

BUILDING PERMITS

The Kings Mountain Building Codes and Zoning Enforcement Office issued the following permits for the week of April 22 through April 26.

- 4/22 - 108 Chestnut Ridge Road, Stephen N. Sutton, single family dwelling, \$159,000.
- 4/22 - 609 W. Mountain St., William and Suzanne Beard, installing family and sunroom, \$8,000.
- 4/24 - 503 Hawthorne Road, Shirley Scruggs, enclosing patio, \$5,000.
- 4/26 - 218 Edgemont Drive, Claude Clark, remove leaking shed roof over family room and build gable roof in its place, \$11,994.

KM FIRE REPORT

The Kings Mountain Fire Department responded to the following calls for the week of April 21-April 28.

- 4/21 - First Street, grass fire.
- 4/23 - 212 Holiday Inn Drive, false alarm.
- 4/24 - 700 E. Gold St., medical aid.
- 4/25 - 716 Sipes Street, false alarm.
- 4/25 - 113 N. Dilling St., service call.
- 4/26 - 209 Morris St., medical aid.
- 4/26 - 317 N. Dilling St., service call.
- 4/27 - 706 W. King St., wreck.
- 4/28 - Waco Road and Gantt Street, wreck.
- 4/28 - 706 W. King St., service call.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

County jobless rate drops slightly

By **BEN LEDBETTER**
Staff Writer

Cleveland County, which once led the state in unemployment rates, is seeing those figures drop, according to figures released from the North Carolina Employment Security Commission.

The county's rate, 12.6 percent for March, decreased from February's 13.2 percent.

And while the rate has dropped the number of people unemployed has dipped to 5,280, from about 6,160 in February.

Hiring for positions at the new Wal-Mart Distribution Center in Shelby has started and according to Cleveland County ESC Office Manager Antwon Keith.

Friday, Keith said the office has

received 3,000 applications for the 500-600 positions available with visitors coming from Kings Mountain, Forest City and Shelby.

When the center becomes fully operational it's expected to employ 900 to 1100 people.

"It's actually real cool to get Wal-Mart in the county," Keith said.

He said how well the center does will be dependent on how the chain's stores perform.

"Of course it depends strictly on the economy and how well Wal-Mart stores are doing, the retail business," he said.

The hiring process will consist of three different interviews and the company is expected to have management staff by the end of May, Keith said.

Hiring for associates should start

in June with training starting in July, he said.

Hiring has been happening at other companies also, Keith said.

"We're starting to see some companies do some hiring," he said.

"Also many companies are calling people back," Keith said about companies that placed employees on temporary layoffs. He said the number of companies doing the short-term layoffs have slowed tremendously.

Tyrell County, in northeastern North Carolina, had the state's highest rate at 17.9 percent, an increase from its 14.2 percent rate in February.

Orange and Watauga counties had the state's lowest rate at 2.6 percent while Dare and Swain Counties had

the largest decreases in jobless rate. Dare went from 14.9 percent in February to 9.8 percent in March. Swain decreased from 18.0 percent in February to 13.7 percent for March.

The drops in Swain and Dare counties may be attributed to an early start to the tourist season since both counties are in high tourist trade areas, according to the ESC.

Although rates in counties that rely on the tourism industry may be declining, Cleveland County's unemployment rate is still the highest among medium to large counties, Keith said.

For the county to have a rate under 10 percent he said about 2,000 people would have to be employed.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

KM's Smarr selected McDonald's ambassador

Kings Mountain McDonald's employee LaWanda Smarr has been named a McDonald's Employee Ambassador. She is employed at the KM McDonald's at 725 S. York Road.



SMARR

Employees are chosen based on their dedication to customers and co-workers. They are recognized through awards, cash bonuses, and advertising and promotional materials.

Smarr was recently promoted to shift manager, according to Bill Sherwood, operator of the KM

McDonald's restaurants.

County accepting grant applications

The EDC/Travel & tourism Office is accepting applications for the Travel and Tourism Grant Program through May 24. The grant program is pending approval of the budget by the County Commissioners.

Grants for the first funding cycle are for events held July through December. The purpose of the program is to stimulate and assist organizations in the enhancement, promotion, and marketing of tourism and culturally related events and activities in an effort to increase visitation, expenditures and overnight stays in Cleveland County.

For more information call 484-4999.



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD

The Kids Etc. program of Kings Mountain District Schools recently honored administrators at an appreciation luncheon at Summit Place. Left to right are Sherrill Toney, principal of West School; Kelly Lovelace and Judy Bolin of Kids Etc.; Jackie Lavender, principal of Grover School; Ethel Pedersen, principal of Kings Mountain Intermediate School; Kristi Anthony of Summit Place, and Supt. of Schools Dr. Larry Allen.

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<p>1999 Mazda 626 ES Auto, Power Roof, Fully Loaded, Only 29K, One Owner Lease Turn In. \$11,400</p>	<p>2000 Cavalier Z24 This car is loaded!! Auto w/Power Roof, CD & Cassette, One Owner! \$11,600</p>	<p>2000 Chevrolet Monte Carlo Only 35,000 miles on this beautiful one owner lease turn in, V6, AC, Leather Interior, Power Pkg., Looks & Drives Like New \$13,900</p>	<p>99 Pontiac Grand AM GT HO V6, Auto, AC, Power Windows, Locks, Tilt, Cruise, Spoiler, 1 Owner \$14,500</p>	<p>1999 Pontiac Montana One Owner, Leather, Quad Seats, Rear AC, CD & Cassette, Loaded \$14,900</p>
<p>1999 Nissan Maxima GXE V6, Auto, AC, Only 16,000 miles, this car looks & drives like new! \$15,800</p>	<p>2000 Ford Windstar SE Quad Buckets w/Rear AC, Alum Wh., V6, Auto, Pwr. Seat/Win./Locks, Tilt, Cruise Deep Tint Glass \$17,500</p>	<p>99 Dodge Ram Quad Cab 4x4 SLT Pkg., V8, Full Power, One Owner w/ Only 40,000 Miles. This is a Steal!! \$18,900</p>	<p>2000 Ford Explorer XLT This sport utility is in excellent condition, pwr. roof, CD, pwr. seat, pwr. windows/locks, tilt, cruise. \$18,900</p>	<p>01 Dodge Grand Caravan Spt. One Owner, Quad Seating, 17k miles, Power Seat, Rear AC, Loaded \$19,600</p>
<p>99 Cadillac Seville SLS 4.6 Liter Northstar V8, Leather Seats w/ Memory & Heat, Tilt & Telescoping Wheel, CD & Cass., This car rides & drives excellent plus it's value priced! \$23,500</p>	<p>2000 Chevy Silverado Z71 LT Package, Sportside, Only 20,000 miles \$24,500</p>	<p>2001 Chevy Silverado Z71 Lt Package, One Owner, 44,000 Miles \$24,600</p>	<p>99 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer 4x4 Only 31K, One Owner. Well cared for miles. Its got it all! Pwr. Roof, 3rd Seat, Rr. A/C, CD changer \$24,900</p>	<p>2001 Chevrolet Corvette Z06 385HP V8; 6 Speed, Only 8,000 miles \$41,900</p>

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