

Kings Mountain Herald

North Carolina
KINGS MOUNTAIN

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VOL. 101 NO. 19

Monday Freeze Gets Crop

Farmers who took precautions for Monday morning's freeze had very little crop damage, but those who did not have freeze protection lost a large percentage of their crops.

Temperatures dipped below freezing during the early hours of the morning. The National Weather Service reported a low of 29 in this area, and local weather watchers reported readings from 26 to 31 degrees.

Steve Gibson, field crop specialist with the County Agriculture Department, said most field crops escaped damage, but many vegetable crops were killed.

"Surprisingly, even the cotton crops survived," he said. "Corn crops survived and it didn't get cold enough to effect crops such as oats and barley."

Of the horticulture crops, Gibson said green beans were virtually wiped out. Most of those crops will have to be re-planted.

"As far as peaches and apples, I don't think they had any more damage than they had already had from earlier freezes. A lot of the crops have not emerged from the ground yet, so they weren't damaged," Gibson said.

Debbie Lineberger of Killdeer Farms, the area's biggest vegetable producer, said they had very little damage, but it was because her husband, Ervin, started irrigating at

See Freeze, 2-A



Civil Air Patrol photo

TORNADO DAMAGE - This house is one of many that were destroyed during Friday evening's tornadoes which ripped the upper end of Cleveland County and parts of Lincoln, Catawba, Gaston and Burke Counties. Over 200 people in the area were left homeless.

Tornadoes Rip County

Damages from Friday's tornadoes which ripped through upper Cleveland County could reach over \$1 million in structural damage in the county and \$60 million in the state.

Federal investigators were in the Cleveland-Lincoln County area Monday and Tuesday inspecting the area and their findings may help area citizens receive low-interest government loans and federal grants to rebuild their homes.

Six deaths were reported in North Carolina and three in Chesnee, S.C., after the tornadoes hit a 17-county area. Some of the biggest losses of life and property were in the small communities lining highways 10 and 18 in the Toluca-Belwood-Vale area, where 28 homes were destroyed and 14 damaged.

Governor Jim Martin and U.S. Congressman Cass Ballenger flew into the area over the weekend. Martin has applied for federal disaster aid and has asked President Bush to declare 17 counties as disaster areas. Ballenger is also asking the president to release federal funds to assist citizens in rebuilding their homes.

"To see firsthand the effects of the tornadoes on the land was startling; to see the effects on the people who lost their homes, their churches, and their loved ones was gut-wrenching," Ballenger said.

No deaths were reported in Cleveland County, but some 40 persons were treated for injuries at Cleveland Memorial Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Dock McNeely, who lived just inside the Lincoln County line at Toluca, were killed when the tornado completely destroyed their home.

Robert Williams and his wife, Elizabeth, both former employees of Herald Publishing, lost their home in Belwood. They had just returned home from taking their son, Robert III, to a Boy Scout camp and heard the tornado approaching. Mr. Williams said they started to the basement and after going about four steps down the stairs, their house blew away. Mr. Williams, a freelance writer, lost his entire computer system which included two recently-finished books.

Emergency shelters were set up in the county and the Red Cross and other volunteer organizations are assisting the citizens with food, clothing, shelter and other necessities.

Ronnie Hawkins of Kings Mountain flew the first surveillance plane into the area for the Civil Air Patrol. Members of his crew, which included Captain Gene Meade and Ed Spangler, took photos and videos of the damage so Rescue Squads and other volunteers would know what areas to enter. Copies were also flown to the Emergency Operations Center in Raleigh by Tommy Bridges of Kings Mountain and Sam Sanders of Cherokee County.

See Tornado, 2-A

Electric Policy Changed

Kings Mountain City Council changed its electric policy Tuesday night to allow the city to bury primary electrical lines to new subdivisions at no additional charge.

The city's current policy is to charge new developers the difference between the cost of installing overhead lines and underground lines. Otherwise, the service is provided at no charge.

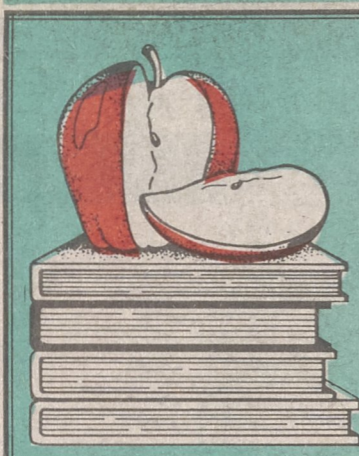
"What we are trying to do is to be more competitive with Duke Power," said City Manager George Wood.

Councilman Fred Finger, who is also a member of the Kings Mountain Utilities Committee, said amending the electric policy will save the city long-term maintenance costs on underground lines which are much more pleasing to a neighborhood. The city needs the profits that come from sale of electricity and gas and once another utility company is in the area Kings Mountain is precluded from going in and Duke gets ahead of us on any adjacent property," he said.

The policy question arose in response to requests from developers who asked the city to extend electrical service to Colonial Woods, near Maner and Phifer Roads, and Deerwood, located west of

See City, Page 8-A

KINGS MOUNTAIN DISTRICT SCHOOLS



East School Membership

Year	1st Month	9th Month
1979-80	359	347
1980-81	376	379
1981-82	385	402
1982-83	395	412
1983-84	382	406
1984-85	381	360
1985-86	343	338
1986-87	284	286
1987-88	262	255
1988-89	263	262

(7th month)

KM School Board To Study Elementary Attendance Lines

By GARY STEWART
Editor of the Herald

The Kings Mountain Board of Education will begin getting serious about the question of what to do with East School at a combination special school board meeting/workshop Tuesday night at the superintendent's office.

At Monday night's regular board meeting, the board was told by Supt. Bob McRae that if construction plans made possible by the re-

cent passage of a \$30 million county-wide school bond referendum stay on schedule, the board will have to make a decision on its elementary attendance lines during the coming school year.

Passage of the bond referendum has made it possible for the school system to go full steam ahead on its plans to upgrade the junior high and high school facilities and close Central as a facility for students. The board will meet with its archi-

tect Tuesday at 7 p.m. and act on final construction/renovation plans for those two plants. After that part of the meeting is over, the board will go into its work session on elementary attendance lines.

School officials hope work will be completed on the junior-senior high plants in time to begin their new 6-8 middle school and 9-12 high school reorganization at the start of the 1990-91 school year.

See Schools, 2-A

City Will Be Fined For Sewer Violations

City Council got some bad news and some good news Tuesday night in its efforts to comply with a 1984 federal requirement that cities establish pretreatment programs for industrial waste.

The bad news was that the state will assess a fine against the city, maximum amount up to \$30,000 for past violations.

The good news was from City Manager George Wood who said Division of Environmental Management officials in Raleigh Monday indicated the fine could be lower, \$5,000, subject to negotiations in a Judicial Order of Consent for Pretreatment Standards which the city requested from DEM through City Attorney Mickey Cory in formal resolution Tuesday night.

"I'm very relieved and pleased that the state acknowledges what we are doing in the area of sewage extensions," he said.

Kings Mountain could have been fined

\$10,000 for each of three offenses cited by the EPA.

After the state assesses the fine against the city, the city will assess a fine against a local industry, Buckeye Equipment Inc., at least equal to the economic benefit it derived from being out of compliance since March, 1985. This fine would offset the city's fine, said Wood.

The Judicial Order of Consent will probably run from May to November or December, 1989 and that means it will expire before the first JOC on Pilot Creek improvements in April, 1990. Wood said the city has no choice but to enter a second JOC to provide time to implement a pretreatment program satisfactory to DEM and EPA.

"The fine against the city is for past violations and for the six month's period before our pretreatment program started. Bear in mind that our efforts to make these

corrections began last July with the current budget. The JOC would forestall further fines while we complete the implementation of the new sewer use ordinance, enforcement strategy, industrial pretreatment permits, and interjurisdictional agreements with Gaston and Cleveland Counties," Wood told city council.

"I'm very pleased that the State is recognizing that we are making some progress, and, although technically out of compliance, the JOC will put a stop and give us more time from the EPA to implement the program," said Mayor Kyle Smith.

Wood said the regulations went into effect in 1984 and the city was to have them in place by 1985. Wood, who became city manager last May, said the city has been working on the project the past year.

The regulations affect 26 Kings Mountain

industries connected to the city's sewage system.

Buckeye Fire Equipment, Inc., who have made recent efforts to achieve compliance of pretreatment standards, was cited by the city recently for non-compliance and fined \$2500, Wood said.

Attorney Scott Cloninger, representing Buckeye Fire Equipment, Inc., told the Council that Buckeye is just one of the industries that has come under fire but is working on having on-line a pre-treatment facility and are now advertising for an on-site pre-treatment engineer and are looking at a consulting firm to look at its operations. "Buckeye intends to be a good corporate citizen," he told Council.

"The city is being targeted for not enforcing pre-treatment regulations, and particularly at Buckeye, but 95% of all our

See Fine, 8-A

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PAGES TODAY



Meet Two Of Kings Mountain's Most Beautiful Mothers

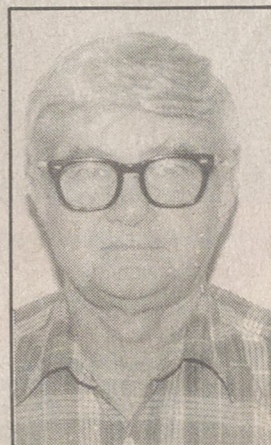
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Houses Need Upgrading

When buildings become empty in Kings Mountain now the Codes Department requires upgrading of electrical service if their inspection reveals any problems.

New Codes Director Tom Fields said many houses in Kings Mountain need the electrical service upgraded because of age and frayed wires but many landlords who don't want to pay for the improvements are complaining about the strict policy.

"Some of these older houses in town are



TOM FIELDS

fire traps. In the past 10 months 44 have been upgraded. We probably have 4,000 more to go," he said this week. Fields has requested that City Council approve in the new year budget money for an inspector for his department and for another secretary in the Codes-Planning Department where both Fields and Planning Director Gene White share a secretary.

A comparison of various permits issued for construction in the Kings Mountain area from July 1, 1988 to April 30, 1989 reveal that 23 new homes were built, renovations and accessory buildings totaled 62, a total of 28 new apartments and duplexes went up, 15 commercial buildings were built or are presently under construction, 10 buildings were torn down, 72 new roofs were put on and 44 homes were upgraded for electrical service.

Of the 15 commercial buildings being built in 1989

See Houses, 7-A

5-A

Kings Mountain High School Golfers Qualify For State 3-A Tournament.