

KINGS MOUNTAIN

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Firehouse cook-off is this weekend

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Got a taste for barbecue? Maybe just music or horseshoes? Kings Mountain walking track is the place to be Friday and Saturday.

The fire department will hold its ninth annual Firehouse Barbecue Cook-off. Teams will come from the Carolinas, Tennessee, Ohio, Virginia and New Jersey.

Sanctioned for the past two years by the Kansas City Barbecue Society as a state championship, the cook-off has drawn increasing numbers of contestants. Winners here can compete in national competition. As of Monday, 41 teams had signed up. Fire Chief Frank Burns expects more local teams to register closer to the weekend.

Fifty certified judges are coming from as far away as Louisiana, Georgia, Wisconsin, Maryland and Florida.

Barbecue will go on sale to the public at approximately 5 p.m. Friday and again on Saturday.

The event is more than food, though. The public is invited to bring guitars and banjos to a "porch pickin'" Friday and perform on the Neisler stage. This lasts from 7 to 10 p.m.

A horseshoe tournament begins Saturday at 10 a.m. Harvest will perform Saturday at noon.

Antique fire trucks will be on display at the Fire Museum adjacent to the track. Entry fees paid by contestants will go toward restoring a 1938 fire truck.

Vendors will sell barbecue but the event itself is free. Festivities will wrap up at 3 p.m. Saturday.

Pearson may run for KM Council

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Butch Pearson is considering a run for Kings Mountain City Council.

"I'm exploring, talking to people," he said.

If Pearson does decide to run he'll be up against Councilman Jerry Mullinax for the Ward III seat.

Pearson said if he runs one goal would be to bring more jobs so younger residents will stay here.

Pearson wants to see public-private partnerships to go after businesses that fit the community.

Maintaining services will help attract jobs.

"That's what businesses look for," he said.

Kings Mountain has a lot to offer including parks, a YMCA, library and an airport 20 minutes away, according to Pearson.

He manages the Gastonia Municipal Airport and Golf Course.

"I feel like I can contribute," the Kings Mountain native said.

Candidates may file for election from July 1 to Aug. 5.

'Hats off to the past, coats off to the future'



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

Linda Dixon, right, thanks speaker Laura Carpenter Bingham for bringing the keynote address. President Anne Gamble is pictured on the left.

Woman's Club celebrates centennial

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

The Kings Mountain Woman's Club celebrated its 100th birthday in grand style Saturday.

"Hats off to the past, coats off to the future," First Vice-President Betty Benton told the crowd gathered in the basement of the Mountain Street clubhouse.

In her keynote address, Peace College President and Kings Mountain native Laura Carpenter Bingham told the group that she spent the first two years of her life living beside the club house. As a

child she participated in the club's talent shows.

"One does come full circle," Bingham said.

She called the club the "centerpiece of civic life" in Kings Mountain and an inspiration to others to give back to the world.

In a speech titled "Celebrating the Charitable Instinct," Bingham cited three dramatic examples of philanthropy.

Osceola McCartney, an 87-year-old, Mississippi laundress, donated \$150,000 to the University of Southern Mississippi. She saved the money over a lifetime. A foun-

dation was set up to distribute the money and 600 more people contributed. Ted Turner credited McCartney's actions for inspiring him to donate \$1 billion to the United Nations.

Merck Pharmaceutical spent money researching a drug for river blindness, a disease which affects the poor living in rural Africa. The company then committed to giving the drug away.

Giraffes share habitats and collectively care for their young. They live peacefully, stick their necks out and have long range

See Club, 6A

High gas prices affect city

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Higher gas prices aren't just affecting individual consumers. Cities and government agencies are feeling the pinch as well.

Kings Mountain City Manager Greg McGinnis said he is concerned about rising prices for gas. Several departments have vehicles on the road.

Department heads have already submitted budgets for next year,

this year's budget.

"We really don't know (yet) the impact that is going to have on those line items," McGinnis said.

Public works Director Jackie Barnette said that since the city only picks up garbage once a week, that service could not be cut. Garbage trucks use diesel fuel which is currently more expensive than regular fuel.

"We're just going to have to absorb the price," Barnette said.

Highway Patrol First Sgt. David Allen said the rising prices have the potential to cut into the budget. Officers are riding together to

training.

So far Allen hasn't received word from Raleigh to cut back on fuel use. During past gas price hikes officers have continued to monitor traffic but have done more stationary patrols and license checks. They also have parked at stores, talking with the public and using the community policing model.

The average gas price in North Carolina climbed from \$2.17 last week to \$2.24 this week, according to Sarah Davis of AAA Carolinas. The South Carolina average went from \$2.10 last week to \$2.17 this week.

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

Wayne Kirk retiring after over 50 years in ministry

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Pastor, author and college instructor, Rev. Wayne Kirk will retire May 1.

As a student at Bob Jones University, Kirk helped start Carson Memorial Baptist in Crowder's Mountain. After graduating he became the full time pastor. Kirk stayed there until 1954 when he entered the mission field. He returned from Africa in 1966, serving again as pastor.

Kirk has written an autobiography, "Born Twice, Adopted Twice," in addition to several books on missionary work.

He taught missions part-time at Ambassador Bible College in Lattimore for 12 years.

"I loved it," Kirk said. "It makes you young."

His advice to would-be mission-

aries:

"If God calls you to the mission field he'll keep you there. It's the same in the pastorate. He'll sustain. He'll provide," Kirk said.

Ambassador has awarded him an honorary doctorate. Kirk has preached at the chapel of his alma mater, Bob Jones University.

Kirk has also seen his share of suffering. During a three-year period his son and family were killed, his home burned and he underwent bypass surgery. Kirk says the experiences have helped him help others.

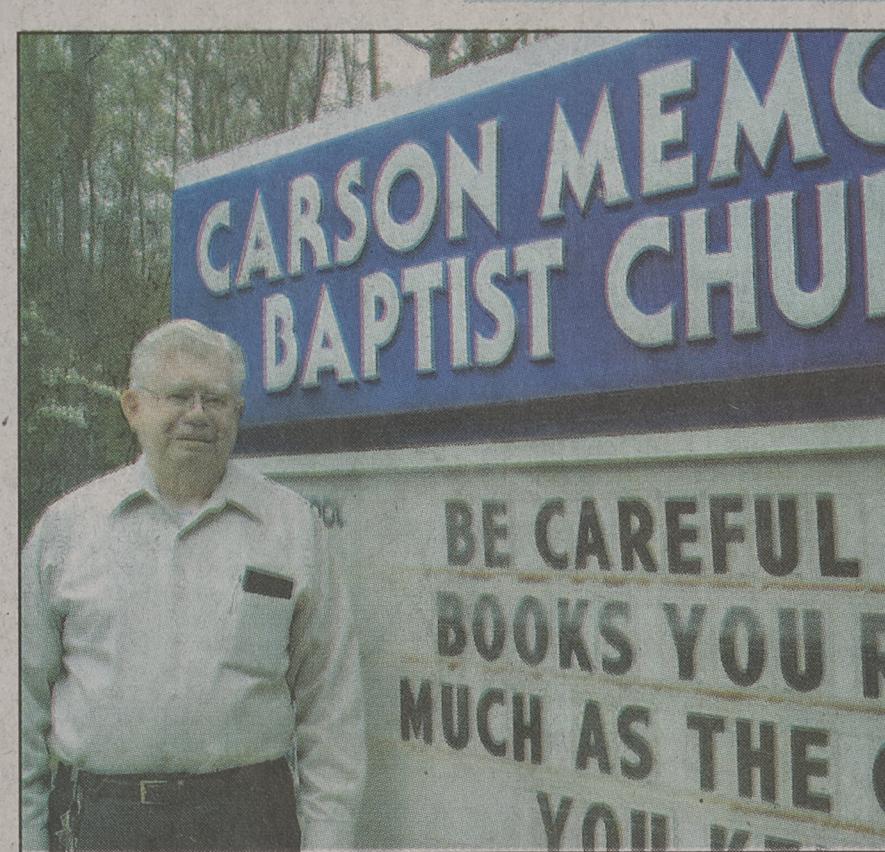
"You really can't sympathize unless you've been through the experiences yourself," he said.

"You can say a lot of words but..."

Born in Lincoln, Nebraska, Kirk was adopted by a farm family.

"I'd never be where I am today had I not been adopted," he said.

See Kirk, 5A



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD

Rev. Wayne Kirk will retire from Carson Memorial Baptist May 1. He helped start the church in the 1950s.