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KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C.

City's New Pay Plan Draws Mixed Reactions

Personnel Director On Job

By LIB STEWART
News Editor

On his first day at work Monday as the city's first personnel director Charles Webber was busy getting acquainted with department heads.

"I like it," said Webber, 35, who feels at home in his depart-

ment because he has worked with the Employment Security Commission for 12 years.

His first duties will be to assist City Manager George Wood and Finance Director Marvin Chappell in implementing the city's new pay plan for 170 employees.

Another project Webber expects to undertake soon will be to

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WEBBER

By LIB STEWART
News Editor

One of the biggest pay raises in the city's history, \$212,000 for this year alone, is receiving mixed reactions by the city's 170 employees who are rejoicing with the extra money but fear the raise may not offset the rising costs of health insurance.

City Manager George Wood and Finance director Marvin Chappell said city employees will still "come out ahead" even when city council implements a plan to charge the employee a portion of his dependent health coverage.

City Council last Tuesday approved the pay and

classification plan submitted by Municipal Advisors, Inc., of Virginia Beach, Va., a firm that the board hired at recommendation of Mayor Kyle Smith when he assumed office last December. City employees will receive comparable pay of those on the same jobs in Shelby, Gastonia, Lincolnton, Forest City, Gaffney, and York, S.C.

All city employees, except four above the maximum steps, will receive at least 2 1/2 percent raises in September and possibly another 2 1/2 percent on their anniversary of end of their probationary period with the city.

Chappell said the initial raise, which averages for some about 6.5 to 7.5 percent, will appear in

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Crowders Creek Contract Signed

By LIB STEWART
News Editor

Mayor Kyle Smith joined Gastonia Mayor J.B. Garland and Gaston County Commissioner David Beam Thursday at 6 p.m. in affixing official seals to close the four-municipality deal on the Crowders Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

On Friday Gaston County officials hand-delivered the documents to the State Environmental Protection Agency in Raleigh.

The \$26-28 million project now awaits final approval of a \$14 million federal grant which depended largely on Kings Mountain's participation in the project.

Thursday morning at 11 a.m. Gastonia City officials voted 5-1 to shift about \$3 million of the cost from Kings Mountain to Gastonia.

At the signing ceremony Mayor Garland said that Gastonia staffers are studying the best way to raise the extra funds and "Gastonia is proud to be a part of this day."

Gaston County commissioners and Kings Mountain city council approved unanimously the new agreement last week in separate meetings.

None of the Gastonia council members objected to the clause in the Kings Mountain contract that delays for six years any annexation west of Gastonia and east of Kings Mountain. Councilman Robert Caldwell, unopposed to the project, objected to the additional cost to be paid by Gastonia.

"You're not going to get all you want but what you try to do is get the bulk of what you want as

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Contract Signed

Representatives of the municipalities involved in the Crowders Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, \$26-\$28 million project, signed contracts Thursday in Gastonia. Seated, from left, are Gastonia Mayor J.B. Garland, Kings Mountain Mayor Kyle Smith and Gaston County Commission Chairman David Beam. Back row, from left, Gaston County Manager Phil Hinely, Gastonia Utility Director Sam Wilkins, Kings Mountain City Manager George Wood, Rep. Vernon Abernathy and Rep. Walt Widley.

Photo By Lib Stewart

STRONG LOCAL ECONOMY



Cleveland Co. Unemployment	4.4%
Manufacturing Production of Capacity	80%
20 yr. Fixed Mortgage Rate	10.5%
Prime Rate	10%

Local Economy Still Looks Good

By TODD GOSSETT
Staff Reporter

The local economy is generally considered strong now and should stay that way in the coming months, according to most economic indicators and local analysts.

Unemployment in Cleveland County was 4.4 percent in June, down from 4.6 percent a year ago. Statewide, unemployment hovered around 3.5 percent, according to the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina.

The June unemployment figure was higher than in previous months mostly due to school employees and students getting out of school for the summer and entering the labor force, said Bob Burns, a labor market analyst with the Employment Security Commission in Charlotte. Most of those entering the summer labor force were able to find jobs, Burns said.

The unemployment rate should smooth out later this year after students and teachers go back to school. Burns predicted that continued prosperity, a robust economy and hiring across the board will continue in the area for the near future. "This is essentially full-employment," he said.

Joe Hendrick, Cleveland County Economic Development director, said indications from the state show that there might be a slight downturn in employment in the fall - especially in textiles. Hendrick doesn't expect to see much of a downturn in Cleveland County, he said.

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Red Cross Bloodmobile To Visit Here September 1

Kings Mountain Industries will sponsor a bloodmobile visit Thurs., Sept. 1 from 1-6 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Kings Mountain.

The American Red Cross collects blood every day to insure that blood is available for patients who are ill or undergoing surgery, said Marlene Reynolds of Glen Raven Mills, who is helping promote the upcoming visit. "The people in Kings Mountain have always been very supportive of the bloodmobile, and we need to again ask for their support," she said.

The goal is 135 pints. Persons wishing to donate for the first time must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and have a medical history free from certain diseases such as hepatitis, cancer and heart disease. Any questions can be directed to the Red Cross office in Shelby.

Rhoney Central Assistant

Michael Rhoney, business teacher at Bessemer City High School, was hired Thursday as the new assistant principal at Central Middle School in Kings Mountain.

The Board of Education made the announcement in a brief called meeting at the Schools' Administration Office.

Rhoney will join the Kings Mountain system in about 30 days and will be moving to Kings Mountain as soon as he can sell his home, Superintendent Bob McRae noted.

Rhoney will replace Greg Payseur, who opted to take a new assistant principal's job made possible through the state's Basic Education Plan. Payseur will serve as an assistant principal at Central and Bethware Elementary School, splitting his time between the two schools.

Prior to going to Bessemer City, Rhoney taught business and was an assistant principal at Burns High School. He is 36 years old and is a graduate of Appalachian State University. He earned his Education Specialist degree at Western Carolina University.



Ready For School

The unexpected rain Monday morning didn't do anything to dampen the spirits of an excited Jason Hendren, who is escorted by Gwen Watts, Jason's a third grader.

Professor Urges Teachers To Make Warm Classrooms

"Where is the fun, excitement and enthusiasm of teaching?" asked Dr. Bill Purkey of 450 faculty members assembled Friday for a back-to-school motivation lecture in B.N. Barnes Auditorium.

Challenging veteran teachers to be as excited as the few beginner teachers in the audience, Purkey said teachers need a passion to accomplish more in the classroom by laughing a lot and if they want to be a \$6 million man or woman they need to look and act the role.

The professor of counseling and education at UNC-G poked fun at the educators while elaborating on some goals for teachers as they return to classrooms for the 1988-89 academic year this week.

"You can't come from somewhere you haven't been. Stand tall, dress well, eat less and take care of yourselves so you can take care of the children in your classroom," he said.

"Attack your clothes closed. Buy a \$200 outfit and look good when you go to work. Look good and dress professionally at all times." "Report to school early and greet the children. Say 'good morning' and 'goodbye' in the afternoon. Everyone can spot a sour teacher."

"You're in the people business. Find new ways to teach and don't rest on your laurels if you're a veteran. You have to care for your students because it shows. Kids are smart."

"If you lose one child and he drops out of school all of you get poor marks."

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Blackie Oates Dead At Age 74

Rufus S. (Blackie) Oates, 74, worked on the corner of East King Street at Oates Shell Station almost all his life and earned his nickname from his occupation.

The popular mechanic walked to Central School as a boy from the family homeplace on East King Street and got his first job as a boy pumping gas at the old Treadway East King Shell which, in later years, he bought and operated until 20 years ago when he sold the business to his former employee, Danny Shockley, and the name changed to East King Shell Station.

Oates died Thursday in Kings Mountain Hospital.

After he retired July 1985, he walked to the station at least twice a day or more to chat with customers and friends.

Funeral services were held



RUFUS S. OATES

Saturday at 3 p.m. at Harris Funeral Home Chapel by his pastor, Rev. John Sloan, of First Baptist Church. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Oates was a native of Cleveland County, son of the late Charles Calvin and Laura Morrison Oates who farmed the land where Allen's Flower Shop stands today and lived at 700 E. King, where Oates built his home. He was the husband of the late Janie Mae Rhodes (Ginny) Oates.

Survivors include a son, Timothy Oates of Los Angeles, Calif., a daughter, Evelyn Califf of Myrtle Beach, S.C., a brother, Charles Calvin Oates of Kings Mountain; a sister, Nell Hoyle of Chapel Hill; and two grandchildren.

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