

KINGS MOUNTAIN

The Herald

Thursday, March 7, 2002

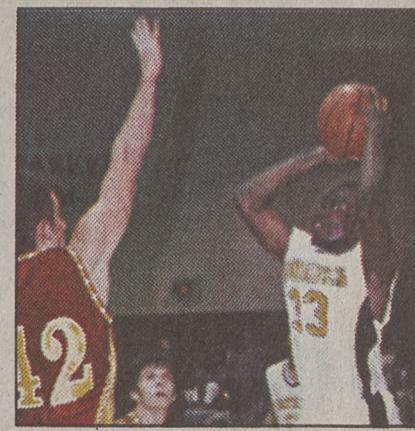
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State playoffs

6A



Fire Chief requests more manpower in 2002-03 budget

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

The city of Kings Mountain will hold its final budget workshop next Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the Patrick Center with scheduled presentations from the aging, finance, and special events departments.

Kings Mountain Fire Department Chief Frank Burns said during Monday's session that his department's activities are expected to increase during the next fiscal year.

With the expected increase, he is requesting three full time and four part time additional personnel during the next fiscal year.

Burns said members of his department are preparing to perform first responder services.

Recently, the Grover Volunteer Fire Department announced it began first responder service in its district this month.

Kings Mountain Fire personnel already participate on the Cleveland County Hazardous Materials Team and other volunteer departments in the area.

Calls went up about 97 percent between 1991 and 2001, Burns said, and last year the department responded to 33 structure fires.

He said the second station on Shelby Road should help with the response times.

"The addition of station two will allow quick response times for that side of the city and will eliminate problems with rail-



FRANK BURNS

road and train traffic," Burns said during his presentation.

Eventually, Burns said the fire department would like to get out of City Hall and move to another location on the east side of the city.

While the department received a new ladder truck in 2000, it is looking to replace a 1987 pickup truck and a 1972 pumper.

In other business:

- Building Codes and Zoning Enforcement Director Holly Galloway said her department issued 795 permits in 2001 with a development value of \$40.1 million. She said the new Kings Mountain Middle School has continued its fast progress.

"It's run extremely smooth," she said. "We've all been amazed."

The department performed 83 minimum housing investigations in 2001, and Galloway said some of those investigations can be dangerous.

During her presentation, she showed the inside of a house that had a knife displayed.

Other shots of potentially dangerous things included an electrical meter with no cover, an open 40-ft. well, and lines from a water heater next to a gas line.

• Officials in the water department said they are expected to test for new elements.

Water Department Director Walt Ollis said the department is expected to start testing for arsenic.

Sara Lee to begin expansion

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

Cleveland County's jobless rate is no longer the top figure in the state, but many people are still out of work.

According to figures recently released by the North Carolina Employment Security Commission, Cleveland County's rate rose from 12.5 to 13.9 percent.

Ninety-one counties in North Carolina saw increases in their rates, with Swain County having the highest at 18.3 percent.

Layoffs within Swain's services and trade industries contributed to the rise.

While Swain's rate has increased, Cleveland County has seen an increase in jobless claims.

According to ESC figures, Cleveland's jobless population of 6,530 outnumbers Swain's workforce of 6,060.

Antwon Keith, manager of the ESC offices in Cleveland

See Jobs, 5A



Kevin Vaughn with Dallas One Construction empties dirt into a front end loader operated by Jay Legursky. The company is putting in a water line extension to serve the area near Margrave Road and Battleground Avenue.

Battleground water line to serve annexed properties

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain is in the process of finishing one of its mandated requirements of its 2000 annexation.

Several projects were mandated, and one of those included a 12-inch waterline extension on Battleground Ave., heading toward Grover.

The project which will cost \$132,107 with contingencies included, is expected to be finished in 30 days, according to City Manager Jimmy Maney. The extension was budgeted during the 2000-'01 fiscal year.

Other areas that are scheduled to get

extensions are the Hillway and Galilee communities.

Quality Lane has already received an extension.

The annexation, which took effect in June 2000, was one of the largest the city has undertaken.

It encompassed 10.03 acres in the Linwood Road area, and 2,318.76 acres south of the city.

Maney said the annexation followed a majority of the recommendations from an annexation study.

The annexed property included prime residential and industrial property along Canterbury Road and Interstate 85. It also

expanded the city into Gaston County. Industries in the area include Firestone and Sara Lee Intimate Apparel.

Landmarks were used to define the city boundaries, Maney said.

"It actually used to end just before you got to Timms Furniture," he said. "You had some definite landmarks to define where your city limits were."

Previously, the city limits followed the railroad tracks that went through downtown.

According to the construction company, approximately 500 feet of water line has been laid on the Battleground Ave. extension.

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