

INSIDE

Grover Christmas parade Saturday

7A

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Kings Mountain Herald

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More jobs on the way

New company will need skilled workers

By ELIZABETH STEWART Staff writer

More jobs are coming to Kings Mountain in mid-January Pennsylvania businessman Jeff Latchaw announced Monday.

Latchaw has purchased a 60,000 pound (30 ton) state-of-the-art piece of high-tech, highly efficient machining equipment that will be moved from Charlotte to Kings Mountain in mid-December.

Built by Okuma of Japan, the impressive, universal machine is a 5-Axis vertical multitasking piece of equipment that will require highly skilled employees to operate.

JOBS, 3A

City sets hearing on sweepstake moratorium

By ELIZABETH STEWART Staff writer

City Council voted Tuesday night to set a public hearing Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. to consider a temporary moratorium on the issuance of zoning permits for internet cafes and retail businesses with sweepstakes gaming machines and the like.

After public hearing Council could adopt such a moratorium in the form of an ordinance.

Steve Killian, Director of Planning & Economic Development, told the board that moratorium ordinances are provided for in General Statutes 160A-381, grant of power (for zoning). Specifically, it authorizes temporary moratoria on land use development covered by a local permit.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said the city's proposed ordinance is being drafted by City Attorney Mickey Corry. It will address why a moratorium is needed, what process will be affected, the length of the moratorium and what the city will be doing during the moratorium.

Moratoriums are allowed, under law, to give a community time to gather facts and develop a plan of action for dealing with land use that has created a concern about its impact on the public.

At least eight businesses in the city limits have sweepstakes terminals available to customers.

Christmas time is here!



Santa Claus and Mayor Rick Murphrey get ready to lead the crowd in a countdown to light the Christmas tree across the street.

Big crowd for annual tree lighting

By EMILY WEAVER Editor

A large crowd, nearly 500 people, attended Monday night's Tree Lighting ceremony inside of Central United Methodist Church.

The festivities, which are usually held at Mauney Memorial Library, were moved across the street and were held in the church's Christian Activity Center because of the day's wet weather.

Mayor Rick Murphrey welcomed the crowd and Dr. Jeff Mauney, chairman of the library's board of trustees, gave a state of the library address.



Three-year-old Ryley Powers shares her Christmas wish with Santa.

The ceremony, when weather permits, is held each year on the front lawn of Mauney Memorial where one of the city's largest Christmas trees is lit after a countdown from the crowd.

Singers from Bethware, West, North and Grover elementary choruses gathered in true Christmas spirit.

TREE LIGHTING, 4A

Hundreds of 'elves' ride for Christmas

By EMILY WEAVER Editor

RUN, RUN RUDOLF! SANTA'S GOTTA MAKE IT TO TOWN. Rudolf jingled his bells at Murphrey's Annual Toy Run Saturday.



Hundreds of bikers from all walks of life came bearing gifts to Murphrey's Scooter Shed Saturday morning, revving their motorcycle engines for a ride that would bring a Merry Christmas to many children.

Spoils from the event will benefit the Shriners Children's Hospital, the Masonic Home for Children and the Kings Mountain Police Department's Toy Drive.

TOY RUN, 4A



R.C., left, and Billy Wray get ready to add their toys to the toy chest at Murphrey's Scooter Shed.

Photos by Emily Weaver

LIGHT OF THE SEASON



LIB STEWART photo It's beginning to look a lot like a Costner Christmas as Bryden Murray and his great-grandfather Grady Costner prepare to turn on the switch Thursday at one of the area's biggest holiday displays.

Costner lights on Thursday

By ELIZABETH STEWART Staff writer

The switch will be flipped at 5:30 p.m. Thursday night on one of the biggest Christmas light displays in the area, at the home of Grady and Katie Costner, 2000 Midpines.

"It's our 14th Costner Christmas for the community," said 80-year-old Grady Costner, who welded the illuminated work of art. His wife Katie strings the thousands of lights around the frames.

Visitors from miles around drive through the Costner driveway during the Christmas season starting Thanksgiving night, take a candy cane from Santa, and enjoy a spectacle which some say resembles a Mini-McAdenville.

LIGHTS, 4A

Inside Look Architect studies downtown buildings

By EMILY WEAVER Editor

A special architect visited downtown Kings Mountain last Thursday on invitation from the North Carolina Main Street Program of which the city is now a part.

Historical architect and Main Street Designer Lauren Malinoff visited several sites and property owners with Mountaineer Partnership Executive Director Adam Hines to help design a vision for downtown.

DOWNTOWN, 3A



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD Property owner Scott Campbell, right, talks about his downtown buildings with Main Street Designer Lauren Malinoff, front, and Mountaineer Partnership Director Adam Hines.

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