

Mountaineers open  
football season Friday  
at East Gaston  
**6-A**

**KM SAT scores show  
slight increase  
3-A**

**Pigskin  
Preview**  
inside today's Herald



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# Kings Mountain Herald

Vol. 108 No. 34

Thursday, August 29, 1996

Kings Mountain, N.C. • 28086 • 50¢

## Maney officially appointed City Manager

### Maney: I'm here to stay

The building of a new police department, breaking ground for a peak shaving plant, and getting the city back its A bond rating are high on new City Manager Jimmy Maney's agenda for the new administration.

Maney's leadership and management style promises to be unlike any of the three previous managers the city has had over the past three years.

He doesn't have a magic wand to wave but he promises his style of management will be different and that he will involve the public in attaining goals.

Maney, 42, a 23-year veteran of public service and a 16-year city employee and superintendent of the Utilities Department, was hired Tuesday night by City Council in the top executive position after serving since August 1 as interim manager.

He is no stranger to City Hall, moving only a few short blocks

from his office at the Public Works Building on North Piedmont Avenue and where he will still supervise the \$11 million utilities budget that makes up over half of the city's \$20 million plus budget yearly.

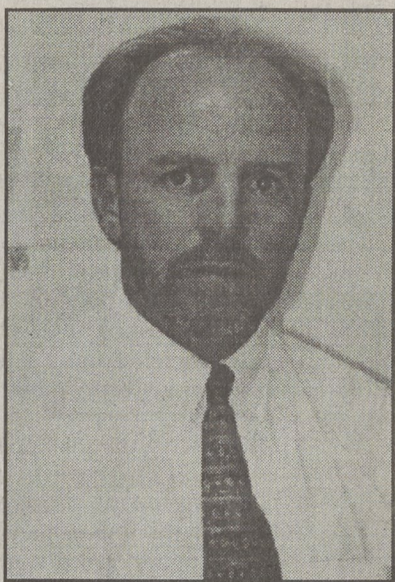
"The Council is looking to me for direction and good communication and that's what I plan to give them and the citizens of Kings Mountain," said Maney.

"I am here to stay because I live in Kings Mountain, my family is here and I love it," he said, accepting congratulations from well-wishers after a reception Tuesday following the Council meeting.

Maney says his job is a new challenge but already he's finding the role a pleasant experience.

His rapport with people and with the 160-plus employees is an asset for "Jimmy," as he prefers to be called.

Maney said he will focus on the positive, will address nega-



JIMMY MANEY

tive issues if they arise but move on and not dwell on them.

"I'm not going to get caught up in the negatives that have occurred over recent months, the public has been consumed

See Maney, 2-A

It's now official. Jimmy Maney is Kings Mountain's new city manager.

Maney, who had been appointed interim city manager August 1 when interim Gary Hicks resigned, was unanimously appointed to the full-time position at Tuesday night's City Council meeting.

He becomes the city's third manager since the city went to the city manager form of government in 1988. George Wood held the post for four years, and Chuck Nance held the job for one year.

Since Nance's departure, the city was led by interim managers - first, financial director Maxine Parsons, then Hicks and Maney.

Mayor Scott Neisler said there were over 90 applicants for the job, but that "we had a man in house who could do the job just as well" as any of the applicants. "We're really looking forward to working with him."

Maney, 42, will be paid \$50,000 a year. Maney has served as utilities superintendent for 23 years and prior to that was gas department superintendent for Bessemer City.

The choice of Maney was popular with the packed house attending Tuesday's meeting, many of whom are city employees. His appointment resulted in a standing ovation.

To pave the way to appoint Maney, the city repealed its residence requirement for a city manager which was adopted last November.

In another matter, Council heard a report from Glen Stephens, architect for Concrete Concepts'

proposed 13-acre Highland Business Park to be constructed near I-85 and Floyd Street.

Stephens said construction should start in October. Two buildings are planned - one a distribution center consisting of 121,452 square feet and the other an office/warehouse consisting of 38,400 square feet. He said there is no proposed tenant for the building at this time.

The Council also adopted a resolution authorizing submittal of a Community Development Block Grant of \$750,000 for revitalization projects in three areas of the city - an area of Battleground Avenue and Clinton Drive, Second Street, and the Lake Montonia Road area. The project would consist of rehabilitating homes, installing water and sewer lines, and paving streets. The city would have to provide matching funds of \$100,000, but Gary Wilson of Benchmark, Inc., which developed the project, said the city's payment would not be made until the completion of the project in the spring of 1998.

In other action Tuesday, Council:

■ Set a public hearing September 24 at 7:30 p.m. to amend the city charter to dissolve the Kings Mountain Elections Board, so that the Cleveland County Elections Board will be in charge of conducting future Kings Mountain elections; and that the run-off method of voting would be deleted and that municipal elections would involve elections being non-partisan and decided by simple plurality.

See Council, 2-A

### KMMS teacher thankful to be back from Moldova

Citizen-soldier Maury Williams, is back at Kings Mountain Middle School from Moldova with a message for his students.

"Be thankful to live in America and a land of opportunity."

Williams was among 39 North Carolina National Guard engineers who spent 12 days in south Russia building a church on the Moldovan military compound in Chisinau as part of the National Guard's "State to State Partnership Program."

He also helped put up a gazebo over a well and construct an exterior concrete wall.

"The people were all so excited because this is the first Protestant church to go up in the area and five years ago the church would never have been allowed when Moldova was under the Communist regime," he said this week as he located

Moldova on a globe Monday on his first day back in class.

Williams said the project was a Partnership for Peace mission - to build long-standing institutional affiliations and people-to-people relationships with Central and Eastern Europe nations while establishing democratic military organizations. By utilizing National Guardsmen in their dual roles as citizen soldiers, Central and Eastern European military leaders are encountering highly trained and cost effective members of the United State Armed Forces. Guardsmen serve as role models who make a compelling case for the ideal of democracy, professionalism and deference to civilian authority.

He is a member of the 505th Engineering Battalion of Gastonia.

Williams flew with other citi-

See Williams, 2-A



CITIZEN SOLDIER - Kings Mountain Middle School teacher Maury Williams points to Moldova on a world globe. He joined National Guardsmen in building a church in the poverty-stricken area.

### Standoff at local hotel ends peacefully Friday

"Everybody walked away unharmed and anytime that happens it's good news," said Chief of Police Bob Hayes after a fugitive standoff at Ramada Limited Friday caused some tense hours for law enforcement.

Hayes said Todd Arron White, 32, of Gastonia, barricaded himself in a room from early morning until he surrendered to police about 1 p.m. Friday afternoon. Hayes said no weapons were found on the suspect.

"We had to take him at his word that he had a handgun, a shotgun and had his door rigged up with explosives to go off if someone tried to get in," said Hayes.

Captain Richard Reynolds, who headed up the police investigation, said White was charged with possession of

stolen property, obstructing an officer's performance and obtaining property under false pretenses. White was wanted on several outstanding warrants in Gaston County and was turned over to Gaston authorities.

Reynolds said that around 12:30 a.m. Friday KMPD patrolling the motel parking lot found a car with a stolen license plate and then realized the car was stolen. Police asked the desk clerk at The Ramada Limited to call the guest in room 120 who had checked into the hotel Wednesday under the name Thomas Bradley.

"The man said he was armed and said if we tried to open the door it was wired," Reynolds said.

Police evacuated the motel and attempted to negotiate with the suspect.

### Kings Mountain People

#### Ella Degree 98 years old

Ella Degree was in the church choir Saturday night in her usual seat but instead of a choir robe she was dressed in birthday clothes and wearing a corsage.

Mrs. Degree, 98 on August 30, was raising her voice in song to "Let Everyone say Amen" at a special revival service which honored her not only on her birthday but for long service to the church and community.

"Mama Ella" was born and reared in Grover and has been active in the Long Branch First Baptist Church all her life.

Her pastor, Rev. Larry H. Dixon, and the visiting preacher Dr. R. D. Abbott poured tribute after tribute on the senior citizen from the pulpit. A large banner, "Happy Birthday Mama Degree," was placed in the sanctuary and after the service the congregation and friends presented her a birthday cake.

Mrs. Degree has three children, Willie Hartgrove, Wilbert Hartgrove and Gaither Hartgrove, all of Shelby. She said she couldn't count all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

See Degree, 3-A



ELLA DEGREE

#### Bertha Ellison is 90 years old

Bertha Ellison celebrated her 90th birthday Saturday at White Oak Manor with her large family.

Although her health is failing Mrs. Ellison says she is thankful for her nine surviving children and their families. She lost a son, Billy, at birth and a son, Melvin, died in the Vietnam War in 1969.

The widow of Ervin Ellison says she knows about sacrifice.

Reared on a farm, she learned to can vegetables, milk cows, chop and pick cotton and wash clothes on an old-timey scrub board at an early age. She remembers as a child dipping water from a spring and her mother always reminded her "not to dip too deep into the spring for you will stir up the dirt." She liked to cook on a woodstove and the aroma of sweet potatoes, green beans and fried chicken usually brought crowds to her table.

Ellison's daughter Nellie Thrift said at her party Saturday afternoon that "Mother was always there" for them through the good times and the bad and always had a song to sing.

See Ellison, 3-A



BERTHA ELLISON