

KINGSFORT TENNESSEE Times News

Walking the 'Walk'

The Johnny Cash... the Golden Glo... Monday and earned a... Witherspoon and Jo



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TUESDAY



David Grace — dgrace@timesnews.net

About 75 people marched along Center Street in Kingsport Monday for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade. Below, residents gather for MLK observances in Wise.



Stephen Igo — sigo@timesnews.net

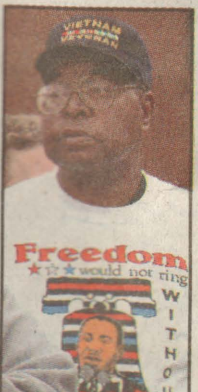
MLK DAY

• Kingsport honors civil rights leader with parade

■ In 2006, Kingsport's school system will be asked to officially recognize Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a holiday, while the BMA will be asked to name a major city street after King.

By RAIN SMITH
rsmith@timesnews.net

KINGSFORT — The harmony of "We Shall Overcome" reverberated off the walls of downtown Kingsport on Monday, as more than 70 people paraded down Center Street to honor the 20th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



It was Kingsport's sixth annual parade honor-

• Marchers in Wise celebrate MLK's legacy

■ 'Decade of Dreams' was the theme of Monday's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration.

By STEPHEN IGO
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WISE — The wisdom of age and experience seasoned an upbeat, youthful crowd gathered in Wise on Monday for the 10th anniversary of local observances, including the annual march up Main Street, of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Monday's "Decade of Dreams" sponsored by the University of Virginia's College at Wise and the college's Black History Month Committee packed the First Church of God's fellowship hall for a pre-march supper with more than 200 men, women, children and college students — including from Mountain Empire Community College's AmeriCorps program

Sullivan tax revenue on upswing

■ Countywide sales tax revenue totals more than \$21.36 million for fiscal year 2006 compared to \$20.49 million at this point in fiscal year 2005.

By J.H. OSBORNE
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BLOUNTVILLE — Countywide sales tax revenues are about \$875,000 above last year at this point, Sullivan County Accounts and Budgets Director Larry Bailey said last week.

After taking a downward dip in November, revenue from sales taxes generated in the city of Kingsport bounced back this month with a more than \$900,000 increase from the same month last year, Bailey said.

When a consumer pays sales tax locally, it is sent to the state, which redistributes it back to the county and its cities based on collection site.

Sales tax revenue is typically distributed back to localities two months after being collected.

Taxes collected during November, for example, come back to the localities in January.

In January 2005, the state sent more than \$1.64 million total back for sales taxes collected within the city — with half, or more than \$820,000, going to the city of Kingsport's coffers, and the other half being split among local school systems.

This month the total was nearly \$2.58 million, Bailey said, with half, or nearly \$1.29 million, going

Kingsport eye of surplus pro

■ One large piece of property likely be on the list of surplus is the old health department building.

By MATTHEW LANE
mlane@timesnews.net

to city of going to "It h than ev be," Bai a sudde It mayb should l what w been th With revenue ty, Baile Sales Johnson ty are m nearly \$ point la For e tax rev August. To da • Sul tem has lion — \$187,000 year at t • Bri ceived n more th increas point. • Kin received \$145,000 from las • The is \$6.63 about \$ compar point. • The \$2.35 m \$90,000, last year Pleas

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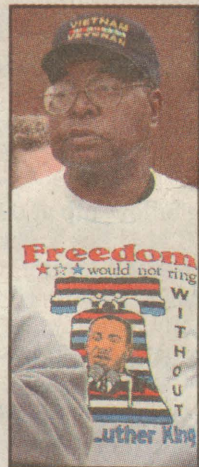
KINGSPORT — The harmony of "We Shall Overcome" reverberated off the walls of downtown Kingsport on Monday, as more than 70 people paraded down Center Street to honor the 20th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

It was Kingsport's sixth annual parade honoring Dr. Martin Luther King and was organized by the Tennessee/Virginia Fellowship Against Racism and the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship. As participants marched through the usually bustling downtown, cars passing the other direction slowed to honk and wave, while some employees of businesses came out onto the sidewalk to show support.

As the parade reached its conclusion in the Kingsport Public Library parking lot, the Rev. Ron Collins urged everyone on hand to come together — despite color — as brothers and sisters. He made the point that King's dream is not his alone but was first laid out by Christ, who has the power to unite people and communities.

"Christ loved me enough to die

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David Grace — dgrace@timesnews.net

Participants in Kingsport's Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade gather to pray at the end of the parade, top. Wearing an MLK shirt, James Snapp, left, listens to speakers after Kingsport's parade. At right, Markees Eubanks, son of Mary Eubanks, founder of the annual Martin Luther King Jr. march in Wise, was a two-fisted candle-holder during Monday's observances, which began at The First Church of God.



Stephen Igo — sigo@timesnews.net

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The Rev. Dr. Marcus Arkité Pierce, pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Zion Church in Kingsport, was special guest speaker at the Wise observances. Pierce said he was a bit in awe of the gathering to honor King in Wise.

"I'm impressed. I'm impressed because this is an occasion to reprise the fertility of the dream of Martin Luther King — an indestructible dream," Pierce said.

"This is an eternalistic take on an indestructible stand, and all the young people I see here this evening lifts my spirit. The pursuits of justice and denial of injustice I superbly think is in order here tonight, to speak to young people today that they must catch the glimpse of the dream now. Catch hold of it now, and then

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By MATTHEW LANE
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KINGSPORT — City Hall is not for sale. Neither is Allandale, the Civic Auditorium or Dobyns-Bennett High School. But some city-owned property could be available to the public later this year.

Alderman Hoyt Denton, the designated alderman for property, has been asked by the Kingsport Board of Mayor and Aldermen to review all city-owned property and return with a recommendation if any property should be deemed surplus and sold.

Though Denton said he has not had time to investigate the properties, he added that the reason for going through this process is to try and make surplus property more useful to the citizens of Kingsport.

"I haven't taken any action on that because we've been dealing with a more important real estate issue," Denton said, referring to

Good morning from:

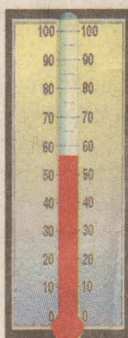
Nicholas Raxter of Erwin.



Weather

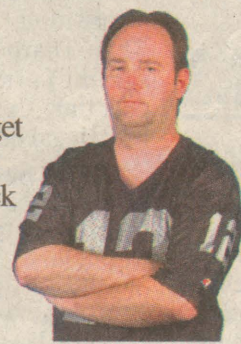
Mostly cloudy today with a 60% chance of showers and a high of 56; low tonight of 34.

Complete weather report on 12A.



NASCAR's early days

As a general rule, teenage boys don't get too excited at the prospect of attending an open house. But let me tell you, back around 1976, I was psyched up to visit Norris Industries, a manufacturer of wheel covers in Duffield. Page 1B.



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