



KMHS  
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1B



Jeff Smith doesn't  
mind being called  
Freddy's son

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Emergency  
Services Guide  
special supplement  
in today's Herald

Restored pickup  
best of both  
worlds

2A



Vol. 111 No. 08

## Anti-alcohol drive to begin on March 9

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Of The Herald Staff

"Citizens for a Better Community" will kick-off a petition drive against alcohol March 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the gymnasium of the Kings Mountain Community Center.

Ward 4 Councilman Gene White said a letter is going out this week to all churches in the Kings Mountain area to invite participation.

"We're looking for a big crowd because we need 1,800 valid signatures of registered voters on petitions and the petitions will be there for people to sign and for people to take and canvass the community," said White.

White, who is spearheading the organizational efforts, said he will pick up the petitions from the Cleveland County Board of Elections March 3. White said the petitions must be returned to Board of Elections Chairman Debra Blanton on June 3. The timetable calls for the elections board to validate the petitions within 30 days. After July 3, the board of elections would have 60-120 days to call the election.

"We're looking at September 15 for the actual election," said White.

White said the March 9 meeting is a rally and kick-off "against alcohol, drugs and gambling in any form in Kings Mountain." White said that alcohol sales are "hurting Kings Mountain."

White reiterated that only registered voters living in the Kings Mountain city limits can sign the petitions. He said, however, that outside city residents are also directly and indirectly affected and should also turn out to help out in the campaign.

"We need people to be here physically to work to rid our community of alcohol," he said.

## Term limits for Board may reverse

City Council may reverse a vote it took on term limits for the Kings Mountain ABC Board.

Reappointing attorney Tim Moore, Council Tuesday tabled until the March meeting the reappointment of the chairman, attorney Andy Neisler who has served for 11 years in the position.

"We don't have term limits on any other board and we should not hog-tie future councils by mandating that this board have term limits," said Mayor Scott Neisler, commanding the ABC board and staff for the smooth-running operation.

Moore, who has not yet completed his first term on the board, was endorsed by Councilman Phil Hager who joined the mayor in commanding the leadership of the board.

City Clerk Marilyn Sellers said no other applications for either of the two vacant positions has been received.

Moore's term expires March 31. Neisler's term expired January 31.

See Limits, 2A

# Kings Mountain Herald

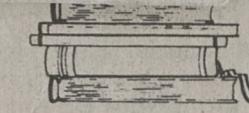
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## City approves \$367,000 in pay raises

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Of The Herald Staff

City Council Tuesday night unanimously voted all 160 city employees a pay raise effective March 7.

The \$367,000 hike to the annual payroll won't cost taxpayers any increases in taxes or user fees.

City Council passed a budget amendment of \$131,000 to take care of the remainder of the year costs.

City Manager Jimmy Maney said the costs, including fringe benefits, will come from the general fund (\$220,000) with \$148,000 coming from the enterprise funds, electricity, water, sewer and gas.

The pay hike means that, for instance, a patrolman with the city police department will make \$22,594 annually, compared to \$19,531, and a sanitation worker will see his pay go up to \$15,513 annually, from \$12,958. A total of 21.9 percent of the pay raise total in the gen-

eral fund goes to police while 12.8 percent goes to sanitation workers.

Maney said no further raises would be considered until the 2000-2001 budget year.

He said the committee's proposal is designed to keep people, certified and non-certified, and cut the city's training expenses.

The plan is a combination of the N. C. League of Municipalities survey and the MAPS pay plan that was conducted and never implemented

in 1994-95, according to Maney. The figures come close to the minimum scale as proposed in these two studies.

Maney said the city employees whose pay falls over the minimum salary in the schedule will receive a 2 1/2 percent raise. Maney said no department head salary falls in this category but this group applies to several people such as secretaries who have been with the city a number of years.

Longevity was also a consideration reflected in the plan.

"There will be no increase in taxes or user fees to fund the raises but this plan gets the city in a base salary range for being competitive but it will need to be upgraded in July 2000," said Maney.

Maney said the plan mirrors salaries across the state and is a solid pay plan with grade steps and job classifications designed to promote employees.

"We are not upping taxes or user fees to implement this plan

See Pay Hike, 2A



A special Chamber of Commerce banquet at Kings Mountain City Hall Tuesday night saw many local business leaders gather for food and friendship. Among the guests were, left to right; Kings Mountain City Manager Jimmy Maney, Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce Kings Mountain division branch head Jay Rhodes, and First Charter Bank executives Jo Ann Hall and Brian Riggins.

## Business is looking up

More companies becoming involved in KM Chamber Branch

BY ALAN HODGE  
Staff Writer

Over 100 local business leaders and guests attended a special Cleveland County and Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce banquet Tuesday evening at Kings Mountain City Hall.

Among the dignitaries present was new Kings Mountain Chamber branch head Jay Rhodes. Representing the Cleveland County Chamber was president Rob Youngblood.

Several local businesses provided refreshments for the gathering. Offering tables loaded with their wares were Triple G Farms, Wendell's Town

and Country Catering, Town and Country Barbecue, Linwood Restaurant, and Subway.

Pam Goforth of Triple G Farms was especially impressed with the quality of the banquet and the way it gave a boost to she and husband Ed's ostrich farm.

"It was a really good turn out of nice people," Goforth said. "We got a lot of favorable response to our business. We used to be in the Chamber, but dropped out because the meetings were in Shelby. Now that the Kings Mountain division of the Chamber is growing and doing good things, we'll be more active."

See Chamber 2A

## KM wants included in senior bond vote

Kings Mountain City Council is requesting county commissioners to include the city's proposed senior center in any bond issue that's put before county voters.

City Manager Jimmy Maney has drafted the letter to Chairman Jim Crawley that has the signature of Mayor Scott Neisler and all seven city council members.

The Cleveland County Council on Aging/Senior Center in Shelby has asked the commission to approve putting a \$3.5 million bond to build a new senior center in Shelby up for a vote. That bond would add 1 cent to the county tax rate.

"Our two centers aren't competing with one another and we work together very closely and hope we can continue to do so but Kings Mountain is the middle of a project to build a new center," said Maney. "We feel that if commissioners approve a bond for a new center in Shelby that funds should also be included in a bond for our building."

## City gets \$50,000 for sewer project

The city is recipient of a \$50,000 rural development grant for the Battleground sewer project.

Planning Director Steve Kilian said the funds are included in a \$395,000 project to extend 6,000 linear feet of sewer line to Franklin Minerals on S. Battleground Avenue.

"...if commissioners approve a bond for a new center in Shelby...fund should also be included for our new building program."

Jimmy Maney

ing program," he said.

Kings Mountain Aging Director Monty Thornburg said he feels that Kings Mountain seniors would support a larger bond if they would benefit from it.

Kings Mountain recently received a \$100,000 grant to assist in its building project estimated to cost \$800,000.

The county's current tax rate is 62.7 cents per \$100 of assessed value. On a home valued at \$60,000, the additional tax to pay off a \$3.5 million bond would be an additional \$6 a year.

County commissioners are expected to hear the bond proposal at the March 16 meeting in Shelby.

## KM celebrates Black History Month

By FAYE WEBBER  
Special to the Herald

The Black History and culture program given on Sunday at Mauney Memorial Library was a wonderful learning experience for the record crowd.

The program committee, with the aid of Mrs. Rose Turner, librarian, was very pleased with the attendance and those who participated.

HAGER Some came from as far away as Charlotte.

The "Joy Too Chorus," under

the direction of Shelia Leonard, accompanied by Scott Brown, rendered the music.

After leading the audience in prayer, the Rev. Prueilla Sanders gave an overview of contributions made by African Americans in the fields of music, sports, science, and religion. She emphasized the need to reach out to all people as Americans.

Phillip Hager, a Kings Mountain city councilman, spoke mainly to the youth, encouraging them to remain in school for an education. He spoke of being a councilman, and learned "when to listen, when to speak and a time when to shut up," reminding them there is a time for everything.



CORRY SANDERS

The people clapped their hands and laughed.

Attorney Claywood Corry held the audience with wonder and amazement with true stories of facts and history of

Cleveland County's earliest African Americans. His first story was about Compact, the first school for black children. Twelve free black men, naming each one of them, formed a group to build a school for black children. The men paid the teacher \$1.50 each and bushels of wheat grains monthly for his services.

Next, Corry told about the founders of Vestibule AME Zion Church, Washington Baptist, and Ebenezer Baptist churches of Cleveland County.

His last story was a true story of an African girl who was kidnapped from her native home

and was brought to America, and sold as a slave. Through the years she was willed from one slave owner to another. Eventually, she was brought to a slave master in Cleveland County. She became the mother of seven children. The heritage of the Borders and Roberts families, and others, goes back to the slave girl, kidnapped from Africa, and named Syliver, Corry being one of her fifth generation.

The program was composed of education, history, arts of Carolina's African American artists, and teachings in the development of a civilization of pluralistic society.

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