



Hard work paying off for
Mountaineer linemen
6-A

Give blood today
1:30-6 pm at First Baptist Church
2-B

Win \$100
in First Carolina
State Bank
Football Contest



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Industrial Park site may be chosen Tuesday

Tuesday could be the day of decision by the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners on the site for the proposed Cleveland County Industrial Park.

Chairman Cecil Dickson says it's likely that a majority of members will favor the R. G. Plonk property, the site on US 74 West near Reliance Electric Company.

Dickson said David Pond, engineer for W. K. Dickson Co. of Charlotte, is on the agenda for the

7 p.m. meeting to present an engineering analysis of the three sites under consideration.

The Kings Mountain site has been picked as the No. 1 site of three by the Cleveland County Economic Development Commission which was asked by the county board to make a recommendation.

"I feel there's a majority of the commission that feels this is a good idea for the county," said Dickson, who said the county is looking at all

three parcels of land and evaluating the costs.

Both commissioner Ralph Gilbert and Shelby Mayor Mike Philbeck have led opposition to the Kings Mountain site, saying that timing is all wrong and Gilbert has pushed for the county to put off the selection of the site and purchase of land until after three new members go on the board after the November elections. Three of the present commissioners, Dickson, Sam Gold and E. T. Vanhoy go off the board this year.

"We've delayed the decision so long," said Kings Mountain's Ruby Alexander, a GOP candidate for the board.

"I certainly support the EDC's recommendation to the commissioners. It would benefit the whole county wherever it's located."

The county commission meets in the Commissioners Chambers at the County Administrative office building in Shelby.

Park benches to spruce up downtown

Commercial pine and wrought iron park benches are being assembled this week by members of the Kings Mountain Business & Professional Association and are expected to be ready for visitors at October Mountaineer Day.

"It isn't too late for other people to order the benches at the going price of \$100 as a memorial or tribute to loved ones," said Tim Hord of Kings Mountain Antique Mall.

Hord and Linda Allen of Ashley's were attaching the engraved plaques as the finishing touches on two dozen benches this week with help from local merchants who met on Tuesday night to complete the first phase of the project.

Those who want to place orders for the benches may call Hord at 739-6266 or Allen at 734-0044.



PARK BENCHES GOING UP - Tim Hord and Linda Allen put the finishing touch on one of the 24 park benches that will go up in the downtown area in October. The beautification project is sponsored by the new Kings Mountain Business and Professional Association.

City to ask County board to run elections

Change could be on the horizon for candidates running next year for the seven seats on City Council and the mayor's job.

If the city charter is amended as proposed by Council, the highest votegetter for a seat on City Council would be declared the winner with no possibility of a runoff and Cleveland County Board of Elections would be conducting the municipal elections.

At present two elections are held in Kings Mountain, a Primary in October and a runoff in November. The city runoff is held at the same time as school board elections and in November. The county board of elections runs the school board elections.

Council voted 5-0 Tuesday night to adopt a resolution of intent to amend the city charter to establish non-partisan elections to be determined by simple plurality vote and set the date of October 29 at 7:30 p.m. for public hearing. It will also make a decision after a public hearing on the abolishment of the city elections board which has been operated for 11 years by Becky Cook.

"I'm for one vote take all," said Councilman Dean Spears.

City Attorney Mickey Corry said that in a non-partisan election with plurality there is no primary election and no runoff, only one election in November with the highest votegetter the winner in each race. In event of a tie, the winner would be decided by the luck of a draw.

Cook had recommended some months ago that the county handle the elections, citing the cost of two elections for the City of Kings Mountain and saying that under the present

system absentee votes are not allowed.

Mayor Scott Neisler said state statutes declare that absentee voting is permitted when boards of elections are open five days a week. The city elections board opens its office only during election season and candidates register with Mrs. Cook at her residence. If the new proposal is adopted, candidates would pay their filing fees at the county elections board office in Shelby. Voters could still register here at Mauney Memorial Library and also at the Shelby office.

Corry said that under the plan the board has an option for a primary but with no more than two candidates for each position a primary would not be required. The two names would be on the November ballot.

Corry said the Council would negotiate with the county board for a contract to run the election. Councilman Phil Hager suggested that the city's equipment be utilized or negotiate the cost of the equipment with the deal.

"You could retain the Primary with the two highest votegetters on the November ballot and the top man or woman winning election," Corry said in response to questions.

Both options would eliminate runoffs. However, a candidate could still call for a recount of the votes.

The present charter provides for a primary and a runoff if necessary.

The Kings Mountain Board of Elections was chartered in 1951. Councilmen Ralph Grindstaff and Jerry White were absent. Council voted unanimously 5-0 to call for a public hearing.

City to plan transportation improvements

City officials will attend two meetings in October in Shelby to set priorities for transportation improvements.

City Planner Steve Killian and other city leaders will meet with the Cleveland County Transportation Partnership Tuesday and attend the N.C. Board of Transportation public meeting October 29 to present priority projects for inclusion in the 1998-2004 TIP.

Currently there are two near-

by projects listed in the Highway Program section of the State's 1997-2003 Transportation Improvement Program.

The first is the Dixon School Road facility on a new route and the second is the I-85/US 29 bridge replacement on NC 161.

Killian distributed a memorandum to City Council Tuesday which detailed the projects.

He said the Kings Mountain Thoroughfare Plan was adopted by City Council June 25 and by the N. C. Department of Transportation on September 5.

The Dixon School Road project is funded to include widening to four lanes from I-85 to US 74 Business. The cross-section recommended requires enough right-of-way to accommodate a multilane facility.

The road would be extended to intersect with NC 216 at SR

2013. A two lane cross section would be sufficient to handle traffic along the extension. An additional interchange with US 74 would be constructed in conjunction with the extension. The facility would then be signed as the NC 216 Bypass.

On Phifer Road the widening would include a right turn lane into the high school and into the middle school. The addition of this turn lane would reduce the congestion

72nd Cleveland County Fair opens today

It's Fair Time in Cleveland County and the 72nd annual, largest event in North Carolina opens Thursday at 5 p.m. at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds and continues until October 5.

Fair Manager Joe Goforth says there's plenty of fun events for the whole family plus 6,000 exhibits, 1,800 exhibitors, music, entertainment, food, livestock, horticulture, arts, crafts and one of the largest midway shows on the East coast with 35 rides.

This year's fair salutes the five Cleveland County Volunteer Rescue Squads.

Gates open at 2 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Monday, Wednesday, Oct. 3 and 4 and on Saturday, Sept. 28 and Saturday, Oct. 5, at 9 a.m. Gates open at noon Sunday, Sept. 29. Gates open Tuesday at 11 a.m. Closing is at 11 p.m. nightly.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for seniors and \$1 for children ages 6-12. There will

be a \$2 gate special for everyone on Saturday from 9 a.m.-10 a.m. and for women on Ladies Day Monday.

Reithoffer Shows will celebrate their 200th year in the business and 20th year at the county fair with giant rides, games and sideshows and a birthday bash Thursday at the Fair. Gate prices will be two for one until 7 p.m. Armbands valid for unlimited rides will be available until 7 p.m. and food

and drinks will be discounted until 7 p.m. at participating vendors.

Seniors Day is Tuesday and all senior citizens will be admitted free until 7 p.m. Preschool children and nursing home residents will be admitted free Wednesday, October 2, from 9 until noon.

The Bar H Wild West Rodeo returns to the fair Friday,

See Fair, 11-A

Kings Mountain People

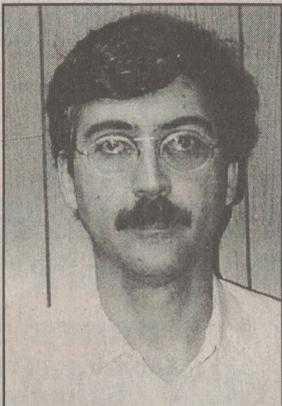
Bridges auto group's man of year

His co-workers at City Auto & Truck Parts good-naturedly label Kevin Bridges, 38, "Mr. Do It All."

That's because Bridges fits naturally into the Kings Mountain business his father opened 50 years ago.

He went to work at age 13 dusting the stock for Bob Bridges and then was promoted to the shop where he learned under his father's direction to turn brake drums, realign brakes and manufacture hydraulic hoses. In later years he worked in sales and is now completely in charge of inventory control and the company computer system.

Recently Bridges was tapped as "Man of the Year" by the Automotive Parts Association of the Carolinas for his leadership of one of the most de-



KEVIN BRIDGES

manding committees of APAC, the insurance program.

Bridges saw a dwindling pro-

gram become sellable to jobbers in the industry, in three months traveling over 9,000 miles and taking the program to 3,000 employees in 400 businesses in the Carolinas.

"I had worked on this committee four years and became chairman in 1995-96 and for most of us in the business the accident and health coverage was not adequate, so I started researching the program and our new program took shape and is working great," said Bridges.

Leadership roles are not uncommon to the Kings Mountain native, a 1976 graduate of Kings Mountain High School and son of Bob and Barbara Bridges of the Dixon Community. He ran the youth program at Dixon Presbyterian Church for many years, accompanying children

to camp. He and his wife, Trudy Childers Bridges, built their new home in the Dixon Community and moved into it the day after their 3 1/2 year old daughter, Katie, was born.

Bridges admits that he met some resistance to his ideas for the insurance program but he said he needed good insurance as did his co-workers and in January when he assumed the chairmanship of the committee he went to work.

The new program has saved the employees 14 percent on premiums which were up to 21 percent increases.

Recently Bridges took on several other hobbies. He loves to fly and is working on his commercial pilot's license. He started golfing in several tour-

See Bridges, 11-A



DAY OF CARING - Rita Lawing, chairman for the Kings Mountain United Fund for Saturday's Day of Caring, left, Scott Lynch, Mikie Smith, president of United Fund, Maude Norris and Mayor Scott Neisler prepare to take a ride with Steve Lynch after painting the Senior Center, one of the projects of 25 volunteers.