

# Kings Mountain Herald

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Kings Mountain, NC • Since 1889 • 50¢

## This Week

- Thursday**  
12 noon - Kings Mountain Rotary Club meets at Ramada Limited.  
6:30 p.m. - Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club meets at Central United Methodist Church.
- Friday**  
5-7:15 p.m. - Kings Mountain High School Renaissance Club poor man's supper, KMHS cafeteria. \$4.  
7:30 p.m. - High school football, Shelby at Kings Mountain.
- Saturday**  
10 a.m. - Livermush and Barbecue Festival, Cleveland Mall.  
10 a.m.-5 p.m. - Pioneer Days/Muzzleloaders Conclave, Kings Mountain State park. \$2 adults, \$1 ages 6-12.

## Inside



**1B**  
Perry Champion, right, and Mearl Valentine do a professional job as P.A. announcer and spotter at KMHS football games

**7B**  
KMHS graduate Aaron Allen returns as school's first full-time athletic trainer

**2A**  
The City of Kings Mountain's bond rating has been upgraded, meaning the city can borrow money if it needs to. But, according to City Manager Jimmy Maney, the city is on sound financial footing.

**8A**  
All five Kings Mountain School Board members agree that Parker Street School should be renamed Davidson School.

**9A**  
You may think the dirt road off Cherokee Street is a public street, but it's not. And the owner, who says he's fed up with dust and hot rods, closes it.

- Church News 8B
- Classified 9-11B
- Club News 5A
- Obituaries 3A
- Police News 10A
- School News 8A
- Sports 1-7B
- Weddings 4A

## Deaths

Bertha Blanton, 90  
Kings Mountain

William Payne, 74  
Grover

Rebecca Early, 58  
Shelby

Charlie Whetstone, 86  
Kings Mountain

William Jackson, 72  
Kings Mountain

3A

# Redrawing lines would add 727 people

Redrawing of the city's five ward lines to add 727 newly-annexed citizens would take the inside city population to 9,401.

City Council's discussion of ward lines took a new twist Monday night as several members pondered how voters at some time could cast ballots for a majority of the board in municipal elections.

Ward III Councilman Clavon Kelly said he thought the ward voting system should be changed from voting within wards.

"Voters should be able to vote for their choice in each ward and for mayor," he said. Kelly said the city followed this procedure in 1990-91.

"I see the city going backwards to consider this method and I would prefer to wait until after the 2000 census to redraw the lines again," said Ward I Councilman Phil Hager.

Mayor Scott Neisler threw out the suggestion that perhaps three people could be elected at large to give voters a chance to vote for four people or a majority of council.

City Attorney Mickey Corry led the public hearing on the proposed ordinance amending the city charter redrawing the ward lines to take in the new annexed areas.

"However, you could call for a referendum to change the mode of election," he responded to Kelly.

"But all changes must be precleared by the U. S. Justice Department after notices of intent, public hearings and proper advertisements have been done."

Corry said under the proposed ordinance the city's biggest populated area would be Ward 5, with 1,971 people and the city's smallest would be Ward 3, with 1,820 people.

The U. S. Census count in 1990 listed 1758 people in Ward I; 1791 people in Ward II; 1725 people in Ward III; 1725 people in Ward IV and 1696 people in Ward V.

Corry said because of annexation a total of 83 people are added with the Waco Road area

annexation in Ward I; a total of 104 are added with the Second Street annexation in Ward II; a total of 27 people are added with the Canterbury Road annexation in Ward III; a total of 238 people are added with portions of 74 and Summit Place in Ward IV; and a total of 275 people are added in Ward V with the expansion in the Country club and Country Creek areas and northern side of US 74.

City Council conducted public hearing to discuss a proposed ordinance amending the city charter regarding the redrawing of ward lines which had been studied in depth by a

committee including Becky Cook, Annie Thombs, Corry and Councilmen Gee White, Jerry Mullinax and Phil Hager.

Corry showed maps which illustrated the six primary areas that were annexed.

The population of Kings Mountain as reported in the 1990 census was 8,763, Corry said, but the addition would bring the total to 9,401. The average ward size is 1,898.

Corry said the council can establish the new lines at the next meeting, then publish a notice in the newspaper. The changes must be precleared by the U.S. Justice Department.

## Beating The Odds

### Hunter Caldwell, deaf since birth, makes all A's, plays football

by ELIZABETH STEWART  
of The Herald Staff

Signing is getting to be a habit for seventh graders and friends of Middle School student John Hunter Caldwell.

Caldwell, the son of Teresa and David Caldwell, has introduced his classmates and the Patriot football team to sign language this fall in the Middle School's first venture into deaf education. Although he attempts to speak and lip read, Hunter has never been able to communicate verbally but that doesn't mean he considers himself handicapped.

A champion on and off the gridiron, the tall good looking boy is regarded by his family and teachers as "a bright, happy go lucky kid." He can be observed almost any day in the school cafeteria chatting on his hands with some of his buddies. His "A" marks are the envy of his classmates.

Caldwell has been profoundly deaf since birth. Diagnosed at age four months, he started learning sign language at the age of nine months and his whole family learned with him.

"We needed to know how to tell Hunter that we love him," said the youth's doting mother who drove him from Kings Mountain to Morganton every day for six years when he was a student at the N. C. School for the Deaf. After four years of volunteering on the staff, Teresa became an assistant teacher of deaf education there for two years and then joined Sherwood Elementary School in Gastonia in the hearing im-

See Caldwell, 9A



Hunter Caldwell, center, signs with his football partner, Jermaine Strong, left, and interpreter Jenny Collins in math class at Kings Mountain Middle School.

## Paving, sidewalk projects approved

With the awarding of a \$250,000 bid to Rea Construction Company Monday, the city is set to begin paving of 15 city streets.

City Manager Jimmy Maney said the workers are "ready to go" and estimated that paving could be completed before winter.

Maney also announced the receipt of a \$50,000 state grant from the Department of Transportation to install five feet of sidewalk along Cansler Street in the area of Bynum Chapel Church, a priority project of Ward I Councilman Phil Hager for four years.

"I am just elated," said Hager, who said the paperwork should be in Raleigh in about 30 days.

Hager said children get off the school bus and walk in the street to get to their homes in the apartment complexes. "It is a very dangerous situation," he said.

Maney also announced that the Department of Transportation will let a resurfacing contract in the spring of 1999 that will include NC 161 from the entrance to the city park to US 74 Business and NC 161.

See Paving 2A

# KM's first Relay for Life is Saturday



RELAY FOR LIFE - City employees plan to participate on one of the 17 teams in the first annual 24-hour Kings Mountain Relay for Life to fight cancer beginning Saturday at 8 a.m. at the city's walking track. From left, Shirley Payne, Tripp Hord, Teresa Dowda, Fire Chief Frank Burns, Pat Blanton, Janet Hayes, Carole Roberts and John Clemmer.

Local cancer survivors will walk the first lap of the first annual Kings Mountain Relay for Life by the Kings Mountain Cancer Society at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Kings Mountain Walking Track on Cleveland Avenue.

The community-wide event to fight cancer begins at 8 a.m. Saturday and continues until 8 a.m. Sunday with entertainment Saturday from 10 a.m. until midnight by singers, live bands, a 9 p.m. lighting of luminaries and special music by Fifth Sunday and participation by 17 teams representing business and industry promoting bake sales, auctions, NASCAR memorabilia, concessions, etc. to raise money for cancer research.

"We want to raise cancer awareness and also offer the luminaries at \$10 each for cancer

research," said city recreation director Tripp Hord, a member of the planning committee.

Luminaries can be donated in honor of, in appreciation for or in memory of loved ones and can be obtained at the walking track or at the Community Center, Fire Department and most downtown businesses.

The luminaries will line the small walking track.

Fire Chief Frank Burns says that survivors who plan to walk should be at the track at 9:30 a.m. Saturday to register so their names can be announced as they walk the track. Mike Neely is chairman and Jamie Lakey is co-chairman of the event.

Tents will be set up in the park area for the various events and some 300 balloons will be

See Relay, 7A

First Carolina Federal

Kings Mountain  
300 W. Mountain St.  
739-4781

Gastonia  
529 S. New Hope Rd.  
865-1111

Shelby  
1238 E. Dixon Blvd.  
484-0222

MEMBER FDIC