

Kings Mountain Herald

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It's a tough time for textile industry

Local textile people admit it's a tough time for the industry. But one Kings Mountain industry, Mauney Hosiery Mills, a longtime employer, was idle only one day for the July 4th holiday, closing only on Friday. "We haven't taken a full week's holiday for the past two years and this year we're pleased that we have more orders to fill," said plant official David Faunce. "We've had to make a few changes but we are employing more people today than ever before," said Faunce.

New Senior Center plans may be on hold

The Kings Mountain Senior Center probably won't be moving into a new building anytime soon. The hopes of local people that a quarter million dollar grant from the North Carolina Parks & Recreation Trust Fund would be approved were dashed Tuesday when Aging Director Monty Thornburg learned that the state did not approve any grants to senior centers. Kingstown was the only town in Cleveland County to receive a grant and it was the upper Cleveland town's first application. Thornburg had estimated that a new senior center would cost between \$800,000 and one million dollars. If the grant had been approved the city would have been expected to match the money. City Manager Jimmy Maney says the city may re-address the project with a new concept of how to come up with the funds to pay for a new center. "The project is on hold for the present time," he said. Thornburg said he may reapply next year for another state grant. Thornburg said the General Assembly isn't releasing \$5 million originally targeted for senior centers and \$2 million for development. "It's all on hold," he said.

Want to play football? Report to Optimist Club

If you want to play football and you are between 7 and 12 years of age the Kings Mountain Optimist Club has a spot for you. Mighty Mites, coached by Scott Wells, for ages 7-9; Junior Pee Wees, coached by Jeff Robinson for ages 9-11; and Pee Wees for ages 10-12 coached by Jimmy Littlejohn, will start signing up for three teams July 25 at 10 a.m. at old City Stadium. Girls ages 7-12 who want to be cheerleaders can sign up at the same time to cheer these teams to victory in fall games. "Since Bessemer City and Grover don't have teams we welcome these youth too," said Littlejohn.

Bethware Community Fair to begin on August 1

The 51st annual Bethware Community Fair cranks up July 28 on the grounds of Bethware School. The agriculture fair runs through August 1. Kala Buchanan, fifth grader at Bethware School and daughter of Tom Buchanan and Donna Keeter, will reign as Queen of the Fair.

Signs proclaim road Ollie Harris Highway

Big green signs along the U.S. 74 Bypass of Kings Mountain proclaim that the stretch of road is now the J. Ollie Harris Highway. The signs, which honor the late Senator J. Ollie Harris of Kings Mountain, went up this week.

Seven county firemen fighting fires in Florida

Seven Cleveland County firemen are fighting fires in Florida. Beau Lovelace, the county Emergency Management Director, is leading a group of firemen to Florida. Lovelace, in Ormand Beach Tuesday, said thunderstorms had resulted in some rain to the area. Firemen from Boiling Springs Rural Fire Department and Waco Fire Department are battling the blaze.



WAY TO GO - Mike Bennett snapped this picture just as this July 4th celebrant ducked his head in a watermelon at the city's July 4th celebration at the walking track. Young people apparently didn't mind the sizzling heat and found the perfect way to cool off. See more photos page 4A.

It's Decision Day for City and Ingles

Will Ingle's Inc. build in Kings Mountain on Oak Grove Road? City Council may make that decision Monday night at 7 p.m. as City Manager Jimmy Maney presents options on how to finance the cost of running sewer to serve the proposed new business which has promised to bring new jobs to the community. The Ingles project has hit several snags over the past several years and now the cost of construction of a sewer line has risen to \$600,000 plus. Charles Murdock, real estate developer, has written Maney that Ingles markets will pay \$150,000 up front and apply for a community development block grant for \$370,000. But Maney said the grant money is forthcoming that the city would have to come up with the additional funds.

An annexation agreement signed by the city and Ingles had included no cost to the city for the sewer construction. "Council will have to decide whether it will require Ingles to foot the whole bill or change its earlier agreement and participate with cash for the project," said Maney. Another item on Monday night's special meeting will be consideration by Council on what process it will use to appoint members of the Moss Lake advisory board. At last week's meeting the board reappointed the two members serving from the Moss Lake Property Owners Association but tabled the reappointment of the five inside-city residents because they had received no applications from them concerning reappointment.

Board to decide makeup of proposed new school

The makeup of the proposed new school - will it be a K-5 or 5-6 school? That's the question that Kings Mountain Board of Education members may decide at the August meeting. Hawkins said the item will be on the agenda and once the makeup of the new plant is determined the architects will assist board members in finding a suitable location. In other actions at Tuesday's board meeting, members: Approved a 1998-99 interim budget of \$24.4 million and budget amendments for 1997-98. Approved the three-year safe school plans submitted by the principals at the eight schools. Supt. Dr. Bob McRae said he had evaluated each school and determined that more than 50 percent of each school's objectives were met. McRae said the state, upon recommendation of the school board, would

pay bonuses of one percent of salary of each principal this year and every year after that the principals would be eligible for a bonus. Approved the low milk bid from Carolina Dairy of Shelby and the low bread bid from Merita Bakeries and extended contract with PYA Monarch for commodities through December before issuing new bids. Approved the Title I application for 1998-99 for which all elementary schools with 25 percent of the student body receiving free or reduced lunches qualify for the program. Purchased a modular classroom unit for East School at cost of \$22,000. McRae said that the campus is growing with 40 more new students expected for the fall term beginning August 10. Ronnie Wilson, Assistant Supt. for Personnel, said that for the most part the vacancies for teacher

City Council to award bids for new police station

City Council will award bids for the \$1 million Kings Mountain Law Enforcement Center Monday night at a 7 p.m. special meeting at City Hall. City Manager Jimmy Maney said Council will also award the bids for demolition of the old police station on Piedmont Avenue. Bids were opened Tuesday for the demolition work and bids will be opened Thursday at 2 p.m. for construction of the new police station. "If all goes on schedule we will be ready to start construction August 13th," said Maney. Maney said telephones are being installed this week as well as the 911 communication system as local police are packing to move into the old Herald Building on S. Piedmont Avenue. The city has leased the building from Regal Graphics and painters have been busy for several weeks getting the building ready for the new occupants who are expected to stay at least a year. Stewart & Cooper Architects, the team which designed the new law enforcement center in Gastonia, say the decor will blend with the adjoining buildings. The red brick L-shaped police building will have a dark green metal roof and will extend all the way from the existing building (to be razed) to front Mountain Street. One end of the building will face the Kings Mountain Baptist Church, the front of the building will face Central United Methodist Church

Cable Link closing Kings Mountain plant

Cable Link Inc. is closing its cable assembly operation in Kings Mountain and will transfer its production to Reynosa, Mexico on the U.S. border near McAllen, Texas and to its other plant in Fremont, California. Scott Myers, general manager who joined the firm here 10 years ago, said Cable Link is phasing out its operation here because of "economic reasons." "Competition in the market is very tight and our choice was to move it or get out of the business despite the best efforts of our employees," he said. Cable Link manufactures cable assemblies for computers and telecommunication systems. Parent company is Robinson Nugent of New Albany, Indiana. Myers said 75 people are employed in the one shift operation and some have been given relocation offers. "I have family here and mixed emotions about leaving Kings Mountain but I have been in this business for 15 years and with the local company since it opened," he said. Layoffs are slated to begin in mid-August with plant closing in late November.

Kings Mountain People

Worthen is hooked on prison ministry

By Elizabeth Stewart
Kings Mountain Herald

Bill Worthen is hooked on a prison ministry he joined two years ago. "I was reluctant when I was approached by my pastor about visiting inmates but after one visit I knew that it was God's calling," said the Kings Mountain man who is the Western North Carolina resource coordinator for the local prison ministry. When Worthen isn't visiting and distributing religious literature at local prisons he's writing letters and ordering materials, most of which he has received free from such evangelists as Billy Graham and Bibles from all over the country. "We don't preach to them, we



BILL WORTHEN

just listen and we've extended our ministry to their families," he said.

The goal of the local ministry is to have church services at the Cleveland County Jail and Annex but so far Worthen, retired teacher Mike Smith and Crisis Ministry Director Becky Lineberger minister one on one. Other volunteers are Pat Wise, Mark Styers, Melvin Morris, Tina Hall, Mary Baxter and Kay Hambright. They call their ministry Son Light and Smith is the new editor of the Son Light News which they distribute to inmates and which includes articles written by inmates. "We can see a difference," said Worthen, who says some of the 150 inmates are using dictionaries for the first time to look up words they don't understand. "They know us and call us by name," he said. Worthen admits that jail ministry is not for everyone and that he was in-

troduced to the program by his pastor, Rev. Joe Heffner, at Grover Church of God. "These inmates can see through a phony in a second and most times we see people that we know or we know their families," said Worthen who said a confessed murderer told him that his trouble began "when I got out of church." Worthen became so engrossed with a man's story and need for someone to talk to that he got locked twice in the jail cell. "I'll spend the rest of my life in here," one inmate said, "and it hurts." Worthen's den and his shop at 908 Sharon Drive are filled with boxes of Bibles and religious materials. He ordered 2,000 new books and Family Worship Center sent a check to pay for them.

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