

How to beat the holiday blues

Jett's music takes off

Keep Christmas in your heart

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Kings Mountain Herald

VOL. 104 NO. 49

Thursday, December 3, 1992

Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086 • 35¢

LOST AND FOUND

Father and son rescued after getting lost on hunting trip in N.C. mountains

Tyler Falls, 9, and his father, Kenny Falls, 35, will probably return to Rip Shin Ridge in search of a deer next Thanksgiving but for the moment they and their families are thankful the most horrible night of their lives is over.

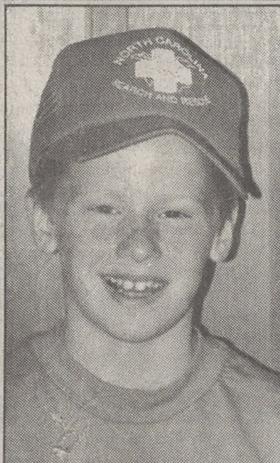
The father and son, lost on Steeles Creek and Rip Shin Ridge for nearly 15 hours, started up the mountain near Morganton Friday about 3 p.m. to Wet Place, a spot on top where four generations of Fallses had hunted for 40 years. It was Tyler's first adventure and he had been begging his father since

territory since early morning.

Friday's hunt proved that even the most experienced hunters can run into trouble. The two hunters found familiar trails gone. Kenny had no light and when he realized he was on the wrong trail it was too late to climb back. Finally the darkness was so black they couldn't see each other. Kenny loosened his belt and Tyler held on so they would not be separated. A rifle in each hand with no vision and his nine year old son hanging on, Falls maneuvered

They left waiting for them son Cameron, 14, who had been hunting with his grandfather Otis Falls and uncle Rick Falls in the familiar

See Hunters, 8-A



TYLER FALLS

KM parade is Saturday

A 113-unit Kings Mountain Christmas parade will step off at 4 p.m. Saturday and wind through the business district to officially open the holiday season.

Parade Chairman Denise Falls of the sponsoring Parks & Recreation Department said the parade will feature pretty girls, the high stepping Kings Mountain High School Band and Livingstone College Band and the Oasis Steel Drum Band sponsored by Grover Industries, and a number of floats.

The star of the show, of course, will be Santa Claus.

Parade grand marshals will be popular radio personalities Bob Lacey and Sherry Lynch of Sunny 107.9.

The parade will form at King and Deal Streets at Kentucky Fried Chicken, proceed up West King Street to the overhead bridge, turn left on Battleground Avenue and proceed through the middle of town, turning left at Fred Kiser's Restaurant and disbanding at the Post Office on East Gold Street.

Captain Bob Hayes of Kings Mountain Police Department said that barricades will be set up in mid-afternoon and that police will be at each intersection and along the route.

Leading off the holiday spectacle will be Kings Mountain Police Department, Kings Mountain Chief of Police Warren Goforth, KM Fire

Chief Frank Burns, the N.C. Highway Patrol, a color guard, the grand marshals and Mayor Scott Neisler and members of Kings Mountain City Council.

Other parade participants in order of their appearance are:

Kings Mountain Junior varsity cheerleaders, Kings Mountain varsity cheerleaders, KMHS marching band, Miss Bethware Fair Laura Bridges, Homecoming float, Carrusel Princess Jill Jimison, United Methodist Women of Galilee Methodist Church, FHA Homecoming nominee Leslie Lail, Dance Reflections, Simply Teen Pageant Queen Brandy Brown, Baby Miss Kings Mountain Stephanie Alexander, Kings Mountain Rescue Squad, and New Camp Creek Church.

Also Robert Greene and antique truck, Miss Cleveland County Kim Scism, Southern Bell Pioneer Clowns Clowns on unicycles, Dance Magic, Grover Volunteer Fire Department, Brownie Girl Scout Troop 32, Alpha Kappa Alpha Queen Cruceceta Jefferies, Century 21 float, Cleveland County Young Woman of the Year Becky Senter, Kings Mountain Optimist Club, WKMT Radio van, and Upper Cleveland County Miss Kristin Wood.

Also Letterman's Club homecoming nominee Jessie Carroll, See Parade, 5-A

Glad to be alive

Barbecue benefits transplant patient Charlie Baker

By Elizabeth Stewart of The Herald Staff

Charlie Baker, 31, got a second chance at a normal life with a successful liver transplant 14 months ago.

"I count my blessings every day," says the handsome young man, who said the tremendous backing of family and friends at Commercial Intertech and at Love Valley Baptist Church carried him through the bad times.

His church family will sponsor a benefit BBQ Saturday from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at the church at 2032 Bethlehem Road. Plates are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

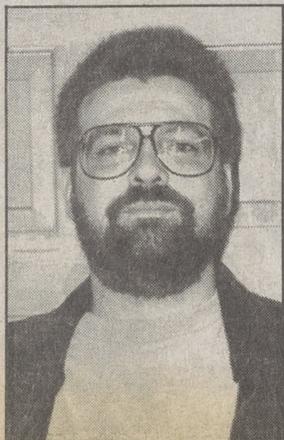
The proceeds will be given to the Baker family as an early Christmas present to help pay the costs of lodging, meals, and transportation to UNC Hospital at Chapel Hill, where Baker returns every three months for treatment.

The miracle of life is precious to Baker, his wife, Tammy Whitworth Baker, and their 10-year-old son, Christopher.

"Some people have misconceptions about organ donations but I'm living proof that transplants save lives," said Baker, the first liver transplant patient at UNC Hospital, among eight of the 11 surviving liver transplant patients.

When the call from the hospital came at 7 a.m. September 30, 1991 Tammy Baker cried so hard that her husband couldn't understand the good news over the wire. Charlie's name had been put on the organ donor list 11 days before and he had just been sent home from the hospital to wait the day before the call came.

See Baker, 4-A



CHARLIE BAKER

City's new Christmas tree all decked out for season

The Christmas season was ushered in by an estimated 300 people Tuesday who stood on the lawn of Mauney Memorial Library in the cold December night to light the new Christmas tree.

"This is a beautiful night to decorate a beautiful, new tree," said Mayor Scott Neisler, who said he hoped the tradition will continue and bring as much joy as the old tree which died last year.

"We're opening up a new page in the history of Kings Mountain," Neisler said, as he read a brief origin of Christmas trees which date to the first tree in the 14th Century in Latvia on December 24 on Adam and Eve Day when an evergreen was decorated with apples.

With the discovery of electricity, the American tree was soon lighted with modern day lights which used to be wrapped in foil for the first trees. As he told how the Star at the top of the tree had its origin in the Gospel of Matthew, fireworks went off and the sky was illuminated with brightly colored lights.

Special music was presented by Library Youth Volunteers Christy Hughes, Heather Hughes, John

"a new page in the history of Kings Mountain."

-Mayor Scott Neisler

Leonard, Ben Sanders, Curtis Sanders, Felicia Nieves, Pam Ruppe and Erica Davis, under the direction of Louise Sanders; by the children of Dot's Day Care and by the Choir of First Presbyterian Church.

Boy Scouts of Troops 91, 92 and 95 assisted in the lighting of the Japonica Cryptomeria.

After the program, a large crowd filled Weir Auditorium and children sat on Santa's lap and gave him their wish list. Friends of the Library served cranberry punch and refreshments.

Because of the large crowd disappointed parents said their children didn't get a chance to sit on Santa's lap because busy elves gave first choice to those families with video cameras wanting to use the photo opportunity. "I hope that will be changed next year," said one mother who said she would voice her suggestions to the mayor.



LIGHTS GO ON - Lights on the city's new Christmas tree went on Tuesday night during a dedication ceremony on the lawn of Mauney Memorial Library.

Water and sewer contract approved for Business Park

Kings Mountain City Council gave Bridgestone/Firestone an informal notice to proceed with construction of its 400,000 square foot \$20 million plant Tuesday when it awarded a contract for \$917,941.50 to McClam & Associates of Little Mountain, SC for a water and sewer expansion that will take those city services to the new plant in Kings Mountain Business Park.

Councilman Al Moretz made the motion, seconded by Councilman Jerry White, that the board accept the bid and award contract to McClam under Schedule D of a bid tabulation at \$169,469.50 and under a Alternate A proposal for \$748,472.00, contingent upon three property owners granting easements without going to condemnation or other legal action.

The board also authorized \$10,500 for a gas bore which City Manager George Wood said was not part of the original project but was done while workers were on the site and at an excellent price. He praised City Engineer Tom Howard, saying that earlier estimates for the work were \$30,400.

"We're tight in the gas fund but with that kind of savings it was a

smart move," he said.

Other bidders were John E. Jenkins of Gastonia, Dellinger Inc. of Monroe, Don Moorhead Construction of Anderson, SC, Morgan Corporation of Spartanburg, SC, State Utility Contractors of Monroe, TranState of Denver, Ronnie Turner Construction of Conover, Wright & Lopez of Greensboro and Steppe Construction of Spring Mill.

In July, Bridgestone/Firestone announced the company would build a new plant in Kings Mountain to replace its 57-year-old plant in Gastonia. As part of the move, Kings Mountain agreed to sell water, wastewater treatment and natural gas to Firestone. Eventually the city will supply the plant with approximately 200,000 gallons of water each day, along with treating approximately 20,000 gallons of wastewater a day.

The construction timetable calls for completion of the plant in May.

"Ride down the interstate and you can see some of the progress underway," said Howard, who also suggested Council take a "dry day" and ride down Canterbury Road to get to the site.

Stocking Fund needs your help

The Kings Mountain Empty Stocking Fund officially kicked off its 1992 fund drive last week, but donations are only trickling in.

If needy children in the Kings Mountain area are to have a happy Christmas this year, the generous people of the community will have to dig a little deeper into their pockets.

The Adult Fellowship Class of Central United Methodist Church contributed \$100 and one anonymous donor contributed \$50 to get the drive started.

Funds will be collected through Christmas, but leaders of the Empty Stocking Fund drive urge the public to give as soon as possible because toys, clothes and other needed items must be purchased at least a week before Christmas in order to assure delivery by Christmas Eve.

This is the fourth year of the fund, and over \$3,000 annually has been contributed.

The Empty Stocking Fund is entirely committed to serving the needs of needy children during the Christmas season. Other organizations serve the needy throughout the year.

Donations may be made anonymously, and can be made in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Mail your donation to Empty Stocking Fund, P.O. Box 1461, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086; or deposit it in the special Empty Stocking Fund account at Home Federal Savings Bank.

Adult Fellowship Class, Central United Methodist Church	\$100.00
Anonymous	50.00
Total to date	\$150.00



City employees to receive Christmas bonus

Santa Claus will come early for 160-plus City of Kings Mountain employees who will receive Christmas holiday bonus checks Thursday.

Tuesday night, City Council unanimously approved a suggested list of Christmas bonuses for city employees and also voted themselves a month's pay, a customary procedure and a policy which has been extended over many years.

Personnel Director Charles Webber made the recommendations and asked that bonus checks and certificates be included in the December 3 payroll.

City Manager George Wood said amounts have been standardized in the last few years but bonuses remain largely unchanged. He said the money is bud-

geted. Employees will receive bonus checks based on the following:

All permanent full time and part time personnel with one year or more service, one week's pay.

All permanent full time and part time personnel with less than one year service, a prorated amount of weekly pay based on the total months of service. For instance, 11 months equals 11/12 of one week's pay; two months equals 2/12 of one week's pay.

Volunteer firefighters, aerobic instructors, and concession workers in the Recreation Department, etc. \$25.

See Bonuses, 2-A

Another Habitat for Humanity house to be built

A second Habitat for Humanity home will be built on North Tracy Street in the near future.

Kings Mountain City Council Tuesday night unanimously voted to give a lot across the street from the first Habitat home dedicated in July and occupied by a family of four.

The Kings Mountain lot, which will cost the Cleveland County Habitat for Humanity \$1, has about 12,800 square feet and is valued at \$4,800.

"You make Habitat for Humanity and Kings Mountain Baptist Association very happy with your decision," said Mayor Scott Neisler, who said

Habitat, which he serves on the board of directors, already has a candidate for the second home.

Habitat for Humanity is a growing nationwide charitable organization that provides low cost housing but potential homeowners are required to work on their own homes.

City Council last Tuesday tabled the proposal. Because of the unusual nature of the transaction, state law requires that the action be a unanimous decision. Six of the seven members of the board were present to vote but Councilman Al Moretz was absent due to illness.