

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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Thursday, December 15, 2005

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Since 1889

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CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD
Kings Mountain Fire Fighter Gary Hensley bags toys on Monday morning.

Firemen, Dollar General donating toys to children

Kings Mountain Fire Department and Dollar General are making Christmas special for area children who participate in the Communities in School's program. Dollar General stores in Kings Mountain and Gastonia donated toys. Fire fighters and volunteers sorted the goodies by age and gender earlier this week. The elementary-age children will visit the fire department later this month, meet with Santa and receive the presents.

Luminary display Christmas Eve

The annual Mountain Rest Cemetery luminary display will be held December 24 from 6-12 p.m. The organizing committee is in need of milk jugs and volunteers. For more information call Jim Belt at 739-5425.

Kids' penny drive gets boost

The Central United Methodist Church's Carpenter's Clubhouse Preschool wants to thank anonymous donors who are helping with a penny drive.

According to Director Patsy Walker, after a story ran in last week's Herald, the next morning staff found an antique, white, Jeannie-style vase and a drinking pitcher filled with coins outside the door. On Monday another batch of coins greeted staff.

"I wanted them to know we're appreciative," Walker said.

Unsigned notes designated the money go toward the pre-school's effort to buy presents for four, lower-income children. The students are trying to raise \$100 by Dec. 17.

Walker said the gifts reminded her of Christian singer Amy Grant's television show about miracles.

"It blessed me," she said of the donations.

The students were moved as well.

"When we showed them they jumped up and down," Walker said.

Teachers Walker and Christy Kinmon are helping the students choose gifts from sale papers. The staff member believe the project is teaching the children about giving.

"It's planting a seed in these little kids' hearts," Walker said. "They're burdened to help these four children."

Early ad deadlines for Herald

The Kings Mountain Herald will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26 for the Christmas holiday and on Monday, Jan. 2 for the New Year holiday.

The Thursday, Dec. 29 and Thursday, Jan. 5 papers will be published on their regular day; however, advertising deadlines will change. All advertisements for the December 29 paper must be received by Friday, Dec. 23 at 1 p.m. All advertisements for the January 5 paper must be received by Friday, Dec. 30 at 1 p.m. The same advertising deadlines apply for The Cherryville Eagle and The bannernews.

New KM Council sworn in, grants hearing on rezoning

ANDIE BRYMER

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Four new Kings Mountain City Council members took the oath of office during Tuesday night's meeting. Veteran Councilman Houston Corn was unanimously voted mayor pro-tem.

Judge Anna F. Foster delivered the oath of office to newcomers Mike Butler, Rodney Gordon, Keith Miller and Dean Spears, the latter having served in past years on the council, and incumbents Mayor Rick Murphrey and council members Howard Shipp, Jerry Mullinax and Houston Corn.

City Attorney Mickey Corry was unanimously retained by the new council.

Outgoing council members were honored with a plaque and pen set.

Kay Hambricht said she was a "little bit sad" but honored to have served. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

"I'm not ashamed to say 'Merry Christmas' because Christ is the most important thing for me," she said.

Hambricht went on to compliment new Ward 4 councilman Rodney Gordon.

"I think he's going to do a great job," she said.

Rick Moore reflected back on his term.

"Four years ago I didn't think I had an enemy in town... In four years you get them all mad," he said.

Brenda Ross complimented the council and staff.

"I couldn't have had a better group to serve with. To quote Tina Turner 'you're simply the best,'" she said.

In an emotional presentation, Mayor Murphrey honored former Ward 5 Councilman Carl DeVane, who opted not to run again due to health problems. His wife Barbara DeVane accepted a plaque and pen on his behalf. Murphrey described him as "dedicated" and a "friend."

"We miss him," Murphrey said, struggling to get the words out.

"Carl dearly loved being on this council. If he were able, he would be right here," Barbara DeVane said.

In other business, Council unanimously granted a public hearing to Robert Bazzle who is requesting a 605 N. Piedmont property owned by Glenn See Council, 6A



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD
Kings Mountain police officer Lisa Proctor helps Santa Claus load toys into the back of a truck Monday afternoon at The Auction Block.

Police, businesses help make Christmas brighter for children

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Customers at The Auction Block are helping Kings Mountain Police Department with its toy drive. On Monday officers, accompanied by Santa, picked up several boxes of toys which customers and the auction house donated.

The business, owned by Jason and Nancy Falls, collected over 2,000 toys for KMPD, Grover PD, Grover Fire Department and the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association.

Some of the gifts donated included Barbies, bikes, toy trucks, stuffed animals, baby dolls, coloring books and sand art kits.

The contingent also stopped by Dollar General to pick up toys the store and its customers donated.

KMPD will set up a Santa's workshop

which parents can visit to select toys for their children. Officers also will take parents shopping.

Items for children 10 and older are still needed.

Donation jars are at Love's Fish Box, Dollar General on Cherokee Street, Family Dollar on East King Street, Old Country Store on 216 North, Kings Mountain City Hall, The Pier, ABC store, Linwood Restaurant, Kings Mountain Police Department and McAbee's Grocery Store. Toys are being collected at the Dollar Tree and toys and money are being collected at the Dollar General on Shelby Road.

Donations also may be mailed to the Kings Mountain Police Department at P.O. Box 7, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086. Checks should be noted for "Children's Christmas Fund." All donations should be in by Dec. 19.

6 crews battle fire near Grover Tuesday

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GROVER - Led by Grover Fire Department, fire fighters from five additional departments battled a blaze at Kings Mountain International Tuesday.

The fire at the 1755 South Battleground Avenue metal fabrication plant started around 10 a.m.

The fire remains under investigation by the Cleveland County Fire Marshall's Office.

Grover Fire Department was the first on the scene. Bethlehem, Oak Grove, Number 3, Cleveland County and Kings Mountain fire departments were called in to help. Cleveland County EMS was on stand by and the Red Cross provided food and liquids for fire fighters. Around 80 people were on the scene.

There were no injuries and employees were safely evacuated, according to Fire Fighter Joey Davis, a spokesman for Grover Fire Command.

Fire fighters had to be evacuated at one point due to a leaking gas leak. It was brought under control and fire fighters were able to re-enter the building.

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

State Alexander, 89, retires as Good Hope's pastor

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Rev. State Alexander has retired from Good Hope Presbyterian Church and this time he says it's for good. The 89-year-old pastor has retired twice before but went back to his post.

After developing problems seeing, Rev. Alexander's wife Mary Alexander drove him from their Charlotte home to the Kings Mountain church. Now she is no longer able to do so, making it hard for the aging couple to make the commute.

Rev. Alexander has served the church as pastor and moderator since the mid-1970s while also working as a supply minister for the Catawba Synod.

Helping his congregation grow in faith has been important to Rev. Alexander. Equally important is the concept of social justice. The church started a community tutoring program in the late 1970s. Rev. Alexander worked with the city to redevelop housing. He recommended locating apartments across the city and mingling residents of varying ages, proposals which were accepted.

David Moore is now leading the congregation.

"He's doing very well," Rev. Alexander said.

Rev. Alexander grew up in South Carolina. He was always active in church but had not planned on becoming a pastor. That changed in college when he served in a Sunday school mission for rural groups, leading Bible study. He describes that job as a "place to meet people, do the caring, direct them in the right path."

Rev. Alexander graduated from Johnson C. Smith University with a major in history and minors in sociology and psychology. He went on to seminary, majoring in both divinity and religious education.

Rev. Alexander met his wife Mary while a student at the Charlotte campus. He lived with her grandmother who introduced the two. She went on to Central University in Durham, majoring in education before the couple married on June 28, 1944, Rev. Alexander's birthday.

After 61 years of marriage, the Alexanders have sage advice for young couples.

Both parties should write down their expectations, then share those lists, Mrs. Alexander recommends.

Rev. Alexander says that disagreements can be a good time to work out issues and adjust thinking. Couples should be aware of the impact their own families of origin

See Pastor, 6A



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
Rev. State Alexander and his wife Mary were honored by Good Hope Presbyterian Sunday upon his retirement.