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Kings Mountain, NC 28086 • 50c

KM plans a giving Christmas

Area churches to celebrate birth of Christ

The Christian celebration of Christmas will feature 11 p.m. candlelight communion services at Resurrection and Saint Matthew's Lutheran Churches and special services at Central United Methodist, First Presbyterian and Boyce Memorial ARP Churches.

Special music will feature the services. At Resurrection, the sanctuary will be decorated with Christmas trees, red and white poinsettias and candles and

greenery in the windows. Luminaries will line the sidewalks leading to the church in Crescent Hill.

Two Christmas trees decorated with Chrismons and candles and wreaths in the windows decorate the sanctuary at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. Interim Pastor Dr. John Mauney will lead the candlelight communion service. Special music by the choirs will be directed by Margaret McGinnis with Virginia Hinnant, organist.

A special children's service will held at St. Matthew's Church Christmas Eve at 4 p.m.

A Children's Christmas Eve service will be held at 4 p.m. at Resurrection Church. Christmas carols, a telling of the Christmas Story and gifts for the children will be featured.

First Presbyterian Church will hold the candlelight communion service at 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

See Churches, 14-A

Kings Mountain's tradition of giving to the needy reaches its peak in the Christmas season as churches, organizations and other groups band together to help the less fortunate.

Christmas 1994 is no exception. Over \$3,000 has been collected from lay people ringing the bells at the Ministerial Association-sponsored bell ringing stations in front of the super markets. The money will be used for emergency needs and distributed by the Crisis Ministry.

"Most churches are also helping needy families as is their custom," said Rev. Patricia Stone, president of the Ministerial Association.

Stone said the Crisis Ministry, which operates year-round at the Community Center, also con-

ducts a food bank and a clothing closet. Sherry Hamrick is administrator of the project.

Kings Mountain Lions Club distributed 20 food baskets to the blind, an annual project, on Tuesday afternoon. Lion Don Crawford said the Lions met at Harris-Teeter to bag the fruits and staple items to be distributed in the Kings Mountain area.

Pine Manor residents plan a holiday celebration on Thursday. It is coordinated by Denise Leonard, with assistance of local churches.

Members of Unit 155, American Legion Auxiliary, presented gifts to 10 veterans at White Oak Manor. Members of the committee were Willie Wright, chairman; Lib Cline and Myrtle Christenson.

See Giving, 14-A

KM plants plan short yule schedule

Kings Mountain area citizens are readying for Christmas this week.

With few exceptions, industry was already taking a holiday or making preparations for a long holiday.

Last-minute shoppers were filling the stores and particularly the grocery stores were enjoying a booming business with homemakers stocking up on turkey and favorite holiday foods for Christmas dinner Sunday.

Churches were arranging traditional services. At least two Christmas cantatas will be held on Sunday morning at 11 a.m. - at Grace United Methodist Church and at Second Baptist Church.

For most industrial employees, the holidays will be with pay or with Christmas presents in the form of gifts or certificates.

Spectrum will close at midnight Friday and resume operations at 8 a.m. January 2.

Grover Industries will close Saturday at 6 p.m. for a long holiday until January 2. Bonuses are paid to employees based on length of service.

Minette Mills and Cleveland Products will close Friday and Monday for Christmas holidays and also on January 2 for the New Year's holiday. Eligible employees will receive vacation pay.

Commercial Intertech will close Saturday, Sunday and Monday for Christmas holidays and the following weekend for New Year's holiday.

Eaton Corporation employees will begin holidays which continue Christmas week. Some

See Christmas, 14-A



Planning Director Gene White, left, receives a plaque from Mayor Scott Neisler at a retirement dinner. White is retiring December 31 after 22 years with the City of Kings Mountain.

Gene White has his 'day'

Wednesday was Gene White Day at City Hall as a large crowd of his co-workers and friends said bon voyage at a retirement party.

White will hang up his hat after 22 years on the job December 31.

"I wish you all a Merry Christmas but I'm out of here New Year's Day," responded White in jest to Building Inspector Jeff Putnam's original rendering of Johnny Paycheck's "Take This Job And Shove It."

White received a gold watch and other gifts during a "roast" planned by his secretary, Shirley Payne. His wife, Dru, presented him an airplane ticket to Florida where he plans to do some fishing with his new rod and reel from the three boards he serves as secretary, Planning and Zoning, Moss Lake Commission and Board of

Adjustment.

Joe Champion of the Lake Commission, Clayvon Kelly of the Board of Adjustment, and Lou Ballew and M. C. Pruette of the Zoning Board took the occasion to praise White for his service to the City of Kings Mountain. Mayor Scott Neisler presented an engraved plaque and City Manager Chuck Nance thanked White for his dedication to duty.

The piece de resistance of the afternoon was the entertainment by Utilities Director Jimmy Maney and Putnam. The crowd roared with laughter to the original hit by Putnam who used names of commissioners on City Council to flavor the song.

See White, 14-A

Nance may pull cord on phones

City Manager Chuck Nance said he may pull the cellular phones from cars operated by some department heads.

Nance said he is looking at the city's phone bills from Cellular One and evaluating the need for all 10 phones.

Nance has questioned city employees with cellular telephones, reminding them that the telephones were issued for city business only and that employees who had made personal calls should reimburse the city for any personal calls listed on the bills.

"Several of the individual accounts seemed high," Nance said after reviewing the bills at the urging of Commissioner Jim Guyton.

But Finance Director Maxine Parsons said that the stir about the phone bills has been "blown out of proportion."

Parsons said that the city owes no back bills to Cellular One and that the October bill questioned by Guyton was for pagers for each of the phones that city officials thought were free and included in the city's agreement with the company.

"When Mr. Guyton started asking us for printouts of the bills he didn't give us time to explain that we thought we were getting the pagers free and when they billed us I immediately called them and the representative said it was her error," said Parsons.

"I gathered up all the pagers except one for the Police Chief's car, the City Manager's car and one detective's car and sent them back and we got a credit for their return," she said.

Parsons said the city's annual phone bill from Cellular One is

\$600. She said the city gets all local calls free and only pays for roam charges, which are long distance calls outside the Cellular One area.

Guyton had asked for bills for the entire year and is still waiting to get them, he said last week.

"What made me mad is that we were 90 days behind," said Guyton.

"The bill for June showed we owed \$1100 so there is something before June we need to know about."

Parsons said the additional billing was for the pagers that the city was charged for erroneously and she sent back.

Nance released to City Council the phone bills for a period of five months from June to October. The month of July was missing as was the front page of one of the bills. Parsons said that City Auditor Darrell Keller had requested the bill in connection with his audit of the city finances.

Guyton questioned why Mrs. Parsons, the former Interim Manager, had a phone in her car after Nance became the new Manager.

"I don't think that some of our Council members realize the critical position that the finance department plays in the operation of the city," said Parsons.

Parsons said she is on call now because she has new employees in the finance department who have to call her when she's away from her desk for a number of reasons.

After Guyton questioned the distribution of car phones at a recent Council meeting Council voted to leave the mat-

See Phones, 12-A



John Coyle, left, of Mack Trucks, receives a plaque from Motor Panel President Gene Denney during a big plant celebration at Motor Panels Thursday.

Motor Panels builds 50,000th cab

The 50,000th Mack CH model cab was produced Thursday at the Kings Mountain plant of Motor Panels Inc.

President/CEO Gene Denney joined local manager Wendell Slone in welcoming local and county officials, the nearly 100 employees of the local plant, and officials of Mack Trucks to a big celebration party which included a plant tour.

Kings Mountain Mayor Scott Neisler, Cecil Dickson, chairman of the county board of commissioners, Jack Palmer, representing the Economic Development Commission, and realtor John Barker took the occasion to congratulate the company which built here six years ago. Covering 119,000 square feet on a 26-acre site, it is the

most automated heavy-truck cab production plant in North America.

With the capability of producing 15 cabs an hour, the Motor Panels plant boasts a combination of portable, fixed and robotic resistance welding equipment integrated into a 260 foot, semi-automatic cab frame assembly line. Major assemblies such as body sides, back panels and underbodies are supplied to the main frame point of use by an overhead conveyor system from a separate, robotically welded and controlled work cell.

The local plant produces 78 cabs per day five days a week.

Denney took the occasion to present plaques to officials of both Motor Panels and Mack

Trucks. Dale McKillop, manufacturing manager, Barry Brookshire, maintenance manager and Dan McRae, engineering manager, led the tours of the facility.

Other locations of Motor Panels Inc. are in Norwalk, Ohio, Shadyside, Ohio with the Product Development Center and Corporate offices in Farmington Hill, MI.

Launched as a new, specifically designed cab assembly plant in December 1988/January 1989, the Kings Mountain plant works closely with the Mack Commodity Team and with Motor Panels' Product Development Center.

"It is seldom in anyone's ca-

See Truck, 14-A