



Helping Hands - 5A
Summer campers at the KM Family YMCA help feed the hungry

Sports 1B
Mountaineer mini-camp starts Tues.

BUSINESS - Behavioral health offices merge into one location in Kings Mountain 7A

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DOWNTOWN

Big visit next week

Downtown gets ready to welcome special Main Street team for 4-day visit to focus action plan on revitalization

By **EMILY WEAVER**
Editor

Next week will be an important week for the city. Dignitaries and officials with the state's department of commerce and the North Carolina Main Street and Small Main Street Program (a process developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Main Street Center) will be coming to Kings Mountain to focus an action plan for revitalizing the downtown area.

The visiting group, called a "resource team", is made up of Liz Parham, director of the Office of Urban Development; Teresa Watts, assistant director of the NC Main Street Center; Lauren Malinoff, the state's Main Street designer; Lew Holloway, designer for the western division of the Small Main Street program; and Bob Murphrey, a specialist in economic restructuring and organization.

The team will arrive on Monday and over a week span will meet with local leaders, business owners, and others throughout the community to discuss downtown issues and opportunities and to provide a variety of ideas and strategies for increasing economic vitality in Kings Mountain's central business district.

"The team is looking forward to being in Kings Mountain," Parham said. "We will be looking for opportunities to expand on the good work that is already taking place and opportunities to make improvements in downtown."

"A resource team visit is an intense experience," according to the NC Main Street Center. "It occurs over four days, it involves a large number of local people, a great deal of information is absorbed and synthesized, and it results in a series of concise recommendations presented at a public meeting."

A public reception will be held on Tuesday, July 27th, from 6-7 p.m., in the lobby

PUBLIC RECEPTIONS

The Mountaineer Partnership Inc. and NC Main Street staff invite and encourage community members to attend the following meetings to be held next week.

Public Reception - Tuesday, July 27th, 6-7 p.m., at Joy Performance Center, 202 S. Railroad Ave. The purpose of this meet-and-greet reception is to welcome the NC Main Street Program staff, view the new Kings Mountain economic drivers vision statement, and review newspaper articles detailing Kings Mountain's first year as a Main Street community. Light refreshments will be provided.

Public Presentation - Thursday, July 29th, 7-8:30 p.m., at Kings Mountain Woman's Club, 108 E. Mountain St. The NC Main Street staff will present their recommendations on how to create a vibrant, healthy and thriving downtown using streetscape design, historic preservation, economic restructuring and promotion. Refreshments will be provided.

of the Joy Performance Center, 202 S. Railroad Ave. A public presentation will be held Thursday, July 29th, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Kings Mountain Woman's Clubhouse, 108 E. Mountain St.

At the public presentation NC Main Street staff will present their recommendations on how to create a vibrant, healthy and thriving

See **VISIT, 7A**

Correction

The Herald incorrectly reported last week that Ted Ford is the owner of a sweepstakes business.

Ford, who owns the building in which the business is located, said he does not own the business itself. He rents space in his building to Etna Lena Sweepstakes.

The Herald had asked the City of Kings Mountain for a list of sweepstakes businesses. The list given to The Herald from the city's codes department listed Ford as owner. When The Herald later asked for copies of the application for permits to verify

ownership, the city refused to provide them, claiming they are not public records.

They further explained that for their internal purposes the codes department uses the name of the building owner rather than the business owner when defining ownership. That distinction had not been made when the city provided the original information.

Splash into summer fun



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD
Abigail Cody enjoys a cool slice of watermelon last year at Beach Blast.

11th annual Beach Blast to have fun for all this Saturday at Patriot's Park

A Teenie Weenie Bikini Contest, a watermelon eating competition, a high heel road race, a big beach ball drop, volleyball, bands, vendors and more will highlight this Saturday's 11th annual Beach Blast at Patriot's Park in downtown Kings Mountain.

The event, which will run from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., will pay homage to the water, the sun, the music and the fun normally seen along the Grand Strand. City Special Events Director Ellis Noell said that with all of the activities planned downtown Kings Mountain will feel more like Ocean Drive.

Beach music fans can shag dance into the summer night with music at the gazebo provided by The Extraordinaires, Jim Quick & the Coastline Band and the Band of Oz. People of all ages can cool off and have fun on the Rotary Splash Pad, under the rain of a 30' spray "fountain" and in rounds of Water Wars.

A special car show featuring the "first SUVs" or early station wagons, known as "woodies" for their original

See **BLAST, 3A**

BEACH BLAST TIMELINE

- 12 p.m. - Teenie Weenie Bikini Contest (sponsored by First National Bank)
- 1 p.m. - The Extraordinaires
- 1:45 p.m. - Watermelon Eating Contest (sponsored by Falls Insurance)
- 3:45 p.m. - Big Beach Ball Drop (sponsored by Adventures in Advertising and Jason Falls' campaign commission)
- 4 p.m. - Jim Quick & the Coastline Band
- 7 p.m. - Band of Oz

INSIDE

Local groups work to feed hungry **5A**

Film Fest to light up screen tonight

Cleveland County Arts Council's 11th annual Real to Reel International Film Festival will start rolling tonight at the Joy Performing Arts Center with the showing of the first six of 27 films coming to Kings Mountain from as far away as the United Kingdom, Australia, Japan and Canada.

The July 21-24 festival, held each year in downtown, showcases the works of filmmakers in a variety of genres.

This year's international film festival will feature 13 short-length films, ranging from seven minutes to 21 minutes; eight documentaries on subjects such as endangered gorillas in the rain forests of Cameroon and the superstition of the "evil eye"; four animation clips, and two feature-length films. Showtime begins each night at 7 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. A Saturday matinee will begin at 1 p.m.

A wrap party with the festival's presentation of awards will follow the final film showing on Saturday night, July 24.

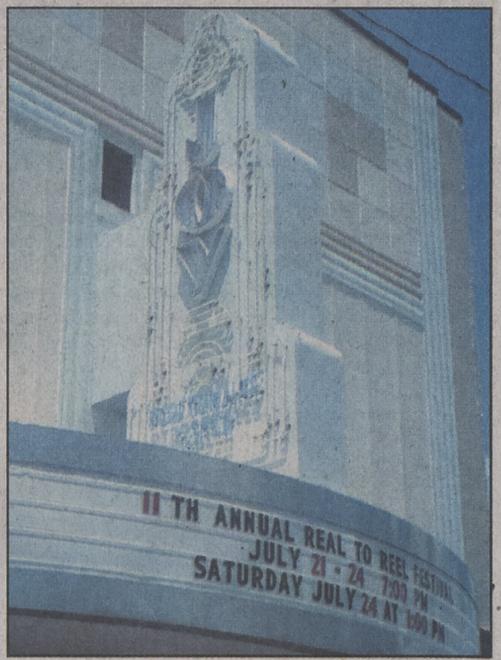
Tickets will be sold for \$8 each day at the box office. A festival pass, giving film lovers a ticket to all showings, the matinee and festival party, will be sold for \$30 each. Children under age 12 will be admitted free with a guardian. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.ccartscouncil.org

Attendees may have a chance to meet some of the filmmakers at the showings. Violet Arth, who has organized the film festival for six years now, said that she has received word that at least five filmmakers will be attending.

This year's Real to Reel will feature six foreign films and one from a filmmaker in Raleigh.

Arth, who is also the director of marketing at the Cleve-

See **FILM, 3A**



The Joy marquee announces opening night.

Truck plaza pedestals to purge pollution

By **ELIZABETH STEWART**
Staff writer

Big rigs won't have to idle while truck drivers eat and sleep at the Kings Mountain Truck Plaza if City Council agrees Tuesday night to be the administrator of a \$540,000 federal grant aimed at reducing pollution on the highways.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said the grant money would provide 50-plus electric service pedestals at the Truck Plaza owned by Trent Testa on Dixon School Road. The pedestals would provide air-conditioning, heat and electricity without the trucks idling and create a pollution-free environment.

The mayor said that when trucks

idle they give off fumes and the reduction of air pollution will help the Charlotte Metropolitan Area conform to federal air pollution guidelines and keep its federal highway dollars. Another benefit, he said, of electrification will be gasoline savings.

Planning Director Steve Killian said the city is involved because a local government must be the grant administrator for the project from the Federal Department of Transportation.

Centralina Council of Government, which has administered a similar project in Rowan County, would administer the contract and handle front end expenses on behalf of the city. The grant includes \$51,000 for administration and legal work, including staff

services and local NCDOT staff to handle construction inspection.

Killian said the agreements include: the contract for the vendor to install pedestals and absorb any costs the grant cannot cover; the agreement for the truck stop owner to reimburse the city in case the truck stop ceases to operate or the pedestals become inoperable during the first seven years; and the agreement between the vendor and the truck stop owner that covers conditions of operation during the first seven years.

Killian said he will recommend that the city move forward with the project.

City Council meets at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall.



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