

KM girls win SWC swim tournament
1B

Dan Potter begins girls soccer in KM
1B

Countdown to 2000

Will we have power in 2000?
4A

Relay for Life fundraiser planned in KM
6A



Kings Mountain Herald



KM Library breaks ground for new wing
6A

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ABC vote may not be until fall

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Of The Herald Staff

Ward IV Councilman Gene White predicts that the earliest that a special ABC referendum could be held would be September 1, two months before the 1999 city election.

White, a leader in Citizens for a Better Community, said the Cleveland County Board of Elections has the petitions ready but that a steering committee must be activated first at a kickoff meeting yet to be scheduled.

"It has taken about three months since this issue first came before city council but we have had to clarify language in the petition and coordinate with both the Cleveland and Gaston County Boards of Elections," said White.

Citizens for a Better Community want to eliminate alcohol consumption in Kings Mountain.

The petition would require some 1800 signatures of registered voters for the board of elections to call the election.

"Realistically I think we are looking at September 1 before an election could be held," said White.

Committees on both sides of the alcohol beverage control issue in Kings Mountain are gearing up for big campaign kickoffs.

"My role has been as the contact person between the Citizens for Better Community and the Board of Elections to get the petition in place and be certain that it's technically and legally correct," said White.

White said he would not serve as chairman of the group. "I view this as an effort by citizens of Kings Mountain to decide at this point if the advantages of alcohol in Kings Mountain outweigh the disadvantages of it and am encouraging everyone to vote and express their opinion on this issue and this can't be done until we get names on the petition," he said.

Meantime, opponents of the petition effort to call for an ABC election, may mount a petition effort of their own and ask for a vote on alcohol by the drink, but that's okay too, says White.

White said that approximately 1800 names, one third of the registered voters in the city, would be required on petitions calling for an election. "The opposition would require the same number of names on their petition," he said.

"Kings Mountain has annexed several areas and voters in those new areas as well as all voters' names must be validated and the petition has been prepared exactly as voters will see it on the ballot," he said.

Once the petition is in the hands of Citizens for a Better Community the group will have 90 days in which to gather the petitions and turn them into Elections Director Debra Blanton for validation.

KM's 125th celebration today

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Of The Herald Staff

Happy birthday Kings Mountain and y'all come! That's what city officials will be proclaiming at 4 p.m. Thursday as the city unveils its new flag on the 125th anniversary of the incorporation of Kings Mountain as a town.

Mayor Scott Neisler will preside at the festivities in front of City Hall. The mayor will also distribute 250 4x6 inch flag replicas on a first-come-first served basis.

"It's been a pretty well kept secret about the color of our new flag until last week when the word leaked out," said Neisler, who is excited that the beautiful design created by Reg Alexander will soon fly atop the city's third flag pole.

Neisler said about 75 citizens took the time to vote on a choice for the color of the new flag, red, white and blue; gold and black; or green and blue. He said the vote was close on the choice for the flag which he called "beautiful."

Rev. Dick Newsome, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, will give the invocation and special music will be presented by the Kings Mountain High School Chorus under the direction of Gene Bumgardner. The service is expected to last about 20 minutes and will conclude with the unveiling of the flag.

A traveling mobile unit from the Kings Mountain Post Office will also be on hand. Flag design stamp cancellation emblems will be available to

customers, most of whom will keep the item as a memorabilia of the event.

The post office will begin selling and cancelling stamps at 12 noon in the parking lot of the post office. Cancellations will be done there until 3 p.m., then the unit will move to city hall from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Alexander first designed the flag about 20 years ago at the request of then-Mayor John Henry Moss. Neisler asked Alexander to refresh the design and then got the idea to

invite the public to vote on a color for the design.

Neisler said citizens can be proud of their heritage. He plans to speak briefly about the city's heritage. He says local history buffs would really enjoy looking at the city's old minute books from 1874 which are under lock and key at city hall but are available for public viewing.

Today's event launches a celebration period which will continue throughout the year with special events.

a time for Love

That Valentine's Day Rose probably checked for drugs

By Alan Hodge

When the torrent of candy, cards, and flowers rains down on Valentine's Day, we have an English poet from the Middle Ages to thank. One of the world's most popular occasions, Valentine's Day is traced back to Geoffrey Chaucer's observation that many birds pair off on February 14, so it would be equally romantic if people did a little something nice for one another as well. The odd twist to the tale is that the name of the man chosen for the day, St. Valentine, was a Christian martyr who had his head chopped off in Rome on February 14, circa 260 A.D. The year 469 A.D. saw Pope Gelasius I officially make February 14 Saint Valentine's Day.

Early Valentine's Day customs included writing potential

sweetheart's names on slips of paper and dropping them into water. The first name to rise would become the true love. Drawing names out of a jar was also a popular Valentine custom. Whatever name you drew was called your "valentine."

Commercial Valentine's Day cards were first made in the United States around 1847 by Esther Howard of Worcester, Massachusetts. Howard took samples of her handmade cards to local stores. As the orders poured in, she hired a staff of women poets and artists to mass produce the items. After just a year or two, Howard's Valentine's Day card business was bringing in \$100,000 per year.

Besides cards and candy, the other "must give" gift associated with Valentine's Day is flowers—
See Rose, 3A



ALAN HODGE / THE HERALD

ROSE IS A ROSE- Amy Smith at The Secret Garden flower and gift shop in Kings Mountain prepares another dozen red roses for Valentine's Day.

These KM couples have been in love for a long time

By Alan Hodge

Imagine 118 years of marriage. Before your head starts spinning, imagine being in love the whole time. For Kings Mountain couples Dickie and

Margaret Tate and Bill and Margie Turner that's just what their lives have been all about. Married 64 and 54 years respectively, these couples know how to make love last.

When Dickie Tate came to

Neisler Mills from Lattimore in the early 1930s, he was a single man looking for work. Little did he know that his job at the mill would lead him to discover the love of his life. Tate's young co-worker Margaret Styers was-

n't planning on being hit with Cupid's arrow either. Cupid had other ideas though.

A chance meeting at the Cleveland County Fair exhibition hall revealed that the two
See Couples, 3A



PRETTY GOOD LOOKING- Bill and Margie Turner recently celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary. The first thing Bill noticed about Margie was that she seemed to be "pretty good looking."



ALAN HODGE / THE HERALD

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT- Married 64 years, Dickie and Margaret Tate met at the county fair. Margaret says Dickie was the "most handsome man around."

First Carolina Federal

Kings Mountain
306 W. Mountain St.
739-4781

Gastonia
529 S. New Hope Rd.
865-1111

Shelby
1238 E. Dixon Blvd.
484-0222



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