

Last weekend for 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!'



Pictured are members of the large cast of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" which plays Friday and Saturday nights at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. at Joy Theatre. Sell-out crowds have been attending the Kings Mountain Little Theatre performances of the Christmas season classic.



The Angel Choir and Baby Angels on stage at Joy Theatre with Mary and Joseph as they sing, "Angels We Have Heard on High."

Photos by SHELLEY WOOD

Kiser – Citizen of the Year



Donna Lumsden, Michelle Inman, Bessemer City Manager James Inman and Melaney Brakefield, new city clerk, are pictured at the BC Area Chamber banquet in Bessemer City.

BESSEMER CITY - Melba Kiser is Bessemer City's Citizen of the Year and Bridget Martin won the Business of the Year award. They were honored by the Bessemer City Area Chamber of Commerce at a dinner Nov. 29 at First Baptist Church Family Life Center. Jeff Kirchner, Chamber treasurer, introduced the Citizen of the Year. Kiser is chairman of the Bessemer City Image Committee, president of the Bessemer City Garden Club, delivers meals on wheels, is an Elder in First Presbyterian Church, and serves on the Main Street committee, in addition to other volunteer service and projects to im-

prove the appearance of Bessemer City. Otis Whitehurst, a member of the BC Merchants Association, introduced Martin. Martin opened her new business, The Computer Chick, in Angel's Upscale in downtown Bessemer City this year. She started the Bessemer City Community Newsletter, "The Heart of the Story" in 2012. She is also a member of the Bessemer City Merchants Association and the Bessemer City Main Street committee, accomplishing these community services while growing her business. New City Manager James Inman was principal speaker. With the direction of city

council he said he wants to grow Bessemer City, both economically and with quality of life improvements. Increased code enforcement, community-wide clean up projects, and ways to attract small businesses as goals. "I am excited about Bessemer City," he said. The Bessemer City Boys and Girls Club Choir sang Christmas songs. The Chamber event, Run Around Downtown 5K, was fundraiser for this organization and raised \$875. Dr. Bob Crouch, Chamber President, was MC for the occasion. He recognized Chamber officials and said a goal is to double the Chamber's membership in 2013.

HACKERS: on the move

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card and sends it to places like New York, New Jersey, Ohio and Pennsylvania and sells it to other people and it's almost impossible to tell where it originated. There can be a common ground, however, of multiple people using their cards at the same place and the search can narrow; but many people use their cards at numerous places," he added. Hackers have hit food stores, restaurants, ATMs and gas stations in the county because, says the chief, they know where the shoppers are and that most places don't require the customer to give a PIN number. A recent news report said that 9.6 million people in the US had their cards compromised this year, many of them during the weeks before the biggest shopping day of the year—Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving. Local merchants say they tell their customers to check with their banks and credit card contacts and take every precaution. This is a new form of high tech theft, and because more and more people pay by credit/debit cards the thieves don't have to empty their accounts. They take a little here, a little there, from many accounts, which people often don't even notice. Chief Proctor adds this advice: "Know where your card is swiped, watch the person swiping it and don't let it get out of your sight."

•Watch where you use the card. Most places don't require a PIN number. These technology whizzes depend on that. •Call security. Each card has a security number on the back. Let the company know your normal purchases and if your purchases will be out of normal range tell them when you are using the card. Ask the banks to call you immediately if your card is being compromised. And if it is used other times, ask them to make a call to you immediately. •You open up a risk when you use your card everywhere. •Hackers choose places where they know a PIN code is not required. Several local people said they asked their banks to freeze their accounts for 10 days. Two cases of financial transaction fraud were reported to KMPD this week. A local bank reported that someone used a victim's identification to cash a check for \$672. One Kings Mountain resident said that his debit card numbers were used by someone to gain access to \$60 from his bank account and the card was used at a toy store in Dublin, California. Another resident said that his credit card was used by someone in New York to buy \$293.28 in merchandise. Chief Proctor says the police are investigating all reports. "Hackers usually move on to new locations," he says. But in the meantime, the Chief is paying with cash.

ZONING: text amendment sent back to the table

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materials in council's packets did not jibe with what his client had and that the planning board had not approved 100-foot setbacks at last month's lengthy meeting. Also voting to table were councilmen Howard Shipp, Mike Butler, Dean Spears and mayor pro tem Rodney Gordon. Voting against tabling the issue were councilmen Rick Moore and Tommy Hawkins. "I commend Mr. Brown, his attorney, the P&Z board and staff for all working together. I was told that staff cannot find another development like this anywhere else in the country so Kings Mountain has to pioneer all the ordinance and zoning language from scratch and that takes more work," Miller said after the meeting. He added, "All are to be commended." Moore called P&Z Chairman Doug Lawing to the microphone twice to ask if what council had in its packet was what the board voted on. Lawing acknowledged affirmatively both times. Gastonia Attorney Doug Arthurs said that what prompted his client to seek a text amendment is because there is no provision for multiple recreation in city ordinances. "This gold-colored page I have in my hands is a deception," he countered, adding, "What was voted on was in the original package, this is disturbing." "It's in my agenda packet," said Miller.

"It's in my packet," said Mayor Rick Murphrey, who said the planning board had worked for months on the recommendation being presented to city council. "I don't think we should put this off, put it to a vote," said Hawkins. Arthur argued there are two specific setbacks in contention. "My client was required to double what the planning board suggests in this paper," showing a gold colored paper detailing the text amendment definitions, adding, "I can't pitch a tent unless its 100 feet from the property line." "I did not see this document before tonight," said Arthurs. The mayor said after the vote to table that he was disappointed. Killian, the city's Planning and Economic Development director and secretary to the planning board appointed by city council, said that he thought the planning board had made its recommendation clear. "I only put their recommendations on paper and present to city council, which has final say. There were no dissenting votes at last month's planning board, all 11 people voted "yes" on this recommendation. Killian said after the meeting that anytime a principal use is established, a house or manufacturing operation, for instance, a set back from the property line is required. In this case, there is a campground, ATV course, trail, go cart track, and movie cinema and the

setback should be 100 feet from the adjoining property line. Mr. Brown disagrees and wants it to be substantially less than 100 feet. Essentially, said Killian, Mr. Brown wants a certain type of setback for 14 uses in the request and two other uses, also lower than the 100-foot setback requirement from the property line. "If you have several different uses (pool, zip line, parking, campground, ATV course, go cart track) each with different setback rules, how do you figure out which ones to use when all the uses are on the same property?" said Miller after the meeting. "For example," he added, "you need more space between a home and ATV course than you would need between a home and a pool. That is what they are still working on."

HAWKINS: named board chair

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Hawkins presided at his first meeting Tuesday night. He will preside at a commission workshop next Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the conference room of the Harry Administrative Offices in Shelby. "We will continue what chairman Johnny Hutchins and the board have put in place," said Hawkins. The number one goal will be the creation of much-needed jobs, he continued, praising the successes of economic development leaders during the past year in recruiting industry and jobs.

Hawkins wants the county to be first in offering an incentive plan to retail businesses. He explained how that would work without "red tape." A business would apply for a building permit for an expansion for x number of dollars and the county would rebate that merchant for x number of dollars in property tax abatement. The retailer would provide a copy of the building permit and the number of employees and could get additional percentage with additional employees. Hawkins said that commissioners will also look at recruiting hotels for Cleveland County to provide lodging for visitors and also pointing to large companies that use the new LeGrand Center and need a place to stay. Commissioners have pledged previously no tax increases, and on the drawing board also are raises for county employees who haven't had wage increases in four years. "Our challenge will continue to be quality of life for our citizens," said Hawkins. Presenters at the Dec. 11 work session will be Charter School, Destination Cleveland County, and Kings Mountain's Patrick Senior Center, among others.

BID: awarded to BB&T

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on the progress of public education programs and surveys underway by the Codes department with assistance from an advisory committee. She said the federal Clean Water Act mandates a storm water management plan for every household and her committee is busy educating the public with storm water

presentations before civic and church groups. "Invite us, we'll go anywhere, there's lots for the community to know about storm water," she said. "We haven't had the response we would like but the second year of the program begins in January," she told the board. In future months city council will be asked to approve an ordinance and determine a utility fee.

ANNEXATION: approved

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police, sanitation and fire protection, and will be able to stock beer and wine products on its grocery shelves.

Heath says he plans to employ six or seven full time employees and in the future possibly open a restaurant which would up the number of employees.

Todd Weaver
12.02.64 ~ 11.25.06

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