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With Some Of Kings Mountain's Best Cooks

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Kings Mountain Herald

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Stocking Fund Needs Your Help



The Kings Mountain Empty Stocking Fund is off to a slow start and your help is needed if the drive is to equal or surpass last year's collection of \$3,988.17.

Thus far the only contribution received is a \$250 donation from the United Methodist Women of Central United Methodist Church.

Donations are needed to supply toys, food and other necessities to needy children and their families in the Kings Mountain area.

Donations may be mailed to Empty Stocking Fund, P.O. Box 1461, Kings Mountain 28086, or may be deposited into the Empty Stocking Fund account at Home Federal Savings Bank.

Donations may be made in memory or in honor of someone, or may be made anonymously.

Last week's total - 0

This week's contributions:

United Methodist Women, Central United Methodist Church, \$250.00

New total - \$250.00



Photo by Darrell Austin

HO, HO, HO! - John McGinnis of McGinnis Department Store in downtown Kings Mountain gets into the spirit of Christmas while decorating a tree in his store. With just 22 more shopping days until Christmas, merchants say business is brisk.

City Writes Off \$71,000 In Debts

City Council, in accepting its 1989-90 fiscal year audit Tuesday night, authorized "marking off" \$71,000 in bad utility debts and \$1,930 in property tax debts.

During a lengthy discussion with auditor Darrell Keller, it was pointed out that law requires unpaid utility bills to be written off after three years and that unpaid property tax bills be written off after 10 years.

Keller and City Manager George Wood pointed out that the action does not prevent the city from collecting the bills if the opportunity arises in the future. If customers who left the city owing bills return and request service, it can be refused until the old bills are paid.

City Attorney Mickey Corry also pointed out that the city can pursue legal action through magistrate's court; however, he said he would not advise it except in the cases of substantial bills. He said each time a claim is filed, the city must pay filing costs "up front" and in the case of very small claims the city could end up paying more in court costs than it would collect.

Finance Director Jeff Rosencrans said he would not feel "comfortable" trying to collect some of the debts incurred before the city went on its new computer system in August 1988. Some of the records prior to that time had not been kept properly, he claimed.

Council members discussed shortening the period that customers have to pay bills without having service disconnected. They pointed out that current payment timetables allow customers to go over 2 1/2 months before having service disconnected.

In response to questions by Councilman Elvin Green, City Manager George Wood assured him that

See Budget, 11-A

15-Minute Parking OK'd For 90 Days

"The Corner" merchants on East Gold Street were given 15-minute parking spaces for a 90-day trial basis at City Council's regular monthly meeting Tuesday night at City Hall.

Bernice Chappell, owner of "The Corner" and manager of the Sub Factory, petitioned the council on behalf of the merchants, requesting that the current spaces designated as loading zones be changed to 15-minute parking to allow "stop and go" customers to park in front of the buildings.

After a lengthy discussion which drew mixed opinions from council members, the board voted 5-1 to allow the 15-minute parking for 90 days while Police Chief Warren Goforth studied the situation. He will report back to the board after 90 days and a final decision will be made. Councilman Fred Finger cast the no vote.

Mayor Kyle Smith, council members Norma Bridges and Scott Neisler and Chamber of Commerce director Loretta Cozart spoke in favor of allowing 15-minute parking. Finger said he opposed parking on the street because of the high volume of traffic, and councilmen J.D. Barrett and Al Moretz had several questions about the matter.

Mrs. Chappell said the main reason for her petition was that it had been requested by customers who want

See Parking, 11-A



DEBI FAUBION

Christmas Parade Is December 9

The annual Kings Mountain Christmas parade will be held Sunday, December 9 at 2 p.m. in the downtown area.

This year's grand marshal will be Channel 9 Eyewitness News anchor Debi Faubion.

The parade will also include, from WSOC, the Chopper 9 float with Harold Johnson and Bill Coy.

Any groups, organizations or persons who would like to enter the parade should go by the Community Center and fill out an entry form. Deadline is Friday, November 30.

There is no fee for entering the parade. For more information call 734-0449.

Kings Mountain People

Frank Rippy Lives To Help Others

"You don't go wrong when you try to help somebody else, if you do it from the heart."

That's been Frank Rippy's motto for years and one that the 74-year-old Kings Mountain man will live by for the rest of his life.

Rippy, who recently lost his wife of 55 years, the former Ell Kimbrell, ran his jewelry store on Piedmont Avenue for 40 years before selling it to take care of his ailing wife some six years ago. He was Kings Mountain's oldest jeweler, both in terms of age and years of service, and he was also one of the best.

He worked 14 hours a day most

days, except Sundays, and during the entire 40-year span of owning and operating Rippy's Jewelry he took only one week of vacation. That was to go to New York to see some of the companies he bought parts from.

Repairing watches and clocks came easy for Rippy, who tried working in textile mills until he was 25 years old.

"I started working at the old Phenix Mill learning to run frames," he recalled. "Then I left there and went to the Park Yarn where I started off sweeping...about the lowest job in the mill. That was back in 1935. I got saved

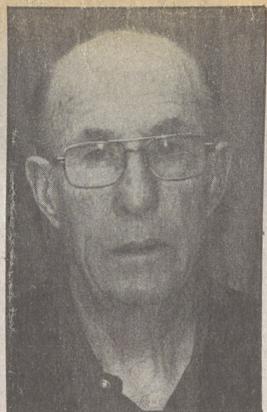
and started going to church. I had been a pretty rough fellow until then."

In 1941, Rippy recalled, the late C.O. Tate and L.C. Condrey were running a jewelry store across from Griffin Drug. Condrey wanted to sell out and Tate asked Rippy to buy.

"I told him I didn't have the money, and another thing was that I didn't know anything about fixing a watch," Rippy recalled. "He said 'you can learn.'"

Rippy approached the late W.T. Weir, who ran the company store at the Park Yarn, about a loan. "I told

See Rippy, 11-A



FRANK RIPPY

Gas Tax Going Up Saturday

Here's some good advice, wanted or not, fill up the gas tank in your automobile before 12:01 a.m. Saturday.

That's when an additional five cents tax is being tacked on to every gallon of gas sold. Uncle Sam is the beneficiary of the additional nickel.

Faced with passing the additional tax on to the consumer or absorbing at least a part of it by cutting its profit margin, distributors say they have no choice.

Mike Frost, president of Petroleum World which operates a

Phillips 66 station on King Street in Kings Mountain, said "The five cents tax increase is a true cost, it's not something that you can cut."

"This is also a floor tax, we have to pay for everything we have in the ground at the time as well as what we purchase to move forward. This is a major industry hit which comes at a very bad time. We have to recover these costs."

"We (distributors) don't own any refineries or wells, we have to pay whatever is charged by the terminals and this is a wildly fluctuating market. The tax comes at a very

difficult time," he said.

Frost also noted that North Carolina has one of the highest state taxes on gasoline of all the states. "North Carolina taxes are five cents a gallon higher than South Carolina and that makes being competitive impossible," he said.

When the tax increase goes into effect Saturday, North Carolinians will be paying 35 cents tax on every gallon purchased. That amounts to 21 cents in state taxes and 14 cents in federal taxes.

President George Bush and

Congress passed the new federal tax in October as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990. It increases the federal excise levy on gas and diesel fuel from nine cents per gallon to 14 cents. This comes on the heels of a state gas tax hike last year.

After taking inventory on the amount of fuel they have in storage at the close of business Friday, station owners will then change pump meters to reflect the new tax rate to be charged beginning Saturday.

Frost's advice to consumers is fill the gas tanks before Saturday.

See King, 6-A

Fire Destroys Teen's Home

Nikki Hilbreth lost all of her worldly possessions Saturday morning when a fire destroyed the camper in which she had been living for just a few days.

The 18-year-old was invited to stay in the camper by Pastor Tommy Griffin and his wife, Joni. The camper was parked just a few feet from their residence at 703 Sterling Drive.

Kings Mountain Fire Chief Frank Burns said the fire occurred shortly before 5 a.m. and totally destroyed the 1972 model camper. He estimated the damage to the camper between \$3,700-\$4,200,

not including the contents.

"The fire started from misuse of an electrical heater," said Chief Burns. "It was placed too close to furnishings in the camper and the radiant heat ignited the furnishings."

The fire was yet another misfortune in Nikki's life. About three weeks ago she left her parents' home and moved in with a 15-year-old friend. They rented a mobile home on Gold Street for \$70 but were unable to afford electricity or heat. The girls held part-time jobs and were trying to stay in school.

The Griffins have only been in Kings Mountain since August. He

is pastor of Trinity Church of the Living God located on the Cherryville highway and it was through their congregation that they learned of Nikki's situation. They invited her to move into their camper temporarily.

"Nikki is a good girl, she was raised in a Christian home," said Mrs. Griffin. "She just got in with the wrong crowd and we wanted to help her get her life back together. We don't have all that much, but her welfare and mental progress were important and we want to help her."

See Fire, 11-A



MARK RICHARDSON

Richardson To Speak At Kiwanis Meeting

Mark Richardson, General Manager of Richardson Sports, which is trying to bring an NFL expansion team to Charlotte, will speak at the monthly meeting of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club at 6:45 p.m. Thursday at Kings Mountain Country Club.

Richardson, 30, is a native of Spartanburg, S.C., and played football at Clemson University. He was on Clemson's 1981 national championship team.

After graduating from Clemson with a degree in Administrative Management in 1983, Richardson worked in New York as a Financial

Analyst for Transworld Corporation.

Richardson received a Masters of Administration from Colgate Darden Graduate School of Business at the University of Virginia in 1987. He resides in Charlotte with his wife, Joan.

Richardson's father, Jerry Richardson, who heads Richardson Sports and spearheaded the NFL expansion drive, is a former professional football player with the Baltimore Colts. He is head of TW Services, Inc., one of the nation's largest food-service operations with 1989 revenues of \$3.5 billion.

Letter Going To GIs

The City of Kings Mountain is continuing its Veteran's Day observance far beyond the November 11 calendar date set aside for remembering those who gave and preserved freedom.

At Tuesday night's monthly meeting of City Council, Mayor Kyle Smith announced that he will write a letter to all local servicemen stationed in Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf. He is also asking citizens to come by city hall and sign the letter, which will be mailed in time for servicemen and women to read during Christmas. The deadline is December 15.

Mayor Smith is hoping hundreds of citizens will sign the letter, which is in the reception area of city hall.

"It's a goodwill gesture on the part of our citizens and will let the service men and women know that all of their friends and neighbors are thinking of them during this time," he said.

In a related matter Tuesday night, the council honored veteran Willis King by presenting him a framed display of the medals and ribbons he earned during World War II. City Community Development Director Gene White helped secure the replacement

See King, 6-A