

# The Herald

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## Company negotiating coming to KM

By BEN LEDBETTER  
Staff Writer

One building has been the topic of conversation in Kings Mountain with several companies possibly interested in locating here.. Kings Mountain Planning Director Steve Killian said seven to eight prospective companies have looked at one of the Dana Buildings near Interstate 85 on the 700 block of Broadview Drive. "People really like the location.

There's a lot of interest in that building," Killian said. "We've had a lot of people come to Kings Mountain just to look at that building." Killian said one advantage cited by people who visit is the ability to have all utilities come from the city. Although further details of negotiations are not known, other city officials have said that a company which could be the city's largest electrical and gas customer is looking at Kings Mountain. It would also bring 35 to 100 jobs to Cleveland County, which has an unem-

ployment rate of 12.5 percent. The city will also be losing 400 jobs as Anvil Knitwear moves those positions to a plant near Asheville. Out of the nearly eight visitors to look at one of the former Dana Buildings, one source said Blachford Corp. of Frankfort, IL has been negotiating with Kings Mountain and Cleveland County officials. The Business Journal of Charlotte said in its Feb. 22 edition that company officials have been talking with city and county officials to try and obtain

incentives that could lower the cost of starting the plant. Blachford would buy or lease the 100,000-square-foot building and start production this year, if an agreement could be reached, according to The Business Journal. The Kings Mountain plant would produce sound-inhibiting materials used in automobiles and machinery. Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey told The Herald in its Feb. 21 edition that the city is negotiating with a prospective employer and an

announcement is expected in approximately two weeks. Calls to Blachford's Chicago office were not returned by press time for The Herald. Blachford is a privately held unit of Blachford Enterprises Inc. The company employs approximately 250 workers at four manufacturing North American manufacturing plants. Other Blachford plants make lubricants for drawing wire and powdered metals, and additives for plastic and rubber

## Council tables apartment request

By BEN LEDBETTER  
Staff Writer

Action on an apartment complex for the Kings Mountain Boulevard area was tabled during Tuesday's city council meeting. The matter was tabled until the next council meeting, March 26. Council would have to grant a rezoning request and a conditional use permit which would allow for the development of 56 apartments. The matter was continued at the last Planning and Zoning Board meeting.

Eagan Construction would develop, build and manage the apartments. Currently, the company manages 150 complexes containing 9,000 units. Rents for the apartments are expected to be from \$400 to \$600 a month, mainly through a state tax credit program. David Beam, with MPB Inc., who applied for the rezoning request said the Kings Mountain community has become more attractive. He also owns the property. "The community is a very attractive community with family oriented activities that has become more attractive with the addition of the senior center, the YMCA, the playground, and all of the sports activities that the city and other city groups provide," he said. The complex would also have a bike path, a clubhouse, and a playground. If the complex gets approval for the state tax credit, construction could start as early as next year, according to John Eagan of Eagan Construction. Two drainage matters received different treatment as

See Council, 5A



Jay Rhodes, left and Carl Spangler chat during the Life Enrichment Center's Kings Mountain campaign kickoff Sunday at the Patrick Center.

## Fund drive begins for \$2 million Life Enrichment Center in KM

By BEN LEDBETTER  
Staff Writer

With its current facility on Fallston Road in Shelby above capacity, the Life Enrichment Center of Cleveland County kicked off its campaign Sunday at the Patrick Center for its new Kings Mountain facility. The new facility, which will be built on Kings Mountain Boulevard near the new Kings Mountain Intermediate School, will be twice as big as the 6,000 square foot facility in Shelby. The current Shelby facility was built in 1995. Currently, the Life Enrichment Center building on Fallston Road already has about 20 individuals who come from Kings Mountain, Grover, and parts of Gaston County. The new Kings Mountain LEC will provide the same services as the Shelby center, which include safety, health and personal care, and activities for its participants. Painting, cooking, music, and physical therapy are several of the activities offered. LEC staff also create an individualized care plan for each participant. "We'll hope by next spring, we'll have a won-

derful center in Kings Mountain," LEC official Suzi Kennedy said. The new facility is expected to cost about \$2 million. She said the new facility in the lower part of Cleveland County will give extra space to those in other sections. "Really, everybody in Cleveland County will benefit," she said. The facility will be the first adult day care in Kings Mountain. Additional space won't be the only thing the Kings Mountain LEC building will have. Temporary overnight respite care will also be available at the facility. When people that care for someone go away for a vacation, they may take them to the LEC. Ernest Rome, who is on the LEC's Kings Mountain/Grover Advisory Board, said he did not know what to expect when he made his first visit to the LEC. People were putting aside differences and barriers to help each other out, he said. "If we could lead our lives by that example, we'd all be ahead of the game," Rome said. See LEC, 5A

## Tim Moore files for State House

By BEN LEDBETTER  
Staff Writer

One seat in the General Assembly will now be contested. After previously saying he would run for a state judgeship, Kings Mountain resident Tim Moore filed for state House District 102 seat which is currently held by Democrat Andy Dedmon.



MOORE

According to the Cleveland County Board of Elections on Tuesday, Moore is the only newcomer in the state house campaigns. He said state and local Republican party members asked him to enter the race. Pending another outcome from the courts, the current district 102 is entirely in Cleveland County. "I was approached by a number of folks to run. I've given it a lot of thought," Moore said. "I've decided the best way that I can help this county is by running for this instead of the judgeship." Previously Moore, an attor-

ney, filed to run for a seat on the NC Court of Appeals. And while his filing was done on Monday, Moore said his campaign has already started. "I have a good group of supporters," he said. "In fact, we have a lot of Democratic supporters. Frankly, a lot more than I thought I might have so I feel really comfortable about the race." One reason Moore said he entered the race is because he believed Cleveland County needs someone to look after the area. "Cleveland County needs somebody who's going to look out for Cleveland County," he said. Some of the things Moore mentioned about Dedmon's record included the state's new districts and his vote for a tax increase. "So the folks from Cleveland County need somebody who's going to keep their word, somebody who's going to fight for lower taxes, and somebody who is actually going to look out for this county instead of their own political interests." Dedmon, the majority whip, said having a race for his seat in the General Assembly is nothing new. See Moore, 5A

## STARR OF THE SHOW



Dante Starr shows off his African attire during Grover Elementary's annual Black History Month assembly Friday.

## Money tight but city still in good financial shape

By BEN LEDBETTER  
Staff Writer

Despite the money crunch coming from the state, Kings Mountain remains in good financial shape. That was the word from city officials during the second budget workshop at the Patrick Center last Thursday. According to figures presented during Thursday's meeting, Kings Mountain owes approximately \$1.5 million plus it is still paying off two bonds. The city's total debts for its water/sewer and electric bonds is at \$6,224,792.50 and finance director Lori Hall said that figure is expected to go down in March. And while the city will be coping with the loss of Anvil's plant and money that could be held back from the state, its rev-

enues are slightly above expenditures through January. City Manager Jimmy Maney said the city stands to lose \$574,344 from the state during the upcoming financial year, and most of those funds would be \$410,000 in utilities taxes. "This is money people in Kings Mountain spent when they bought the product," Maney said. He compared the state withholding funds to the president calling and asking for income tax refunds. As with the previous session, Maney kept the focus of Thursday's meeting to several departments, detailing points about the electric, gas, and finance departments. New accomplishments this year in the electrical department include street lights in all annexed areas and several new business

customers. The new city electrical business customers include Yamato's Express, Kings Mountain Little Theater, and East Gold Street Wesleyan Family Life Center. Maney said new lights and wiring are expected at the Cleveland Ave. Walking Track. While the city has gained new electrical customers, it also has a new peak generation facility on York Road. And with that new facility, Maney said the city has a nearly flawless record anticipating peaks. "We have the best track record of peak generation in the state," he said. Maney said the city has missed one peak since 1997.

See City, 5A



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