

The Herald

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Zenobia Degree, left, Hattie Smith and Clara Williams watch as Pearle Pressley does a monologue of Sojourner Truth during a Black History Month celebration at the Patrick Senior Center Friday morning.

Speeches, monologue, tribute highlight Patrick Center event

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Black history was remembered and celebrated Friday morning at the Patrick Senior Center. Event organizer Hazelene Abernathy paid homage to the "sweat, blood, tears, anger of many African-American" and the "joy energy, prayers and hope of a people who have given so much to this majestic

nation." Sally Taylor continued with a tribute to African-American inventors including traffic light inventor Otis Boykin and cosmetics magnate Madame C.J. Walker. Other products include the clothes dryer, automatic gear shift, traffic light, elevator and furnace. The first open heart surgery was performed by an African-American. Blacks in the U.S. also invented the refrigerator, helicopter

and wheel chair. "Generally their inventions enable us to have a safer, better quality of life," Taylor said. In a monologue of abolitionist Sojourner Truth, Zenobia Degree talked about the historic figure's appointment by Lincoln as counselor to the Freedman's Bureau. Degree also dramatized Truth's successful slander suit against prominent whites
 See History, 3A

Land Use committee to be named

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Land use committee appointments will likely be announced during Tuesday's Kings Mountain City Council meeting at 7 p.m. at City Hall. The city's five-year plan expires this year. Mayor Rick Murphrey wants the new committee to create a 10-year plan this time.

"It gives up direction," he said. "I really feel like Kings Mountain is on the verge of a lot of growth."

The committee will make recommendations on residential and industrial zoning changes, infrastructure and road planning. The plan will include the city and its two-mile extra territorial jurisdiction.

Around 20 to 25 representatives will be appointed from business, industry, Kings Mountain Hospital, Cleveland County Schools, Gateway and beautification projects, downtown revitalization, Kings Mountain Business and Professional Association and other area residents. City staff and council members also will be represented.

"We'll be pulling from a wide cross section of the community," Murphrey said.

As mayor, Murphrey will appoint members of the ad hoc committee but also will take input from council members.

Murphrey credited the five-year plan for designating a place for both the city's industrial park on N.C. 161 and the Cleveland County Industrial Park. He also said the plan had helped developers plan subdivisions.

In other business, a zoning change requested by David Faunce will be on the agenda but will be continued until
 See Land, 3A



"I really feel like Kings Mountain is on the verge of a lot of growth."

Mayor Murphrey

KMHS student to play with Symphony

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

When the Charlotte Symphony plays for Mecklenburg County elementary and middle school students next Thursday, a Kings Mountain High School senior will be on stage as one the musicians.

Emily Ledford is among a handful of area high school students to perform with the symphony. She'll be playing the third movement of Mozart's clarinet concerto.

Ledford auditioned in January and soon learned she had made the cut. The news surprised her.

"It was a shock," Ledford said. "There are a lot of really good people who tried out." She's practiced on her own and on Wednesday participated in the first practice with the symphony. There will be one more practice, a dress rehearsal Tuesday.

Her advice to anyone else auditioning, "have an ego."

"You get your confidence level up you're going to do well," Ledford said.

While the Charlotte Symphony performance is Ledford's first, she's no stranger to the stage. Ledford performs with the Charlotte Youth Symphony, the Kings Mountain
 See Ledford, 3A



Emily Ledford has been chosen to perform with the Charlotte Symphony

Downtown KM to be studied

The School of Business at Gardner Webb University will conduct a marketing study and analysis of the Kings Mountain Downtown business area.

The study will help the Mountaineer Partnership, Inc. make decisions as they pursue revitalization and downtown enhancement projects. It will also help in the recruiting of new businesses.

The study will collect data on the existing economic status of the area, make comparison to other similar communities and prepare a document on the findings. There also will be recommendations for some projects to pursue. The first phase of the should be completed by the end of March 2005.

The study will be conducted by Venita D. Jamerson and Heather Adams, both Kings Mountain natives.

Jamerson is pursuing a Masters of Business degree in the school of business. She has received a bachelors degree in marketing from Howard University.

Adams is also pursuing a Masters of Business
 See Study, 3A

Wells appointed to board

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Democrat Steve Wells of Kings Mountain will replace Dean Westmoreland on the Cleveland County Board of Elections.



Wells' appointment by the county Democrat Party's executive committee was approved earlier this month by the state Board of Elections. Wells served as chief judge of the Grover Precinct for eight years. He served
 See Wells, 5A

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

THE DEAN

Westmoreland has much knowledge in politics, history, farming and life

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

GROVER - Traveler, teacher and politician - Dean Westmoreland has been all of the above.

Unlike many who are active in politics, Westmoreland didn't inherit his avocation.

"If they (parents) ever voted I don't know anything about it," he said.

It was Roosevelt's Social Security program which inspired Westmoreland's allegiance to the Democrat party.

"It was a lifesaver," he said.

The law, passed in 1935, the year Westmoreland was born, established public health and unemployment programs and assistance for poor children in addi-

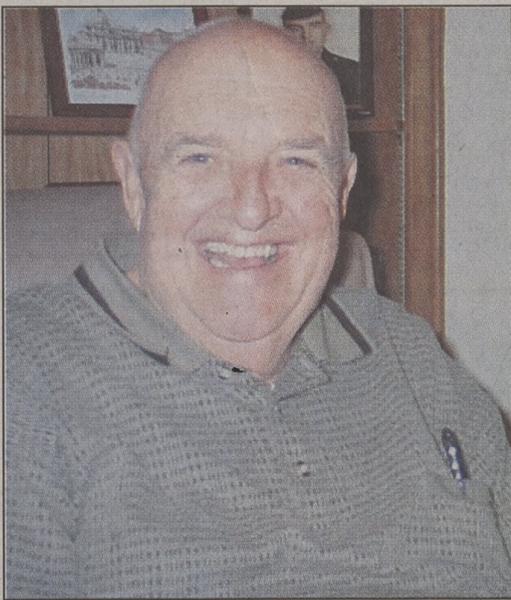
tion to retirement funds for seniors.

Westmoreland chaired the Grover Precinct for 18 years and the county party from 1991 to 1993. He's served on the state's executive committee for three years, on 9th and 10th Congressional district committees and as a delegate to county, district and state conventions.

Westmoreland stepped down earlier this year as chairman of the county board of elections. He also made a bid for state senate and house in the 1990s.

Westmoreland advises would-be politicians to have thick skins and access to money for advertising.

"The amount of money you have to raise, it's a sin, a disgrace," he said.
 See Dean, 5A



Dean Westmoreland is happiest when he's talking politics and history.