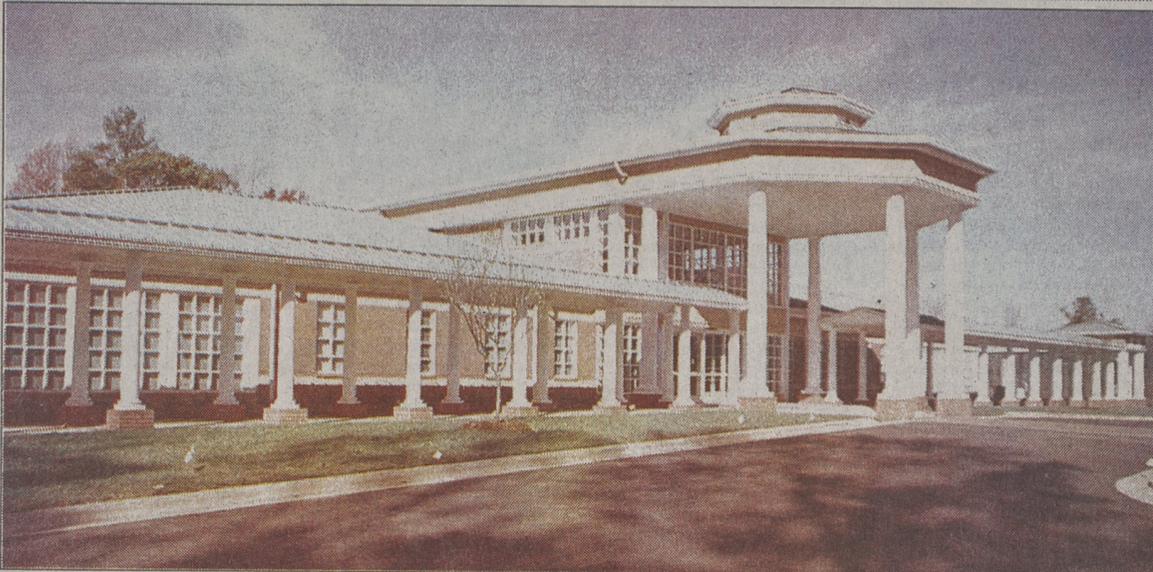


The Herald

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Thursday, November 15, 2001 Vol. 113 No. 46 Since 1889 50 Cents



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD

The new H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life and Conference Center will be dedicated Sunday at 2 p.m.

New Senior Center to be dedicated

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

Dedication of the new \$3.1 million H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life and Conference Center will be held Sunday at 2 p.m.

Former Kings Mountain Mayor John Henry Moss will be the featured speaker.

An impressive ceremony is scheduled from 1:15-4 p.m. which includes entertainment and a tour of the facility.

The Lock Norman Pipe Band from Mecklenburg County will play bagpipe music from 1:15-2 p.m., followed by the ribbon cutting and dedication.

Mayor Rick Murphrey will welcome the guests and share biographical information on the center and deceased businessman H.

Lawrence Patrick for whom it is named. Aging Director Monty Thornburg, who has been with the aging program for 18 1/2 years including 15 1/2 years as director, will speak.

William Merritt, brother-in-law of H. Lawrence Patrick, will give the dedicatory prayer and the Graham High School Ensemble, directed by Marshall Qualles, will sing. The Ensemble has performed all over the world, including Austria and England, and has performed at the White House for Presidents Ronald Reagan, George Bush Sr. and Bill Clinton. The group will perform for President George W. Bush next month.

Following the service, the public is invited to tour the new 17,000 square foot facility which includes huge dining rooms, offices,

and rooms for special activities. Refreshments will be served.

The Kings Mountain Aging program has been operating out of the new center for the past two weeks. Previously, the program was housed at the Kings Mountain Depot for approximately 25 years. It began in the early 1970s at the Community Center.

"We're very excited to be in the new building," Thornburg said. "The seniors are just thrilled. They can't believe this building."

Until the building and grounds are completely finished, Thornburg said the Center will be used for the same programs as in the past; however, he said there are already some new people taking part in activities

See Senior Page 3A

It's now official, Mauney Hosiery out of business

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

Two closings in Cleveland County will leave about 200 people out of work.

A Kings Mountain mill has shut down, leaving 130 people without jobs. Many of the employees that had been on temporary layoffs went on permanent layoffs Friday.

Mauney Hosiery, which had notified the City of Kings Mountain under the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, was started in 1939 by W.K. Mauney Jr.

The company had been a supplier of military socks since 1939 and also had provided civilian goods.

About 10 years ago, the company started purchasing high speed electronic knitting machines that improved the plant's efficiency, but required it to downsize.

Eventually, the workforce was down to 125 to 130 people.

But current plant President Kemp Mauney III said the plant's decline is tied to international factors.

"Our situation changed when NAFTA was instituted," Mauney said.

The North American Free Trade Agreement is an interna-

tional trade act in which the United States, Canada, and Mexico are members.

Mauney said the plant has lost clout in dealing with customers to get higher prices, and that it has been selling some products under cost for several years.

The business which used to be active in community activities in Kings Mountain and Cleveland County has had to scale back its support in those activities.

"We used to be very supportive of the community efforts that have gone on in Kings Mountain and Cleveland County," Mauney said. "With the way we've been losing money over the last several years, it's made it very difficult to do anything."

Although it has shut down its manufacturing operation, Mauney said the plant plans to fulfill a government contract to provide socks for the military if a financial partner will provide money.

Mauney said he has applied for unemployment compensation and retraining for his employees.

Mauney Hosiery, like most plants in Kings Mountain, had employees that have worked

See Mauney Page 3A

KM High School looks at scheduling options

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

New State graduation requirements are causing Kings Mountain High School to look at providing options that would allow band and chorus students to remain in those programs while still completing strict graduation and scholars diploma requirements.

All students currently in grades nine and ten, and all of those to follow, must choose their graduation path before they enter high school and choose courses that would allow them to be on a four-year college track or a college prep track.

Students must have 22 units to graduate, and those seeking a scholars diploma must have 24, according to Supt. Larry Allen.

That could - and probably will - present some challenges for band and chorus students, many of whom seek scholars diplomas. Students in band and chorus in a block schedule such as the one at KMHS spend 25% of their time in those classes and earn one credit per semester, or eight credits over a four-year period.

According to Allen, Principal John Yarbro and Assistant Principal Dianna Bridges, who spoke at Monday's School Board meeting at Central School, one of the ways KMHS may deal with the situation is return band and chorus students to a 55-minute per day course, and use the other half of their block to give them an option to take an academic course that would allow them to meet their chosen path.

The new scholars diploma requirements include an additional foreign language and math course.

"We need to look at taking the music programs back to the way they were six or seven years ago, before block scheduling came into being," Allen said, "that being a 55-minute period every day all year long and then having companion courses offered in the other half of that block that would give the students opportunities to select academic courses that they otherwise may not be able to take."

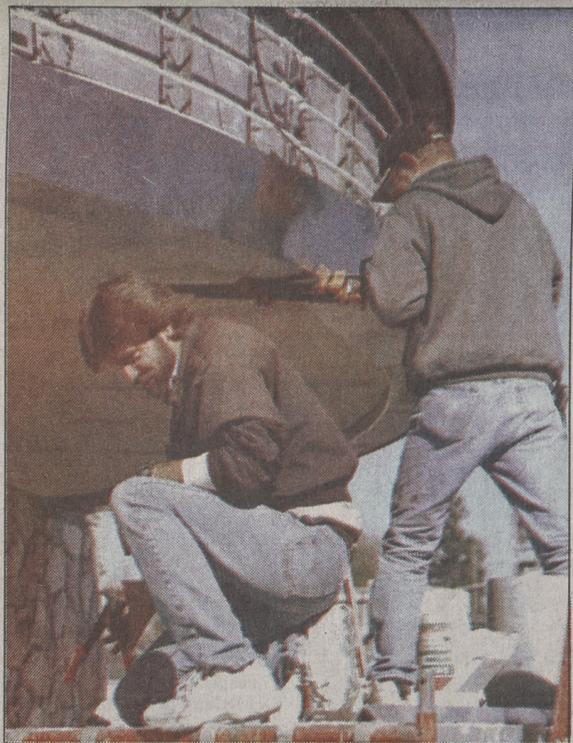
No decision has been made yet as to what plan the high school may devise. The school administrators are currently studying several options.

Current 11th and 12th grade students are not affected by the new graduation requirements. But students now entering high school must select a career track while they are still in the eighth grade. There are opportunities to change paths after they get into high school, administrators noted.

"Some students may have to choose other courses over band and chorus," Yarbro noted. "But we want to try to provide enough flexibility so students can do both."

Although they recognize the challenge, Board members Stella Putnam and Shearra Miller urged the high school staff to try to come up with a plan that would keep the band and chorus programs as they are.

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GARY STEWART / THE HERALD
 Employees of Comco Signs of Charlotte replace the neon lights on the marquee of Joy Theater, which will open next week as the new Joy Performing Arts Theatre when the Kings Mountain Little Theatre presents "Forever Plaid."

New school construction ahead of schedule

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

The Kings Mountain Board of Education got a lot of good news at its monthly meeting Monday night at Central School.

The Board learned that the new Kings Mountain Intermediate School for grades 5-6 is well ahead of schedule and should be in the dry within two weeks.

The Board also praised the accomplishments of the KMHS baseball team, which won the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Scholar Team Award for having the highest accumulative

grade point average (3.34) of any school in the State; and the Board honored all of the schools that met expected growth in the most recent ABC testing program.

Supt. Larry Allen told the Board that contractors have already widened the road in front of the school for turning lanes, and that most of the roof is in place.

"There's a lot going on out there," he said. "We're very much ahead of schedule. We're seeing things now that normally on the schedule are not supposed to happen until later in the winter. We feel real good about where they are and what's happening."

Allen said the new leadership team has already met twice and is excited about the opening of the school next August. Current Kings Mountain Middle School Principal Ethel Pedersen will assume duties as Principal in January and will begin the task of planning curriculum and hiring staff.

Dr. Allen said all of the system's fifth and sixth grade teachers are expected to transfer to the new school. There are currently 720 fifth and sixth graders in KM District Schools, but the school is built for 900 students.

"The school is too large for the group that's coming in," Allen said, "but that's

the way you want to build. We're poised and ready to grow and in a few years it will be filled up."

Allen said the dry weather was the key to being so far ahead of schedule. "When we get inside all kinds of weather can come."

Members of the 2001 KMHS baseball team and Coach Tony Leigh were recognized with a plaque and certificates for having the best team grade point average of all schools in the State. Team members were Matt Bridges, Caleb Williams, Hunter Gaffney, David Brinkley, Derek

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Rick Moore recovering from surgery

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

A newly elected city councilman, who was hospitalized on election night is expected to return home this week.



MOORE

Rick Moore, the top vote-getter for at-large seats on the Kings Mountain City Council, was taken to Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte for triple bypass heart surgery to unclog two blockages.

Family members said he is making considerable progress on his recovery.

"He's doing really well and appreciates the calls and letters he's received from folks," Tim Moore, Rick's son said.

Moore had 916 votes in the five-person field, with Gene White coming in second with 750.

Moore, 52, said he would strive to bring more industry to Kings Mountain and to run the city like a business.

Last Tuesday at City Hall, Moore complained of pressure coming back to his chest.

Tim said Rick is expected to be back work in approximately one month.

Monday Rick said he was feeling better from the surgery.

"I'm feeling a lot better," he said. "It will probably take me about six weeks before I get on my feet. About six weeks I ought to be raring to go."

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