

# Kings Mountain Herald

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## Council seats up for grabs

ELIZABETH STEWART  
lib.kmherald@gmail.com

It's a race for all three city council seats up for grabs in November as a Kings Mountain woman threw her hat into the political ring to contest Ward 2 incumbent Mike Butler.

Previously filing for city council were Butler, Jerry Mullinax, who seeks to unseat incumbent Tommy Hawkins in Ward 3, and Curtis Pressley who is opposing incumbent councilman Dean Spears for the At-large seat.

Patty Hall, 54, 111 Stowe Acres, who filed last week for the Ward 2 seat, has worked in city government for 26 years, beginning with the City of Bessemer City for six years as a laboratory tech operator in the water department. She joined the City of Cherryville 20 years ago and heads the Water Department/ Treatment Plant where she supervises five employees and recently won awards from the state and the Environmental Protection Agency.

"I want to give back to this community and feel that my experience in running a water department will be valuable as Kings Mountain moves to run water lines and make improvements in water/sewer," said Mrs. Hall. Her husband, Stanley Hall, retired from Chemtura after 34 years and has worked at the City of Lincolnton Wastewater Plant for three years.

Daughter of the late Nora Elizabeth Croft and John Bennett Powell, Mrs. Hall's mother was reared in Kings Mountain. Mrs. Hall was born and raised in Morganton but moved to Kings Mountain 36 years ago. She is a graduate of Freedom High School in Morganton and is earning a two-year degree in Environmental Science. She served two years on the board of examiners in the Division of Water Resources which tests water and holds a grade A Surface Center certification in water and a grade 2 in wastewater treatment and is state certified in lab testing. Her 2012 award from the state was from the Area-wide Optimization program. Mrs. Hall presents the water department budget to Cherryville city council annually and says she and her employees in the water plant are very conscious of public health. The Halls attend Cornerstone Church of God on Margrace Road in Kings Mountain.



Patty Hall



Mike Butler



Jerry Mullinax



Tommy Hawkins



Curtis Pressley



Dean Spears

## Two file for Grover city council seats

ELIZABETH STEWART  
lib.kmherald@gmail.com

As candidate filing ended last Friday two residents of Grover filed for two of the three seats on city council up for grabs in November.

Jackie Hope Bennett, 73, 323 Briarcliff Road, is running for re-election to her seat on the board, and newcomer to politics Rodney Ross, 46, 107 Walnut Ave., has filed for one of the open seats for a four-year term. Neither incumbent Cindy O'Brian, who is serving as mayor pro tem, and Shane Davis, filed with the elections board but may mount write-in campaigns.

"I want to run for office for my children and I want to

see change come to the community," said Ross. He said he wants to see the community come together "tighter" in this economy and get back to helping people when they are in a crunch. He wants a safer neighborhood for all families and he wants to help make a change not only for his children, but for all families in the community. He is interested in growth and wants to be the new face on city council in November.

See GROVER, 7A



Jackie Bennett



Rodney Ross



Even Mayor Rick Murphrey got in on the watermelon eating contest at last Saturday's BeachBlast! See more BeachBlast photos on page 1B of today's edition.  
photo by Ellen Devenny/CKM

## BeachBlast beat the heat!

Thirty-seven youngsters in the Teeny Weenie Bikini contest were crowd-pleasers at Saturday's BeachBlast at Patriots Park which attracted hundreds of people who ob-

viously enjoyed the "Grand Strand," shagging to beach music, the Beach Ball Drop, and all-round family fun during the 12 hour festivities.

The weatherman was

smiling on the event sponsored by the City of Kings Mountain and kids took to the Rotary splash pad as soon as the event opened and stayed in the cool water most

of the day.

Events on the bandstand of the Gazebo attracted crowds as visitors brought their chairs, watched shag

See BEACH BLAST, 7A

## Real to Reel opens tonight

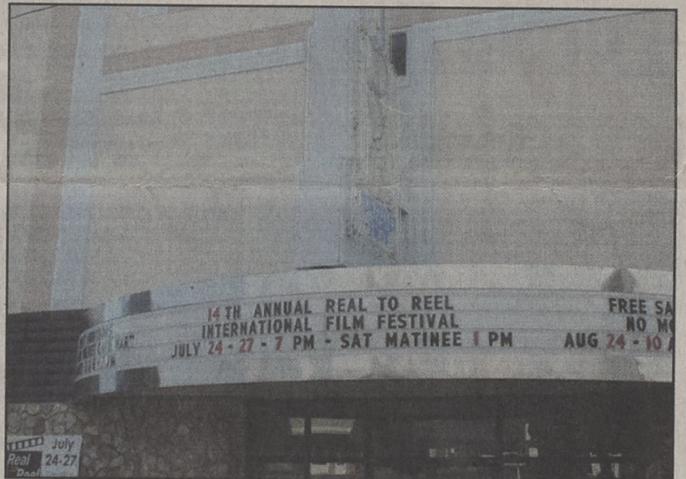
Cleveland County Arts Council's 14th annual Real to Reel International Film Festival will start rolling tonight (Wednesday) at the Joy Performance Center with the showing of the first of 34 films from short length to animation clips, documentaries, and feature-length shows which will light up the silver screen through Saturday.

The festival showcases the works of filmmakers in a variety of genres and is co-sponsored by the Kings Mountain Little Theatre and Historic Kings Mountain Tourism Development Authority.

Filmmakers from as far away as Spain, Germany and New Zealand and as close as Concord will be showing their films during the four-day competitive festival. Show time is 7 p.m. each evening and includes a 1 p.m. matinee on Saturday.

Returning this year is the silent auction, which runs throughout the festival. Items such as scripts from movies, trips to famous movie locations, and unique movie memorabilia will go to the highest bidders at the end of the festival. There will also be question/answer sessions with all visiting filmmakers and special giveaways throughout the festival. A wrap up party following the Saturday night shows will feature presentation of \$1750 in cash awards to the winners in both the professional and amateur categories.

The competition is keen. The 34 films were chosen from many that were



entered in the festival. Theatre-goers will view a number from North Carolina.

Some of the films are of a mature theme. A schedule in this week's Herald gives the showtime for each film as well as how the film is rated PG, G, or PG-13. Another story in today's Herald also gives a synopsis of each film for the four-day festival.

At least five filmmakers are expected to be present for evening showing of their films or for the grand finale on Saturday. They include Bob Pondillo of Tennessee, "New True Charlie Wu" which shows Wednesday night; Kevin

Ballou of North Carolina, "Bathanti" which shows Thursday night; Melanie Wainber of Florida whose "Dr. Gutman's Eulogy" shows on Friday night; and Larry Evans of Raleigh, "Chairworks" and Margaret Williams of New York whose 90 minute feature "Wet Behind the Ears" shows Saturday night.

Tickets are \$8 per session, in advance, or a festival pass for \$30 purchased at the Arts Center, 111 S. Washington St., Shelby, or online at www.realtoreelfest.com. Tickets at the door are \$10 per session or a festival pass for \$35. Children ages 12 and under are admitted free.

## 'The New Charlie Wu' to premier at festival

Like Charlie in "New Charlie Wu", the 30-minute film he wrote and directed for tonight's opening of the International Film Festival at the Joy Theatre, Dr. Bob Pondillo was once locked in a job he hated.

Dr. Pondillo, Professor of Mass History and American Culture at Middle Tennessee State University, wants the audience to leave the theatre tonight (Wednesday) with a sense of joy and hope and he chose a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic cast for that reason in the musical fantasy in which

he collaborated with Nashville songwriter Casey Kelley. He had never written a musical and he wanted to have fun with the film.

Says Pondillo, "I hope the audience will see the universality of a basic human drive - the desire for authenticity in one's life and how one's work gives one meaning, purpose, and identity and that they see a little bit of themselves in the film, it may prompt them to have their own Charlie Wu moment."

See DIRECTOR, 7A

## Polling change for KM

ELIZABETH STEWART  
lib.kmherald@gmail.com

Kings Mountain citizens who have been voting in recent elections at the North Precinct (the KM Family YMCA on Cleveland Avenue) may cast their ballots at a new location this November - the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life & Conference Center on East King Street.

Members of the Cleveland County Elections Board discussed some prospective changes in polling locations at the recent meeting in Shelby.

Debra Blanton, Director

of Elections, met Tuesday with the Advisory Board of the Senior Center to discuss the proposed change in polling locations. The Advisory Board is expected to confirm the location change.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said the election board is recommending the change to make voting more convenient for senior citizens and also to give all voters in the North Precinct more parking spaces.

"The YMCA has been gracious to us to use the facility at the back of the building for voting purposes but the senior center will be nice, too, and convenient," he said.



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