

# The Herald

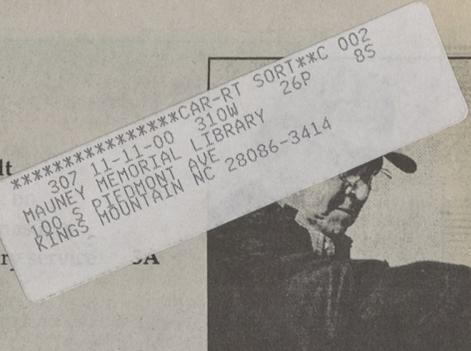
Thursday, December 21, 2000

Vol. 112 No. 51

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## High Heat

Cold weather, gas prices make it expensive to stay warm

BY ALAN HODGE  
Staff Writer

Swooning is an old fashioned word that will probably apply to a lot of folks over the next couple of months when they get their heating bill.

With the combination of unusually harsh weather already this season and steep increases in the prices of natural gas, consumers will see the highest chunk in several years of the family budget go to staying

warm. According to federal energy sources, the average home heating bill this winter will be around \$200 more than last year. This figure could go up if the already nasty weather worsens.

People who heat with natural gas will probably get hit the hardest. According to the National Energy Information Center, the price of natural gas in North Carolina was around \$7 per thousand cubic feet in 1995. Currently, it's hovering

around \$12.50. National numbers were \$6 per cubic foot in 1995 and are just below the \$10 mark now.

People who heat with oil are paying more than last year, but not a whole lot more. According to Ray Thomas at Thomas Petroleum in Shelby, heating oil is currently selling for \$1.34 a gallon - up about a nickel from a year ago.

"The price is subject to

See Heat, 9A



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD  
George Melton at Bridges Hardware in Kings Mountain has been busy tuning up and repairing kerosene heaters. According to Melton, around 125 folks have brought their heaters in for work this season.

## KM may get final decision on new school on Thursday

BY ALAN HODGE  
Staff Writer

Supporters of a new grade 5-6 school in Kings Mountain were all smiles following Tuesday's meeting of the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners where school board chairman Dr. Larry Allen once again asked for help in getting additional funding for the project.

"It was an entirely different atmosphere," Allen said.

The reference was to the congenial way that the new commissioners received Allen's request for ways to come up with the additional \$1.9 million it will take to get the school done. This in contrast to the reception the idea got earlier this year when Kings Mountain School Supt. Dr. Bob McKrae went before the commissioners with a similar request.

During his presentation Tuesday, Allen laid out the "bottom line" figures for the school which will be built on Kings Mountain Blvd. near the current middle school.

"There has been tremendous interest by construction bidders," Allen said. "This is a good time to get started."

Allen told the commissioners that the estimated cost per square foot for the school had come down from \$92 to the low \$80s. Total cost to build will be \$10.8 million. Kings Mountain Schools currently has \$8.9 million available in state bonds, capital reserve, and projected receipts. The question was where to get the extra \$1.9 million.

"We are coming to you to ask for your help," Allen said to the commissioners. "We want to work with you and your staff to come up with the best way to fund this project."

See School, 2A

## Suspension lifted for EdenGardens

BY ALAN HODGE  
Staff Writer

Some surprises are good ones. That's the way an unannounced visit from a state Division of Facility Services team turned out for EdenGardens of Kings Mountain earlier this month. Unlike a previous trip, this time the team found everything ship-shape.

Under a suspension of new admissions since September when DFS found violations in several areas of operation and care, EdenGardens got busy to set their place straight.

According to EdenGardens new executive director Kristi Anthony, that effort has paid off in the lifting of restrictions.

"We have worked long and hard hours to correct any problems of the past," Anthony said. "We reorganized and implemented systems that were either not in place or not functioning. It was glorious when the inspection team from the state came in unannounced on December 8 and said we could admit new residents."

Once the restriction was gone, EdenGardens had its first new resident, Edna Bobbitt, come on board just four days later on December 12. Even while things were in flux at EdenGardens, Anthony said that not one resident left because of dissatisfaction with the place.

Working together, Anthony and the staff at EdenGardens came up with some innovative changes that are already bearing fruit.

"We are now sending out a biweekly newsletter that keeps families informed of things such as special activities," said

See EdenGardens, 2A

## Phase Two

City begins installing water line around Northside Loop

By GARY STEWART  
Editor of The Herald

Pylons lined the center lane of the three lane road.

Cement barricades blocked the northbound lane.

Some motorists seemed confused as to which lane they should drive in. Horns blared.

Some appeared frustrated at having to stop, or slow down momentarily.

Some waved and smiled.

A concerned school bus driver even stopped and opened the door to ask if she'd knocked down some of the pylons.

The narrow stretch of Cansler Street between Childers Street and Waco Road was alive with activity Thursday afternoon as workers from Ronny Turner Construction and Al Moretz Engineering began the massive phase two construction of the main water line that will eventually replace the

See Water, 3A



Employees of Ronny Turner Construction Inc. prepare the trench and pipe for laying of new 16-inch water main on Cansler St. Workers tapped the pipe before installing it in the ground so when the line is complete they can return and connect the water to homes.

STEWART/HERALD

## KM gas director Clemmer retiring

BY ALAN HODGE  
Staff Writer

When John Clemmer retires December 29, he can say that his job has been a gas - literally. Director of Gas Utilities for the City of Kings Mountain for the past 21 years,

Clemmer has been at his post long enough to see some profound changes come to the delivery of that commodity.

A native of Gaston County, Clemmer came to the gas department after a career that included running a KOA Kampground for 17 years, and a spell at Akers and Kerns trucking companies. He attended Gaston Community College and Belmont Textile School. He also served three years in the Army in Alaska before it became a state.

Clemmer is the son of the late Oscar and Mertie Ayers Clemmer and was born in 1937. He has been married to the former Jane Angel for 42 years and has two daughters, Dana C. Wray who is married to David Wray and Marti C. Ringenbach who is married to Todd Ringenbach.

See Clemmer, 5A



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## KM people come to aid of friend

BY ALAN HODGE  
Staff Writer

People coming together to help someone in need is what Christmas and the friends and relatives of Shelby McDonald of Kings Mountain are all about. A caring and giving group, they're pulling out all the stops to make this holiday season one that will turn a life around.

McDonald's story is one of unrelenting and excruciating pain. A medical condition that arose 20 years ago when she was pregnant with her son Brock led to blood clots in her legs. Rejecting the emergency abortion that doctors said was necessary, McDonald ended up having to spend several months in the hospital.

Shortly after Brock was born, McDonald had a clip put in the vein near her heart to keep the clots from migrating there - a potentially fatal occurrence. Now, the clots are attached to the clip as McDonald says, like "a cluster of grapes." Clots in her legs currently number around 70.

"It hurts to breathe, sneeze, or move," McDonald says. "I also have open wounds on my legs that need to be packed every day. Bad days make for bad nights and bad nights make for bad days. I can't imagine a day without pain"

Photos of McDonald's wounds are shocking, yet she tries to bear it all stoically. A selfless person, she has been a volunteer for Hospice and often

thought of others before herself.

"Shelby was there when my husband was dying," said friend Donna Philbeck. "She is the most Christ-like lady I know."

Since she often keeps her medical troubles to herself, even some of McDonald's closest acquaintances were unaware of the severity of her malady. That is until her friend of 20 years Twyla Lundsford got wind of the situation.

"Shelby finally began talking to me one day about her pain," Lundsford said. "She said it was like being electrocuted. I knew then that something had to be done to help her."

According to Dr. Mark Scheutzow at Southeast Pain Care at Kings Mountain

Hospital, the medical condition that McDonald suffers with is known as "ischemic vascular pain."

"She has problems from blockage of the blood vessels of the legs," Scheutzow said. "Her vessels have been injured and so the muscles don't get the proper blood supply. This pain is one of the hardest syndromes to treat and medicine won't help it."

Scheutzow explained that the blood vessels in the legs are "nerve rich" and if those nerves become injured they send pain signals to the brain. This in turn creates changes in the spinal cord that heightens sensitivity to pain.

See Shelby, 2A



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD  
Friends and relatives of Shelby McDonald (seated left) recently gathered at her home to plan strategies for funding the operation she needs to relieve 20 years of leg pain. Pictured are, seated right, Maggie Cabs. Standing left to right, Sandy Long, Brock McDonald, Ricky McDonald, Hazel Smith.



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