

KINGS MOUNTAIN

The Herald

Thursday, May 13, 1999

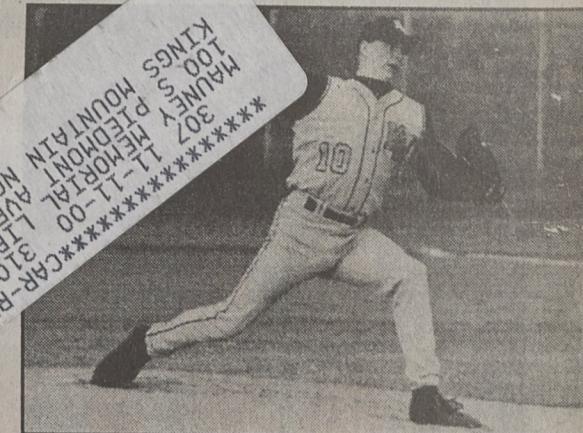
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SPORTS



Tony Leigh's KMHS baseball team will host former KMHS coach Bruce Clark and his North Gaston Wildcats Friday at 7 p.m. in the second round of the state 3A playoffs. 6A

Brinkley, Curry KMHS Athletes of the Year

Seniors Kristie Brinkley and Julius Curry were named Kings Mountain High's 1998-99 Athletes of the Year at the annual Booster Club spring sports ceremony Monday night at the KMHS cafeteria. 6A

Mountaineer track team wins West championship

Kings Mountain High's men's track team won the Western Regional Championship Saturday at T.C. Roberson High School and will compete in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Championship Saturday at N.C. State. 6A

Former KM wrestler is national champion

Former Kings Mountain High wrestling standout Shon Byers, now living in Colorado Springs, Colo., recently won the U.S. heavyweight championship and is the favorite to represent the U.S. in the World Games and Olympics. 7A

COMMUNITY

City Council again tables water request

For the second time, Kings Mountain City Council tabled a request from owners of South Carolina gaming establishments to run water to their businesses. 4A

SCHOOLS

East's Jerry Hoyle Principal of Year

East Elementary School Principal Jerry Hoyle was named District Principal of the Year at the recent Service Awards Banquet at KMHS. 1B

Going to college? You'll need computer

The top thing on the list of every graduating senior who's going off to college in the fall is probably a computer. Most colleges now require students to have their own. For advice on the right kind to buy - and to get an idea on the price - see page 1B

INDEX

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Business | 9A |
| Church News | 10A |
| Classified | 8B |
| Education | 1B |
| Obituaries | 3A |
| Opinion | 4A |
| Police | 7B |
| Sports | 5A |
| Weddings | 4A |

Industrial park gets first tenant

Sara Lee to bring its second facility to Kings Mountain

Sara Lee Intimate Apparel has announced plans to build a 370,000 square foot packaging and distribution center for its Bali Company in the Cleveland County Industrial Park in Kings Mountain. The new facility will consolidate the operations of two packaging and distribution centers now located in neighboring Gaston County.

"Strong business growth has resulted in the need for a larger and more modern facility," said

Charles A. Nesbit, chief executive officer of Sara Lee Intimate Apparel. "The new distribution center will meet Bali Company's aggressive business growth projections for several years into the future."

Nesbit said the location was as important as capacity to the company. "As we looked at various options, we knew that we wanted the new center close to our existing facilities so that we could retain our experienced

employees and stage an orderly transition between buildings. Our decision to build in Cleveland County confirms Bali Company's commitment to maintaining a strong base of operations in North Carolina and to its employees."

Bali employs 700 associates in its present facilities, and does not expect any disruption in the present workforce. The company will continue to operate its 220,000 square foot facility on

Canterbury Road in Kings Mountain.

Construction on the new building will begin within two weeks and will be completed in December 1999. The Cleveland County Industrial Park was selected for the new building because it met several business requirements. The site met company criteria for adequate property in close proximity to the current facilities, thereby minimizing disruption for Bali's

experienced associates. In addition, the county-owned industrial park provides excellent access to shipping avenues and close proximity to Charlotte's Douglas International Airport.

The industrial park is located at the Waco exit of the Highway 74 Bypass in Kings Mountain.

Sara Lee Intimate Apparel is a leading manufacturer and marketer of women's intimate apparel products through its Bali and Playtex companies.

Kings Mountain landmark is coming down

Employees of Champion Contracting were busy this week demolishing the old Kings Mountain Water Plant on Deal Street. The plant and water tank were built in 1928 and were in operation until the late 1960s when the city built Moss Lake. Prior to 1928 the site served as the baseball stadium for Kings Mountain High School and area semi-pro teams.



Councilman says annexation plan is a 'scheme'

By 5-1, Gene White voting against and Phil Hager absent, Kings Mountain City Council Monday night approved the services plan for annexation to take in 714 people in two areas with assessed property values of nearly \$24 million.

"I'm for annexation," said White. But he labeled the city's plan a "short-sighted scheme," which Mayor Scott Neisler denied. White charged that, by its action, it "saddles" future councils who at some time would have to put up upwards of \$2.5 million to run sewer lines to serve the areas.

The two tracts were designated by Richard Flowe, consultant for Benchmark of Kannapolis, as Area F, 10.3 acres on the city's northeast side, and Area G, 2,318 acres on the southeast side.

Council members unanimously approved a resolution of intent to annex at the April 27 meeting. That set in motion a time line that must be adhered to in order to complete the process to be effective June 30, 2000. Recent state law changes that give cities leeway in providing sewer service was a loophole question by White. Under the agreement the city will take care of all septic tanks in the annexed areas until the city has the money to put in a sewer line.

"Depending on when we had available funds that cost could run up to \$5 million or more," White said after the meeting.

"Those people will be paying city taxes for up to 5-10 years and this action puts severe legal liability to future city councils," White added.

White said he and other council members saw the proposal by Flowe for the first time at Monday's meeting and had little time to study what he called a "complicated legal document."

"The mayor has engineered this all along and had the votes to do it," said White.

"We will start going after grant money right away," said the Mayor who called the service plan a "great situation for Kings Mountain."

Major industries to be annexed are Cyprus Foote Mineral and the new Johnson Development corporation.

See Council, 10A

Kelly stands his ground on KM budget

The public stayed home Monday night and offered no input into the proposed \$25 million city budget for fiscal year 1999-2000.

A handful of city employees and city officials from the neighboring town of Grover heard the presentation by City Manager Jimmy Maney and council members took the occasion to congratulate Maney for what Clavon Kelly called "the best budget I've seen in a long time."

But Kelly was adamant that he will not vote for the budget at the May 25 regular meeting because the city is raising water and sewer rates eight percent.

"I gave my word to the people

of Kings Mountain that I would not vote for a utility or tax increase and I intend to stand by my word," said Kelly.

The budget calls for an increase of about 75 cents for a residential water customer using 3,000 gallons per month with the proceeds earmarked to repair, maintain and expand the city's water lines and sewer system.

A top priority is the delivery line that brings water to the city from Moss Lake. Built in 1967, the 24-inch pipe bends at 90-degree angles twice and is considered the weakest link in the city's system. Maney and water superintendent Walt Ollis have pointed out at recent budget

work sessions.

"The lack of phone calls to us means that department heads and Mr. Maney have done a great job," said Councilman Gene White. "We should consider ourselves extremely lucky that we are financially sound even though we need to spend \$15 to \$20 million in capital improvements."

The new budget levies no tax increase, no electric rate increase, no natural gas rate increase, an eight percent water/sewer rate increase and projects a balanced budget as required by the State of North Carolina. The debt service obligations such as bond payments are also included.

A new pay plan was adopted on February 23, 1999 which looked at each city position individually and brought each employee's salary up to competitive level based upon the North Carolina League of Municipalities' updated survey of salaries in the state. There is no pay increase recommended for the new fiscal year due to this salary adjustment.

The Perpetual Care/Cemetery Fund includes a new office, utility vehicle, computer and resurfacing of streets.

Holding up the city budget, a thick book which contained pages of proposed capital improvements from 1999-2004,

Mayor Scott Neisler called the book "a working bible" for the city. He called for a round of applause for Maney and city department heads, saying he was proud of the team.

The proposal that council will consider on May 25 is for \$664,821 less than the 1998-99 budget of \$26,020,741. The new budget proposal is \$25,355,920. The top priorities in the 1999-2000 budget include:

+ A new Senior Center and Isothermal Building Project which would include a home on the site at King Street and Canterbury Road for some qualifying residents.

See Council, 2A

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Kings Mountain
300 W. Mountain St.
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Gastonia
529 New Hope Rd.
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Main Office
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