

# Kings Mountain Herald

Vol. 110 No. 47

Thursday, November 19, 1998

Kings Mountain, NC • Since 1889 • 50¢

## This Week

### Thursday

12 noon - Kings Mountain Rotary Club at Ramada Ltd.

6:30 p.m. - Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club at Central United Methodist Church

### Friday

7:30 a.m. - Special called meeting of the Kings Mountain Board of Education at Central School to discuss a personnel matter in closed session.

7:30 p.m. - High School football, Asheville at Kings Mountain, second round of state 3A playoffs.

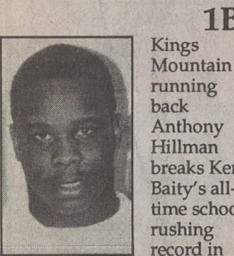
### Tuesday

7 p.m. - Kings Mountain City Council meets at City Hall.

## Inside



**1B** Kings Mountain High football standout Mariko Feemster has been selected to play in the annual Shrine Bowl game in December in Charlotte.



**1B** Kings Mountain running back Anthony Hillman breaks Ken Baity's all-time school rushing record in Friday's 50-7 state playoff win over Wilkes Central.

**6B** Kings Mountain's Hilda Dixon is selected as Cleveland County Red Cross Female Volunteer of the Year

**7B** Kings Mountain Little Theatre to present Harvey

**12B** Annual Hospice Holiday Food Sale is Saturday at Shelby High School.

**5A** Dr. Allen Queen of Kings Mountain is a "Professor with a Punch."

**6A** Kings Mountain National Guard provides a drug awareness community outreach program for youth of Kings Mountain.

## Deaths

Mildred Cook, 78  
Kings Mountain  
Clifford Pearson, 73  
Kings Mountain  
Laura Webb, infant  
Kings Mountain  
Virginia Grigg, 82  
Kings Mountain  
Gladys Traywick, 70  
Grover

# "You're outa here!"



Hundreds crowd Kings Mountain City Hall to hear Council's vote on ABC issue

## Angry crowd says it will work to oust from office city commissioners who rescinded ABC vote

By 4-3, City Council voted last Wednesday night not to call for a special vote on alcohol sales, reversing an earlier decision and drawing loud protests from a packed council chambers estimated at over 350 people.

"You're outa here," the crowds yelled, openly threatening to oust a City Council who they said bowed to pressure.

"Pressure works both ways," said former Mayor Kyle Smith. "We can pressure these people right out of office."

"I'll work for a new election and I'll work to get them out of office too," said the Rev. Steve Akers, pastor of Northside Baptist Church. "They've got no backbone."

Rev. Chip Sloan, pastor of Kings Mountain's largest congregation at First Baptist Church, said his local church members would begin their effort to secure names of registered voters on a petition beginning as early as Sunday. Other pastors said they would do the same.

Wednesday's special council meeting was a repeat performance of October 27 when Council voted unanimously to call for the special election. But it was a larger and hot-

ter crowd, many speakers charging that the special meeting was hastily called by council to keep church members at prayer meetings and absent from the special meeting. But most of the crowd were church members and at least five churches called off prayer service Wednesday so their members could attend.

The crowd spilled over from council chambers into the lobby and many people stood in the aisles and in the lobby where extra chairs and a TV monitor were set up. There were television cameras to record the two-hour meeting which was a mixture of revival and pep rally with Mayor Scott Neisler rapping on his gavel for order several times and telling the crowd he would not tolerate the jeers and outbursts. There was loud cheering punctuated by 'amens' when they agreed with spokesmen on their views on alcohol and city council.

At the October 27 meeting council opened a public hearing on the issue of expanding Sunday sales of beer and wine. More than 200 people, most of them from local churches, showed up to oppose expansion and they and Councilman

Gene White urged council to abolish all alcohol sales. White's motion to change the agenda item to include "action on any item regarding this issue" passed without discussion.

City attorney Mickey Corry told Council they could vote to call a referendum or wait for citizens to submit a petition with 35 percent of registered voters required, approximately 1700. In an intensely emotional revival type atmosphere, all seven council members voted for the ballot.

The tidal wave of pressure that produced the unanimous vote October 27 resulted in four members changing their minds last Wednesday.

Philip Hager, Clavon Kelly and Gene White stood by their previous votes and Norma Bridges, Rick Murphrey, Bob Hayes and Jerry Mullinax changed their votes.

As crowds left city hall Rev. Doug Allen, president of the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association, said organizers are ready to start petitions.

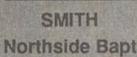
See Council, 7A

## What They Said



"Pressure works both ways. We can pressure these people right out of office."

Former Mayor Kyle Smith



"They've got no backbone."

Steve Akers, Pastor, Northside Baptist

"This (meeting on church prayer meeting night) was not intentional."

Mayor Scott Neisler

"I represent all the people in the community... We should respect the rights of all citizens."

Councilman Rick Murphrey

"Alcohol is going to be here whether it's legal or not."

Businessman Kenneth Hamrick

"This issue is not fairness but righteousness... You are voting to take the vote away from the people."

Chip Sloan, Pastor, First Baptist

"Step forward, Mayor, and give some leadership."

Councilman Gene White



"Each one of us could have said 'table' at the last meeting but we kept our mouths shut... I'm a Christian and I stand for God."

Councilman Clavon Kelly

"I made a mistake and I am the first to admit it... If you get up a petition I will be the first person to sign it."

Councilwoman Norma Bridges



"Sometimes when you do things in haste you have to live with the consequences."

Councilman Phil Hager

"The issue should be in the hands of the voters but the petition is the right way to go about it."

Councilman Bob Hayes

## Vet Day service honors KM heroes

Charlie Carpenter, Willis King, Claude Pearson, Whitey Hogue, Brenda Graham and Tommy Barnette, all veterans, shared memories at last Wednesday's Veterans Day service sponsored by American Legion Post 155 and the City of Kings Mountain.

King wore his uniform. Carpenter wore his cap, and the others all wore their Legion caps to pay respect to those who fought for freedom.

"We came back but we all had experiences that we will never forget," said King, who wiped unashamedly the tears from his eyes as Mayor Scott Neisler lit the eternal flame at Veterans Park of Mountain Rest Cemetery and placed a red, white and blue wreath given by

Harris Funeral Home and the Harris family in memory of the late Senator J. Ollie Harris.

Earlier at the Post building, Frances Green and Brenda Graham, Fifth Division Commander of the American Legion, talked about freedom's meaning to 40 people gathered in the ballroom.

Green recalled the service of her relative, Pvt. Otis D. Green, for whom the Post 155 is named. "Ode stands for a lot of boys who went overseas and some didn't come back," she said. Green enlisted in the Army during World War I and was sent to France. On March 4, 1918 his worried father wrote the War Department because he

See Veterans, 7a



**LIGHT ETERNAL FLAME** - Mayor Scott Neisler, left, is joined by veterans Whitey Hogue, Post 155 Commander Claude Pearson, Sons of the American Legion Commander Tommy Barnette, Division V Commander Brenda Graham and Willis King in lighting the eternal flame on Veterans Day at Mountain Rest Cemetery.

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865-1111

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MEMBER FDIC