

Temple Baptist 50 years old

6-B

Mountaineers advance in state playoffs



9-A

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Odom to speak at Hall of Fame

Dave Odom, who coached the Wake Forest Demon Deacons to their first #1 seed in the Atlantic Coast Conference since 1962 and a leading candidate for ACC Coach of the Year, will be guest speaker at the eighth annual Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame banquet Tuesday, May 16 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center.

Tickets are \$10 and will go on sale soon. Tickets may be purchased from any member of the Hall of Fame Committee, various businesses around town, and at the door.

The Hall of Fame Committee has been meeting regularly since January to plan the event and select the inductees. This year's inductees

include the late James "Red" Layton, who was a three-sport star at KMHS in the 1930s and a professional baseball player; Punch Parker, an All-American running back at The Citadel in the early 1960s; Bud Bumgardner, popular coach at Kings Mountain High School in the 1970s and 1980s; and the 1966 Teener League All-Star baseball team which won the state and Southeast Regional championships and finished third in the Teener World Series in Hershey, Pa. Feature stories on the inductees will appear in future editions of The Herald.

Odom's Wake Forest team came on strong late in the season to knock off all of the ACC leaders

and force a final four-way tie for first place between the Deacons, Virginia, North Carolina and Maryland. Because Wake Forest swept Virginia and split with Maryland and UNC, the Deacons were awarded the top seed for this week's ACC Tournament. The tournament champion receives an automatic invitation to the NCAA Tournament.

Odom is in his sixth season as head coach of the Deacons and is well on his way to becoming the school's all-time winningest coach. He completed his fifth season last year with a 90-60 record, putting him 12 wins ahead of legendary



DAVE ODOM

See Odom, 14-A

Lake issues go to Council

"We have no authority to grant easements. It's a moot point."

-Joe Champion
Lake Commission Chairman

Development put on hold

Kings Mountain businessmen Butch Kerns and Ronnie Whetstone have put their proposed Williams Street development on hold following a petition signed by 27 Williams and Edgemont Drive property owners to the recent meeting of the Planning and Zoning Board.

The board rejected the request by a vote of 4-2. Lou Ballew, John Houze, Jim Childers and M.C. Pruette, chairman, voted to deny the request. Lee McIntyre and Odus Smith favored the request. Roger Goforth was absent.

But Whetstone, a local builder and co-developer with the Kerns Trucking executive, said the sketch plan for the proposed development may be brought to the attention of City Council, which has the ultimate vote in the matter.

"As long as the Planning & Zoning Board continues to hold back new development in town Kings Mountain is going to sit here and dry up," said Whetstone who said the objecting neighborhood would not sit down with them and talk about the proposed single-family patio homes.

Last Thursday night Charles Blanton, Tim Gardner and Allen Fuller, all residents of Williams Street, expressed concern for high density buildings and said they were worried about increase in local traffic on a narrow road as well as sideyard setbacks.

Kerns stressed the need for change, pointing out that with the addition of Firestone and Sara Lee industries, Kings Mountain needs to make provision to accommodate the people who will want to move to Kings Mountain.

Whetstone said that employees of major industries now reside in Gastonia and Shelby.

"I do not feel that traffic would be a problem with buffers and screening and privacy would be welcomed by the new home owners who would find the cost of yard maintenance very low," he said.

"Every developer who wants to build in Kings Mountain runs into obstacles," said Whetstone.

"City Council let Upper Cleveland County take water up to our city limits and what kind of planning do we have?" he asked.

"We might as well put signs up and say that no new developments are welcome."

"We already meet the R-10 zoning requirements and can put up eight single family residences in there or 800-square feet of rental property," said Whetstone.

See Petition, 14-A



City Councilman Jim Guyton, left, Sandra Albrecht and Mayor Scott Neisler look at a new colored-coded zoning map developed by the land use review committee. The land development plan is the city's first updated version in 20 years.

Only handful attend meeting on land use

"I am hearing overwhelming displeasure with city government and overwhelming frustration by people about billing errors on utilities," said White.

White said he wanted to talk face-to-face with Kings Mountain citizens and he said he has had tremendous response from citizens who prefer a two year term for Council instead of the current four year term.

White said that because of computer and billing errors some people have been charged \$550 for gas instead of \$55, for instance, during one month's time and find their bills unchanged the next month after the error is reported.

He said he has suggested to city officials that the city install system parameters which would kick out or indicate abnormally high or low bills.

"I thought Council had decided to take those steps months ago but they did not and this would be a way to restore credibility and would not be expensive to install."

Only a handful of people turned out Tuesday night to preview the city's new color-coded zoning maps and hear a presentation of a new land development plan in the works for 13 months.

"I'm disappointed," said Joe Champion, who conducted the second community meeting on the plan.

Facilitator Sandra Albrecht of Centralina Council of Governments said the 15 committee members - the majority attending Tuesday's meeting - will meet again for fine-tuning of the plan before presenting the 84-page draft and Kings Mountain's official zoning maps to City Council.

Albrecht called the plan a document that City Council can refer to in making land use decisions and a guide for future land development but not mandatory.

"We are merely suggesting different strategies but we would hope the book doesn't gather dust on the shelf."

Mayor Scott Neisler commended the committee and called the plan a visionary statement.

"We'll use it as a bible, a statement of what Kings Mountain is and hopes to be."

Neisler was the only citizen of 17 people present who offered more input into the draft.

While he applauded the community appearance segment of the plan, he said that a prison work release

program now underway in the city is "good for Kings Mountain."

Prison labor is renovating the second floor of city-owned Mauney Memorial Library and on trash detail every Friday. One of the next projects is to weed the garden at the city monument at the western entrance to the city and plant 500 day lilies donated by a local horticulturist.

"My pet peeve is city beautification and I'm delighted that this plan includes the promotion of the city's positive image," said the mayor.

Neisler suggested that since Powell Bill funds from the state have been freed up for sidewalk construction that the committee prioritize new sidewalk construction as well as new gas line extensions.

The existing zoning map and land development plan is 20 years old. Champion said the new plan should take the city into the 21st Century.

The plan focuses on nine different areas and concentrates on specific goals and recommendations for an efficient and safe transportation system, a diverse housing environment, a vibrant and healthy downtown, the expansion of new and existing businesses and industries, community appearance, recreation and open space, historic preservation, accessible public utility systems and environmental quality and general planning.

See Land Use, 14-A

See Lake, 14-A

Kings Mountain People

Ollie Harris Jr. gets things done

Like his father, Ollie Harris Jr. would have preferred to remain in the shadows.

Father and son have been in the limelight for a number of years and although Ollie Jr. didn't follow in his Dad's footsteps in business and politics, the two shared a common goal: to be the best of whatever life offered.

Ollie Harris Sr. is Kings Mountain's former longtime N.C. Senator and longtime funeral director.

Ollie Jr., 59, went to Houston, Texas 33 years ago and changed Pasadena's crooked streets, honky tonks and sagging-roofed shops with a developer's vision for this

suburb that paved the way for that city's southern expansion.

His planned residential and commercial development of some 1,500 acres along both sides of Fairmont Parkway stands as a testament to order, a monument to his unwavering commitment to himself to build what he believed was true and proper and right.

"Ollie Jr. was the one who put all of south Pasadena together and make it work," said his father.

Recently, Harris deeded property to the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, another indication of the magnanimous loyalty he has had in the community where his real estate domain includes homes,

stores and office buildings. He turned what many thought to be worthless land into the most valuable non-industrial land in the city.

Indeed, his father and friends and associates described Harris as single-minded and driven, a man determined not to be ordinary, a ruthless negotiator determined that business be done his way.

A native of Cleveland County, Ollie Jr. was destined to take over Harris Funeral Home in Kings Mountain where the family has lived since 1947. But as a man in his late 20's, he tossed this future aside and moved to Houston, Texas to work for his uncle, Bob Harris, in land development.

John O., as Texans know him, developed the Arlington Heights subdivision across the city line in South Houston as his first of many projects.

But six months after Ollie Jr. went to work for him in 1963, Bob Harris was murdered.

That sudden turn of events left John O. - his friends call him John O. - more or less in charge. And when his aunt sold out the development business in 1971, John O. went out on his own, first as a broker, then as a developer in his own right.

The rest of his success story is history.

During the 1960s and early mid

1970's, Harris plotted and sold some 1500 lots on what remain to this day some of the city's best looking and most expensive homes, the most upscale in Pasadena.

In the early 1970's it appeared Harris would be owner of a professional sports team. He put up \$500,000 of the \$5.6 million purchase price to buy the San Diego Rockets but the team lost 22 of its first 26 games, killing the backing of those who had underwritten the venture. After two years, the original group of 12 owners sold the team at a loss.

"That was probably the only un-

See Harris, 14-A



OLIE HARRIS JR.