

Chamber praises KM's ABC results

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

The Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce took a quick look back and a long look forward to September at its monthly meeting August 17 in Shelby. Over two dozen Chamber members and officers attended the meeting which focused on upcoming Chamber activities.

traced the past and present of one of Shelby's leading businesses. Division chair reports occupied the majority of the meeting and included information on upcoming Chamber events and accomplishments. Community Development chairman Stan Anthony reminded members of the upcoming inter-community visit to Asheboro on September 28th. Participants expect to tour the Sealy mattress factory and North Carolina Zoological Park on this trip to Randolph County.

4 pm at Eastside Baptist Church, and a September 15 customer service seminar at North Lake with a special guest speaker all the way from Plano, Texas. Education in Cleveland County got high marks at the Chamber meeting from Shearra Mabry. "All schools in Kings Mountain met or exceeded their ABCs goals," Mabry said. "East Elementary, West Elementary, and Kings Mountain Middle were all identified as Schools of Distinction."

in Chicago. Hall took first place in computer applications. Other Chamber news on the academic roster included a special business/education luncheon on September 9 at the Ramada Inn featuring chairman of the N.C. Board of Education Phil Kirk. The Chamber's involvement in governmental affairs will be busy over the next few weeks. August 31 will see the Chamber participate in a Transportation Partnership meeting at 4 pm with guest Jack Palmer of the local transportation board. August 25, Chamber members will meet with Sen. Walter Dalton at 8:30 am for a legislative update. The Chamber will also be represented at a Urban

Land Use conference September 17 to discuss growth and planning along the I-85 corridor. The Chamber meeting also saw the chairman of the Kings Mountain advisory council David Faunce present two position statement proposals for Chamber approval and support. One involved the proposed annexation of 2,300 acres by the City of Kings Mountain. "Kings Mountain needs to protect its eastern and southern flanks," Faunce said. "The annexation fits into the City's plan for orderly growth rather than the helter-skelter that has been before."

annexation proposal as well another one providing for and funding videoconferencing as an alternate from of magistrate in eastern Cleveland County, including Kings Mountain. Chamber Chairman Jim Allen continued the focus on the Kings Mountain area by urging the Chamber to take a hard look at the Highway 29 industrial corridor just outside of town. "With companies like Mayflower and others in the Highway 29 area expanding, we need to beef up our presence in the area," Allen said. "This is a major, major area for Chamber contacts."

Legion Auxiliary concert Saturday

Popular gospel singer Jim Belt is advertising Saturday night's big American Legion Auxiliary benefit as "the biggest and best gospel/patriotic singing" under one roof. "It isn't often that you feature gospel and patriotic music together but we're doing that because the benefit if for an organization that focuses on patriotism and service to community and veterans," said Belt. The event begins at 7 p.m. in



JIM BELT

B. N. Barnes Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 and are tax-deductible. "If you can't come yourself buy a ticket and give the ticket to someone as a gift for an evening of entertainment," said Belt. Belt, who will serve as master of ceremonies, has invited numerous popular entertainment groups from Kings Mountain and a wide area. The Greenville Community Band, an energetic and popular group of young people from Charlotte will offer foot-tapping music and local people can recall that this group marched in the Christmas parade. The Memorial Messengers of Kannapolis, Kings Mountain pi-

anists Dr. Roger Miller and Billie Hicklin, are just a few of the talented performers who will be on stage for the benefit. Sgt. First Class Jim Harrison of Kannapolis will sing The National Anthem to open the program and "Taps" will be rendered at the end of the two-hour show by Paul Fulton of Kings Mountain. Ticket sales are going good, according to co-chairmen Arlene Barrett and Norma Bridges, assisted by a planning committee including Lou Ballew, Peggy Jackson, and Myrtle Christenson. Local Auxiliary members have tickets or they are available at the door. The American Legion Auxiliary is a non-profit patriotic women's service organiza-

tion. In Kings Mountain the local Unit supports veteran's projects as well as an annual scholarship for a deserving youth. Local president is Lou Ballew. The local unit has a candidate for National President who will serve the nearly one million organization in 1999-2000. Lib Stewart will be installed in Anaheim, California September 8. Local people are invited to attend events in Kings Mountain in October at American Legion Post 155 and full details will be available in a tabloid supplement to The Kings Mountain Herald to appear in the September 9, 1999 edition of the local newspaper.

Rain, rain, come again!

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

Something strange has been falling from the skies over Kings Mountain and the rest of the region for the past few days. It's raining! Though the rain has been welcome, the parched Piedmont earth still needs a lot to break what has been called the third worst drought on record. Amateur meteorologist Kenneth Kitzmiller of Kings Mountain had been keeping track of the weather here for several years. Originally from Ohio where he worked at water treatment plants that required keeping records of rainfall, Kitzmiller just never got out of the habit of recording rain. "The rainfall we've gotten in Kings Mountain over the past few days has been about seven

tenths of an inch," Kitzmiller said. "The total so far for this August has been only 1.04 inches. That's over five inches less than August of 1998." It's not just the low August total that has things in bad shape water-wise in the Kings Mountain environs, the total amount of rain Kitzmiller recorded at this same time last year was 45.13 inches. This year the total has only tallied 25.20 inches. That's about 20 inches below normal. "The rain is way below normal," Kitzmiller said. "I've got some little garden plots I keep watered, but like most people I haven't needed to mow my grass for several weeks." One other advantage the recent showers have had is the fact that they've helped knock the temperature down. Highs this week in the middle 80s seem almost like autumn com-

pared to the heat wave that hit us earlier this month. For the sake of comparison, the temperature in Cairo, Egypt this week is about the same as it was not long ago in Kings Mountain-100 degrees. According to Kitzmiller and the National Weather Service, it looks like we might get some more rain, and even a brush with a tropical storm now

moving up out of the Caribbean. Named Dennis, the storm has a good chance to brush the coast Friday. Until the storm arrives, another cool low front is getting ready to spend a day over our area and should bring some more wet weather, and relief to parched lawns, crops, livestock, and people. can occur between the hours of 8 pm and 7 am daily and also on weekends. The combination of over 56,000 daily vehicles driven by an equal number of aggravated drivers and construction workers standing near the edge of the road is a potentially dangerous one. For those in a big hurry, the fine for speeding through work zones is \$250. "I just want to tell everyone to be patient," Grissom says. "Pay attention to your surroundings and slow down."

TRAFFIC

From 1A
had a 120 day time limit and is about half finished. Lanes can only be completely closed in that area at night. Now for the long-term headache story. Don't expect the stretch of I-85 between Edgewood Road and Highway 74 to be finished for another 15 months- December, 2000. Contracted by Rea Construction, this project involves widening I-85 from four to six lanes. A couple of outside lanes are finished, but work in the media which will eventually form the two new inside lanes has just started. "Along with the new lanes, there will be a new bridge over Oates Road," Grissom said. "The overpasses on Edgewood and Crowders Mountain Road will not be changed. The entire project will be equipped with a concrete wall divider." Lane closings on this project

CENTER

From 1A
\$5,000 to \$9,999; and Builders, the fourth tier, representing gifts of \$1,000 to \$4,999. Thornburg said big impact of the new facility will result in more meals served and more transportation needs with Kings Mountain the largest of the four Cleveland County nutrition sites. Bridges says the new center will be "a dream come true."

Owens sisters hold reunion

The fourth annual Owen sisters get-together was held on August 13-15 at Bonclarken. The sisters are the daughters of Fred Owens and the late Martha C. Owens of Kings Mountain. The sisters attended the Flat Rock Playhouse Theater, toured historic Hendersonville and exchanged Christmas gifts. Pictured are front row left to right, Frances O. Herndon of Lugoff, SC, Joyce O. Ramsey of Anderson, SC and Pat O. Preston of Augusta, GA. Pictured in the back row, from left to right, are MauDava O. Morton, Helen O. Ayscue and Louise Lynch, all of Kings Mountain. Their sister-in-law, Margaret Swanson Owens of Camden, SC was the photographer.

Kings Mountain Weather Report

	Aug. 18-24	Yr. Ago
Total precip.	1.21	0
Max. 1 day	.60 (23rd)	0
Year to date	25.40	45.03
Min. temp.	68 (21st, 23rd)	64 (19th)
Max. temp.	100 (18th)	91 (18, 22, 23, 24)
Avg. temp.	79.9	72.1

CITY

From 1A

Gastonia intends to annex the mountain ridge line and connect Kings Mountain Pinnacle to Crowder's Mountain State Park. Flowe said Gastonia has an aggressive plan for annexation that would take in the Lake Montonia and Canterbury Road areas and the north side of I-85 frontage road where it crosses the intersection at Highway 161. "Canterbury Road is the battleground between two cities," said Flowe. It is the stepping stone to cut off the area you have to rely on for future development. Are you going to let your tax base, jobs and utility customers go to Gastonia? "Look at annexation as an essential step to preserve

growth." Tuesday night Council is expected to approve a recommendation by the city utility committee to spend about \$600,000 for replacement of 3,000 feet of water line, a tie-in from the water plant to town, upgrading from a 24 inch to a 36 inch line. Councilman Rick Murphrey, chairman of the utility committee, will present the recommendation. The tie-in would take place the week of July 4th when plants are on holiday. The city is in process of getting an evaluation of the existing 25-year-old water line to town and its life expectancy. "Every break we have on the water line is due to 90 degree bends and the utility committee is recommending that we remedy that problem by upgrading from a 24 inch line to a 36 inch line," City Manager Jimmy Maney says.

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The Herald
Published every Thursday
Periodicals postage at Shelby, NC 28150
USPS 118-880 by Republic Newspapers, Inc.
Postmaster, send address changes to:
P. O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086
Phone (704) 481-8202 • Fax (704) 739-0611
Office: 824-1 East King Street • Kings Mountain, NC 28086

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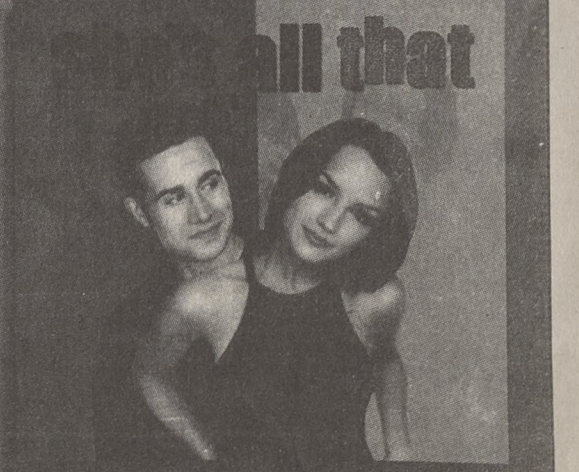
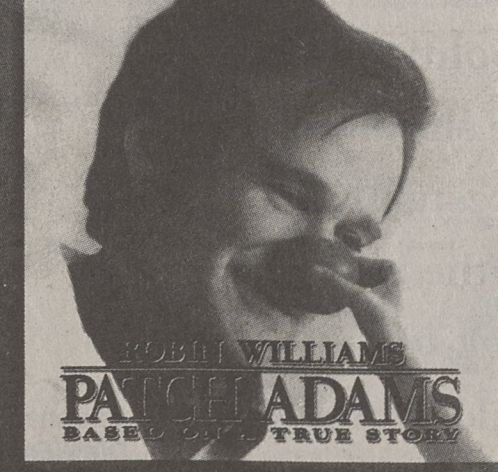
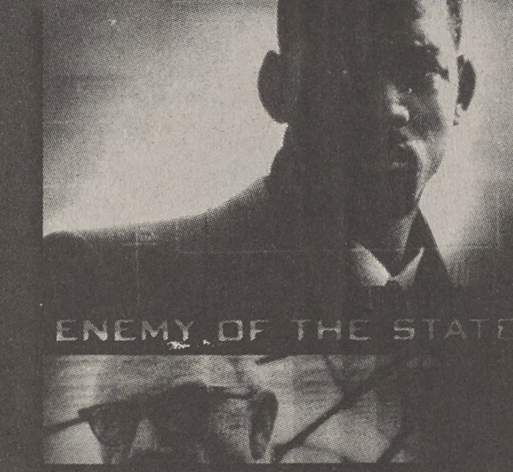
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