Huskin's courses this year at Kings Mountain High School. The courses, offered in subjects such as welding, carpentry, nursing and others, allowed students the opportunity to earn college credits while they are still attending high school.

But weeks leading up to the first day of school, KMHS Assistant Principal Diane Dooley said that they were anxiously waiting to hear from the state about whether or not those courses would be funded this year. The schedules of about 300 students laid in the balance.

But balancing a huge budget deficit in the state had troubled the forecast of education for months.

Cleveland County Schools found out about a week before classes began that the state was not going to pay for the Huskins courses to be taught.

"We did find out about a week before school started that the legislature had not included many of the Huskins courses in the budget. They cut out funding for all but some math and science courses," said CCS Supt. Dr. Bruce Boyles, in an email.

But someone had to pay if Huskins courses were to stay. By taking those classes out of the schools, administration would have to reschedule the itineraries of hundreds of students.

Cleveland County School officials came to the rescue.

See SCHOOL, 3A

New game play

Troopers work with schools to promote teen driving safety

On July 31, 2009, Matthew Harold Mortensen, of Kings Mountain, was killed after the sport utility vehicle he was in skidded and flipped on Whitesides Dairy Road, outside of Bessemer City. He was 16 years old.

Seventeen-year-old Ty Williams was driving. Neither teen was wearing a seat belt, according to Trooper T.R. Lee.

Both were thrown from the vehicle. Williams was transported to the hospital with serious injuries.

Statewide fatalities for teens involved in car wrecks jumped up 16 percent this year, according to figures released by the North Carolina Highway Patrol. This alarming statistic spurred the Cleveland County office of the Highway Patrol into the line of advocacy.

They have teamed up with the four high schools in the county to spread awareness in attempts to prevent more fatalities.

See SAFETY, 3A

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