

Herald to publish early

Because of the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the Kings Mountain Herald will publish early the next two weeks.

Next week's paper will be printed on Monday morning and will carry a Tuesday dateline. The paper will be on the streets late Monday afternoon and mail subscribers will receive their papers on Tuesday.

The paper will be the Herald's traditional Christmas edition with greeting ads from area businesses. Deadline for advertising and news copy for next week's paper will be 5 p.m. Friday. The New Year's paper will be printed on Tues., Dec. 31 and will carry a Wed., Jan. 1 dateline. Deadline for news and advertising copy will be 5 p.m. Mon., Dec. 30.



MAUNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY
100 S. PIEDMONT AVE.
KINGS MOUNTAIN, NC 28086

Kings Mountain Herald

VOL. 103 NO. 50

Thursday, December 19, 1991

Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086 • 35¢

Neisler to keep city doors open

New Mayor Scott Neisler pledged to keep an open door policy at city hall as he was seated, along with four council members, Tuesday night.

"The Mayor's job belongs to the people," said Neisler, who said he would open his office for an hour every morning between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. and the welcome mat would be out.

Clerk of Superior Court Linda Thrift administered the oath to Neisler and to Council members Norma Bridges, Al Moretz, Phil Hager and Jim Guyton.

"I know we are seeing history in the making since I happen to be black and the first black seated on council but I'm not looking at racial issues and will work for all," said new Ward One Councilman Hager.

New Ward 2 Commissioner Guyton and reelected At-Large commissioners Bridges and Moretz also acknowledged the support of their families and voters and said they would work to keep the record of the Smith Administration which they all

praised in their remarks.

Bridges was elected mayor pro tem for two years in a unanimous vote by the now seven-member board, an honor usually accorded to the top vote getter in an election.

Neisler, who stepped from behind the council bench to the floor microphone, took the occasion to praise Mayor Smith and recounted his service to the city and his leadership in the new manager/council form of government. He credited Smith with leading the city to financial responsibility and accountability, in calling for an audit at the start of his administration, and in initiating a job description and pay scale policy that was fair to all 160 employees. "His service enhanced this city and now we're poised to grow," said Neisler.

Neisler said that necessary utility projects have been completed with exception of the remaining electric project and following passage of a \$9 million bond issue voted by citizens during the Smith four years. "I want to spend my time and energy now by working at the regional level so that Kings



Clerk of Superior Court Linda Thrift administers the oath of office to new Mayor Scott Neisler, right.

Mountain will be ready for the 21st Century," he said.

"I'm excited," said Neisler.

After his acceptance speech, Neisler took the occasion to present both Smith and outgoing Ward 2 commissioner Jackie Barrett engraved plaques and gold watches.

Smith, acknowledging that it was a solemn moment for him, asked his wife, Mikie, to read his prepared remarks, in which he thanked Kings Mountain and said he hoped that he had brought honor and dignity to the office. "Many obstacles were overcome but the

main objective was in establishing the city manager/council form of government and I take pride in what we have done in bringing the best city manager in the state to Kings Mountain and I take pride in the many other areas of improvements thanks to the bond issues voted by citizens," he said.

The audience in the packed council chambers gave Smith a standing ovation.

After the swearing-in ceremonies a reception was held in the lobby of the Governmental Facilities Center.

KM prepares for Christmas

Most industrial activity in the Kings Mountain area will be suspended during Christmas week as most plants start Christmas vacations this weekend.

Despite a sluggish economy, most plants are giving vacation pay, bonuses and traditional gifts and some plants are closing only for Christmas Eve on Tuesday and Christmas Day on Wednesday.

Shortest holidays will be taken by employees of Grover Industries Cyprus-Foote Mineral and Philips Optical. Most other plants are taking the full week off, a survey of the industrial community reveals.

Reliance Electric will close December 24, reopening on January 2.

Spectrum will close December 20 and reopen December 30. The plant will also close at 12 p.m. on December 31, take inventory on January 1, and reopen the regular shifts on January 2.

Minette and Cleveland Products at Grover will be closed the full week of Christmas.

Grover Industries will be closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Anvil Knitwear will close the week of Christmas, resuming operations at 10 p.m. January 1. Employees will receive a turkey or a gift of their choice from Clyde Short Catalog and vacation checks based on length of service.

Mauney Hosiery will close December 20th, reopening with the third shift on January 1. Bonuses are paid based on length of service.

Kings Mountain Knit Fabrics will close Saturday morning and reopen on December 30.

Clevemont Mills will close Friday and employees will return to work January 2.

Commercial Intertech will close Friday, reopening on January 2.

Dependable Knits will close
See Closing, 10-A

Fighting students suspended

Two Kings Mountain High School students were suspended for five days for fighting Friday, Principal Jackie Lavender said.

Lavender said no weapons were involved and that both boys suffered bloody noses and cuts from one of the youth's class ring. No charges were preferred and the students were allowed to return to campus to take examinations.

She acknowledged that teachers on the scene handled the incident poorly by panicking. Fearing a riot, she said a teacher called police who came with night sticks and several cars of officers to respond to the call. When police arrived on the scene, the fight was over and the boys had already left the campus.

"We appreciate the Kings Mountain Police Department coming to campus when we call them," said Lavender, who said that a call over an intercommunication system upset the campus.

Both students were male and white.

Lavender said that about a month ago a student reported that soft drink bottles were being filled with alcohol and stored by some students in lockers. Lavender said a new rule bans screw top drink bottles on campus.

Students will be dismissed after Thursday's classes for Christmas holidays, returning to campus on January 6. Friday is a teacher's work day.



Clerk of Superior Court Linda Thrift, left, swears in council members Al Moretz, Jim Guyton, Norma Bridges and Philip Hager Tuesday night.

70 firemen fight fire at plant

Sixty to 70 firefighters from three fire departments battled a fire in a stock pile of cotton cloth at Dependable Knit on Cansler Street Tuesday night, spending the night carrying out cloth a roll at a time.

"We've got some plenty tired firemen," said Chief Frank Burns of the Kings Mountain Fire Department, who said 24 firemen from KMFD and others from Bethlehem and Oak Grove Volunteer Departments responded to the blaze at 6:40 p.m.

No one was injured in the plant, which suffered smoke damage. The fire started in a stock pile of cotton cloth in an open area of the warehouse portion of the building. The mill makes tee shirts from cotton material.

Burns said the fire started underneath the stock pile. "Cotton spreads quickly so we had to move a lot of rolls," he said.

Some firemen were standing by at the site Wednesday morning and city sanitation crews were hauling off the burned materials.

United Way exceeds goal

An early Christmas present for Kings Mountain came yesterday with the announcement that the Kings Mountain United Fund goal of \$120,750.00 is over the top.

"We are so pleased and grateful," said Campaign Chairman Pat Carter.

"A few weeks ago it looked as if the campaign would come up far short which would have resulted in a big reduction in the 1992 fund distribution to each of our 16 agencies," said Carter. "This would have been devastating."

Carter said the campaign got a big boost from the industrial segment of the community, despite a sluggish economy.

"All our division chairmen and committees have worked hard to reach this goal and we certainly appreciate the generosity of the individuals, businesses and industry who have dug into their pockets even more during this busy season to help others," said Carter.



TIM PRICE

Council tables taxi requests

Tim Price, 24, of 200 Ganley St., wants to reopen his grandfather's taxi business, Price's Cabs, in Kings Mountain.

"I've been riding in a taxi for years and I think I can give good service to Kings Mountain at lower costs," said Price, whose grandfather operated Price's Cabs for 45 years before his death. Price says he will offer discount rates for senior citizens.

Both Price and Gilbert Hamrick asked for a taxi franchise from city council Tuesday night but their requests were tabled until next month

so that City Attorney Mickey Corry can check out additional state regulations to incorporate in city ordinances.

In order actions of a short meeting conducted by outgoing Mayor Kyle Smith, council:

Amended the budget for 1991-92 to \$17,594,810.00, an increase of \$202,171.00, including carry-over items reappropriated in last year's budget and additions of \$185,000.

Awarded the administrative contract for the Second Street Community Development Block

Grant Program to the high bidder, Benchmark, at \$84,900, on recommendation of City Manager George Wood who said Benchmark has 27 successes in programs administered versus the low bidder for the work covered in the grant budget. Next year the city will budget \$85,000 for sewer lines, the city's share of the project cost.

Accepted a proposal for a study of City Lake Dam and authorized \$23,000 in engineering fees to W. K. Dickson Company.

Approved final change order to the contract with Hickory

Construction Company for work on Ellison Treatment Plant, increasing the contract by \$4,867.00 for a total cost of \$2,710,410.00.

Authorized the mayor to sign a five-year extension of the pole use agreement with Jones Intercable Inc. "We can't control the rates for cable which continue to go up," said Commissioner Fred Finger, who pointed out that the city hasn't increased the costs to Jones although basic customer rates have risen from \$11.90 to \$21 in the last five years.

See Council, 10-A

Stocking fund tops \$3,000

Christmas will be much brighter for many needy families in the Kings Mountain area because of the generosity of local citizens.

Over \$2,500 was received by the Empty Stocking Fund this week, running the grand total to \$3,110.

Margaret Dilling, campaign chairman, is already purchasing food, clothing and other necessities for needy children and their families but there is still time to donate to the fund. Each addition gift received between now and Christmas will mean that many more families will be served.

Mail your donation to the Empty Stocking Fund, P.O. Box 1461,

Kings Mountain, NC 28086, or deposit it into the Empty Stocking Fund account at Home Federal Savings Bank. Contributions may be made in honor or in memory of someone, and they can also be made anonymously.

Contributions:

Kings Mountain Rotary Club, \$112.
Anonymous, \$50.
Dot Hayes, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. O.T. Hayes Sr., \$25.
Neisler Brothers, Inc., \$500.
Darrell and Shirley Austin, in memory of Oliver T. "Red" Falls, \$50.

Frank B. Glass VFW Post 9811, in memory of all veterans, \$100.
Clarence and Madge Shull, \$25.
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Lee III, \$500.
Sun Belt Textiles, Inc., \$100.
Casey Durham, \$50.
Dicey Fabrics, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Neisler, \$50.
Maple Springs Farm, \$50.
KM Kiwanis Club, Inc., \$205.
Cleveland County Health Dept., in honor of Dense Stallings, \$117.
Margaret W. Wise, \$25.
Adam, Marie and Linda Gsellman, \$30.
Gale Plonk, \$40.
Christian Adult Class, Central

United Methodist Church, \$200.
Mauney Hosiery Office Staff, \$120.
Mauney Hosiery Office Staff, in honor of management, \$100.
Anonymous, \$21.
Laura Houser, \$10.
George and Marion Thomasson, \$10.
Eva Plonk, \$25.
Alice and Richard Snow, \$25.
Maude Patterson, \$25.
Janet Falls, \$25.
Received this week: \$2,595.00
Previous balance: 525.00
Total to date: \$3,110.00

