

BBQ cook-off big success

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

Despite soggy weather, the Fourth Annual Firehouse BBQ Cook-Off was a smoking success. Sponsored by the Kings Mountain Fire Department and held at the walking track behind the YMCA building, the Cook-Off saw nearly 3,000 folks come and enjoy some great food.

"We had 30 professional barbecue teams take part," said Kings Mountain Fire chief Frank Burns. "The parking lot was full the whole time the cookoff was going on."

Enough money was earned from the sale of barbecue sandwiches and meat to see a \$1,500 profit. The money will be used for the Kings Mountain Fire Museum and restoration of an antique fire truck.

"People came to the event from as far away as Florida," Burns said. "All motels in the area were full."

Judges for the cookoff were sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbecue Society. Sales of barbecue

sandwiches topped 500. Burns said that over 100 barbecued butts were sold as well.

Winners in the pork category included: First place, Roadrunners; second, Backyard BBQ; third, John Hinry's Back Smokers; fourth, Good Old Boys Country BBQ; fifth, Flaming Pig.

Rib winners: First, BS Pittmeisters; second, Eb's Bar B Que (dessert); third, Smokey Mountain Smokers; fourth, Backyard BBQ; fifth BBQ Crew.

Chicken winners: First, Kilby and Co. Kilted BBQ Team (Mayor Choice); second, Little Red Pig; third, 3 B Cooking; fourth, Roseville Oinkers; fifth, BS Pittmeisters.

Briskets winners: First, Roadrunners; second, Smoking Stokes and Cherwine; third, Kings Cooking; fourth, Billy T and the Jammers; fifth, Family Fun (Best Booth).

Other winners: Anything Butt, Carolina Squealers; Mayor Choice, Kilby and Co. Kilted BBQ Team; Anything Butt Dessert, Eb's Bar B Que; Best Booth, Family Fun.

Overall Winners; Grand Champion, BS Pittmeister; Reserve Grand Champion, Backyard BBQ.



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD
Wayne Bridges of 3B Cooking of Shelby prepares barbecue ribs during the Kings Mountain Fire Department's fourth annual Fire House Cook-off Saturday at the Kings Mountain Walking Track.

Revival April 30-May 3 at KM Second Baptist

The Bone Rattlers of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, will lead revival services April 30-May 3 at 7 p.m. at Second Baptist Church, 120 Linwood Road, Kings Mountain.

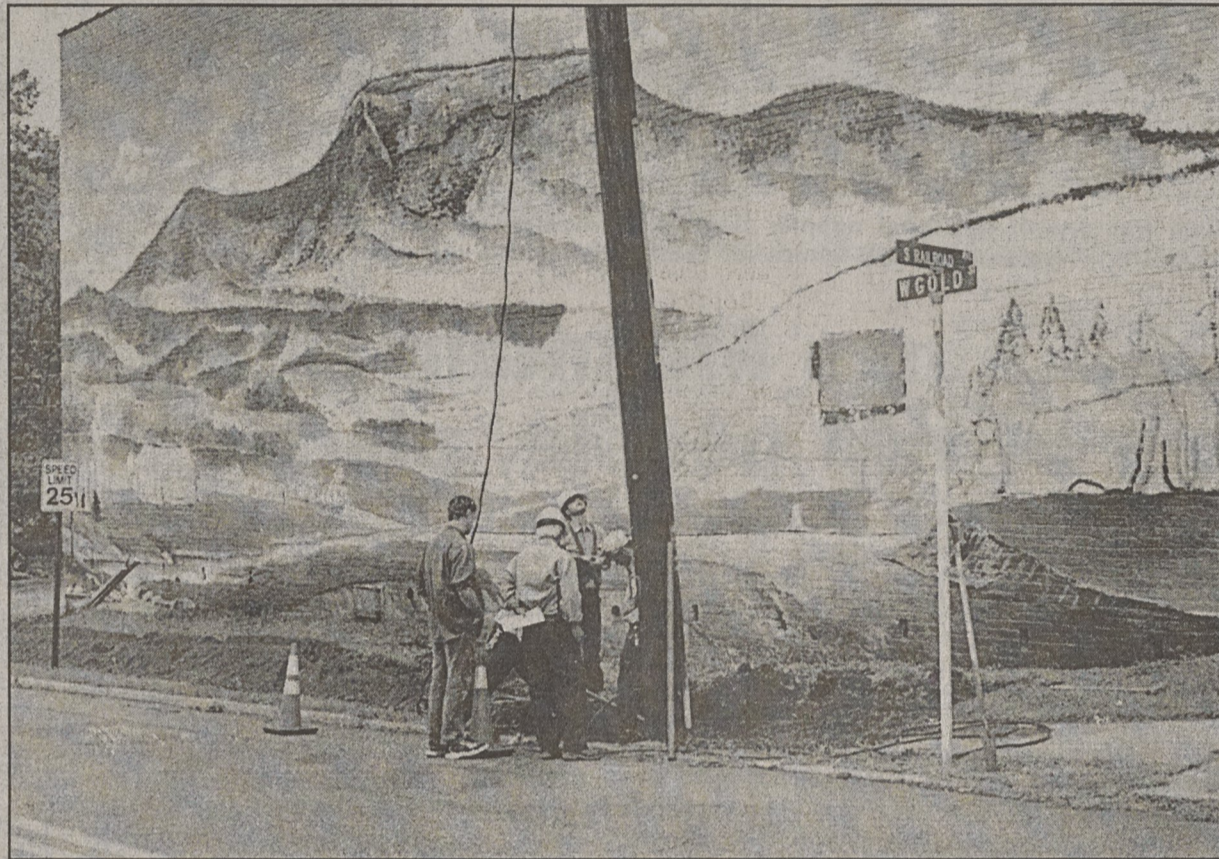
There will be special singing each night featuring The Wing Masters, Southwind, Christy Walker and Cross Reference. The public is invited.

Lewis Family to sing at Ellenboro School

The Lewis Family of Lincolnton, GA will appear for their 31st annual concert at the Ellenboro School Auditorium Sunday, April 30 at 2:30 p.m.

Admission is \$6 in advance and \$7 at the door for adults, and \$2 for children 6-12. Children under 6 will be admitted free.

For more information or to order tickets, call (828) 453-7590.



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD
City electrical department employees were busy Monday afternoon re-routing lines so they could remove the power pole that blocks the view of the new mural on the Plunk Brothers building at the corner of Railroad Avenue and West Gold Street.

DRUGS

From 1A

Why do teenagers turn to drugs?

According to a recent study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, teenage drug use in the U.S. is the highest of any other industrialized nation - at least 61 percent of high school seniors have used illegal drugs at least once.

Peer pressure, separate studies have shown, plays the largest role in causing children to begin using drugs. Another factor is the constant exposure to today's "chemical society" of pills and liquor through ads, movies and television.

The need to experiment, rebelliousness, low self-esteem, and "simple pleasure" serve as other motives.

Low grades and a questionable future often aren't enough to scare kids who think they are invincible. But punishment is now starting to come from all directions.

The consequences for those students who are convicted of possession or sale of drugs are felt far beyond punishments dealt out by the courts or even the school system.

Beginning July 1, 2000, drug convictions can disqualify students from receiving student federal aid. Anybody convicted of their first offense of possession is ineligible for such aid for one year. Upon their second conviction they are ineligible

for two years. After their third, they are ineligible for an indefinite period.

The penalties for the sale of drugs are even more severe. After the first conviction there is a two-year period of ineligibility. After the second, the period is indefinite.

Any student, however, can regain eligibility no matter how many or what type of drug convictions by successfully completing a drug rehabilitation program that meets the standards set by the U.S. Department of Education.

Still, the question remains - what can be done to stop the use of drugs among teens?

Studies indicate that education and discipline are the best methods. But teaching about the dangers of drugs isn't enough. Parents, not just teachers, need to help the students figure out how to get out of a situation in which drugs are being used or in which they are being offered drugs without losing face. After all, during the formative teenage years, acceptance is often the driving force behind many a child's choice.

And yes, knowing that there are consequences will help. It's not just a fear of the law that will do it though, students must know that by using drugs they will be disappointing not only their teachers but their parents, and they will be hurting not only themselves but everybody around them.

Staff Writer Ryan Foust contributed to this article.

MERGER

From 1A

Doug Pruitt touched on one aspect of the whole merger question that has been simmering behind the scenes.

"When I hear the word merger," Pruitt said "I think of Shelby. This is about control, power, money and Shelby."

Veteran merger opponent Kathy Falls of Kings Mountain went to the platform, turned, and pointed toward the exit.

"I just want the crowd to know that the big business men who spoke for merger have slipped out the back door," Falls said.

Several students also took the chance to address the commissioners. Wesley Griffin, president of the freshman class at Kings Mountain High School gave an eloquent speech in opposition to merger reminding the commissioners that "we are the people."

Other speakers touched on the tax increase that merger will bring. Several said they were already taxed to the limit of their finances and that the new education tax would ruin them.

"High taxes will not bring more jobs to Cleveland County," said Iris Maloney.

"They might even run off some of the businesses already here," Shearra Miller of the Kings Mountain school board called the July 1, 2000 date for merger to take effect "ludicrous."

According to Miller, merger approval made lame ducks of all current school administration and boards and will create chaos and lack of control.

Once the citizenry had been allowed to speak, Crawley called for a vote on the issue. Before the ballots were cast, however, McIntosh took the opportunity to address his fellow commissioners.

"Merger is a no-return issue," McIntosh said. "The school boards are pleading with us to work with them on this issue. If I lose my job it is worth it to listen to the will of the people."

McIntosh's comments were met with perhaps the loudest applause of the night, but fell on four sets of deaf ears. Within seconds of his last sentence, a sentence of another sort was passed by a vote of 4-1.

No sooner than the vote was taken than pandemonium broke loose in the auditorium. With one accord, the crowd jumped to its feet with an angry roar. All commissioners except McIntosh headed for the rear exit under police escort. One citizen rushed forward and pounded his fists in frustration on the stage. Even as the hall was cleared, groups of outraged citizens met in the parking lot and commiserated with one another.

Kings Mountain school board member Stella Putnam voiced the feelings of hundreds with her simple summation of what had just transpired.

"This was no surprise,"

GOP

From 1A

is going to cost them. Anytime you have a reevaluation, it should be statutory that the tax rate be adjusted. To get a true picture of what your tax rate is, it should be based on the commissioners setting the rate, not just getting extra money because they did a reevaluation."

#2 - District representation.

"I think we need a 7-member Board and the people need to come from districts. They need to get a group of people like the mayors from each township, the elections board, Chamber of Commerce and other organizations to actually come up with one or two plans to do the district representation, and the county commissioners need to keep their hands out of it. Then, put it to a vote of the people. I also believe that district representation should not mean that only those people in the district should vote for you. Since you make decisions for the whole county, the whole county should be voting for you."

#3 - Infrastructure.

"I know that you cannot develop upper Cleveland County until it gets water, sewer and roads. We should work with the sanitary district and try to find the means to help get sewer and water to all parts of the county, especially to Upper Cleveland. By doing that we can attract a good workforce that would live here and work here in our industries."

David Morrow:

#1 - School merger.

"I believe the commissioners need to stop it. I believe the way they have conducted the merger proposal has been inappropriate. It is consolidation without true representation. If they were going to have talks about school merger it should have been more open, not always going into closed sessions."

#2 - Economy.

"We need better paying jobs for Cleveland County. I believe we need a tax cut in our property tax. That would make Cleveland County much more attractive to business and industry. I believe when a person turns 65 years old their property tax should be cut in half, and when they reach 70 years of age they shouldn't have to pay any property tax."

#3 - Infrastructure.

"We need water and sewer. I believe the different cities and

towns and the county need to work closer together to develop a plan for now and the future for water and sewer and other infrastructure."

Jim Crawley:

#1 - Economic development. "Creating new jobs through aggressive marketing - the industrial park as well as other real pluses of quality of life in Cleveland County."

#2 - Infrastructure.

"I think we've got to look at the infrastructure for the future - it's water, sewer and roads. We're getting a new bypass, we hope, in the next six years and we've got to be prepared for growth for that area, and how do we want it, simply because the growth follows infrastructure development. We need to plan for some kind of growth, and we need to manage the growth."

#3 - Education.

"We need to continue to develop and broaden the best of what we have in our schools, and we've got to improve the performance of the lower end of the classes without affecting negatively the upper end. We've got to continue to show improvement in all areas, but with a great deal of effort going toward improving the part of the students that are not doing as well as we know they should in regard to ABC testing."

Joe Cabaniss:

#1 - Improving per capita income.

"We need to continue the efforts in improving our per capita income in our county. I envision accomplishing that by continuing to attract new industry. We have been successful in attracting industry in the industrial park and the 29 corridor from Kings Mountain to Grover."

#2 - Attracting brighter students to return to Cleveland County.

"We need to attract the return of our brightest students who graduate college, who quite often go to other areas. We need to preserve our greatest asset - our young people - in having opportunities for them here in Cleveland County."

#3 - Improve waste disposal.

"We need to continue the improvement in our waste disposal, and improve the concerns of litter on our roads. We need to encourage our people to do more recycling and avoid allowing trash to be dropped along our roadways."

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The City of Cherryville is now accepting applications for a full-time Billing/Collections Clerk in the Utilities Department. The Following is required (1) high school diploma; (2) some college preferred; (3) ability to operate a computer terminal and other standard office equipment; (4) experience in dealing with and working with the public is preferred, and (5) the ability to handle money in processing utility payments, and balancing a money drawer on a daily basis. Applications may be picked up at City Hall. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Applicants will be accepted until position is filled.

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