

## LOCAL



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

Left to right, Grover Councilwoman Jackie Bennett, Mayor Robert Sides and new Councilman Cobias Goforth came together at Edith Morgan's house after a celebratory motorcade through town once the voting results came in on Tuesday night.

# Sides, Bennett re-elected in Grover, Goforth wins write-in

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When the rhetoric dies down the voters voice speaks loud and clear. The majority of Grover's voters chose Robert Sides to continue as their mayor.

Mayoral incumbent Sides received the highest number of votes (about 63 percent and a total of 124 votes) over opposing candidate Sam Stevenson, who received about 37 percent of the votes (73 in total).

"I feel good. This is a good day," he said, after the tallies came in on Tuesday night.

Sides couldn't help but feel a little vindicated after enduring what he said were months of mudslinging and negative opposition from some folks in the town. "I played clean politics and I'm proud of the citizens that they had confidence in me," he said.

The first thing he plans to focus on now that the election is over with is hosting the next CAGO meeting in December. It will be Grover's second time hosting the county officials for their quarterly meeting. During his next four years in office, he said that he plans to "work closely with the county and the Chamber of Commerce and to get involved with the Chamber Board of Directors to get more things in on this side of the coun-

ty." He also wants to clean up Minnette Mills.

Incumbent Jackie Bennett was reelected to a four year term as councilwoman. She received 112 votes. "I'm just really glad. We've had up and down feelings all day," she said, adding that they had a better turnout this election than in the past.

Her plans for the next four years are to "get some more things going on the cemetery project that we've already started. There's a lot of things we've got to get started on," she said.

Write-in candidate Cobias Goforth garnered the most votes for the second open seat on the town council. He decided to accept a write-in nomination on Thursday, just five days before the election. "I think it's great. I had not intended to run. People kept encouraging me for the last several years," he said. "But when all of this business over the last several weeks started that was the pivotal moment for me."

The figurative "last straw" came when a letter was circulated allegedly written and signed by the pastor of a local church charging the mayor as immoral and unfit to serve. "You don't mix church and state," Goforth said. "You don't use the church to try to influence the congregation on how to vote."

Goforth, with many years of service on the Board of

Adjustments and background in other governmental boards, plans to spend some time getting familiar with town and county ordinances and state programs that offer monetary aide to towns and counties. He plans to try to seek grants for things such as downtown beautification projects, water and sewer and for any other needs that may arise.

## Groundbreaking set for Gateway Trails

Groundbreaking for the future trailhead of Gateway Trails that will one day connect Kings Mountain to area parks will be held on Thursday, November 15 at 4 p.m. at the trail access on the corner of Battleground Avenue and Quarry Road.

The second public meeting of the Gateway Trails will be held immediately following the groundbreaking at 5 p.m. at the Joy Performance Center at 202 S. Railroad Avenue. The meeting is free and open to the public. Community participation will have a direct impact on the availability of future grants needed for the multi-million dollar project.

Refreshments will be served. For more information or to RSVP for the meeting, contact Gateway Trails, Inc., at 704-739-4755.

## Vet Day ceremony Saturday in KM

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The City of Kings Mountain will be mustering the troops this Saturday, calling all veterans of America's armed forces to come out and be honored for their service.

Line-up and opening ceremonies for Kings Mountain's Veterans Day Parade, the only one of its kind in Cleveland County, will begin in front of the Joy Theatre at the war memorial at 10 a.m. At least one float is scheduled to be in this year's parade, representing the United Auto Workers. The Marine Corps League is set to carry and present the colors.

The procession will step off around 10:30 a.m. after the tunes of "Flowers of the Forest" played by the Loch Norman Pipe Band and "God Bless America" sung by Shana Adams. The parade will proceed down Railroad Avenue, onto Gold Street, heading east to Mountain Rest Cemetery. The parade is scheduled to arrive at the Veterans Memorial in the cemetery around 11 a.m. The Loch

Norman Pipe Band will play "Mist Covered Mountains" and the Marine Corps League will present the colors.

After a welcome from Mayor Rick Murphrey, the boy scouts are scheduled to lead the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. Adams will lead the assembly in the National Anthem. Police Chief Melvin Proctor will give the invocation. Murphrey and guest speaker Rev. David Irish are scheduled as the main speakers.

The Loch Norman Pipe Band will play "Amazing Grace" and after a moment of silence, Murphrey will place a wreath on the veterans monument - a gesture of remembrance every year. Paul Fulton will play TAPS as the ceremony concludes.

Event organizer and the city's Special Events Director Ellis Noell said that they try to have the ceremony each year on the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour, as Veterans Day is ordained. But since the special day falls on Sunday this year, they decided to celebrate early.

For more information or to register a float in the parade, call 704-734-0333.

## Vet Day ceremony Sunday in Shelby

Cleveland County Veterans Council will hold its Veterans Day ceremony Sunday at 2 p.m. on the north side of the old courthouse in Shelby. In case of bad weather it will be in the Shelby City Park gym.

Richard McSwain will be master of ceremonies. The Burns

High color guard will present and retire the colors and Crystal McDaniel will sing the National Anthem.

Guest speaker will be Chaplain Captain David Lee of the U.S. Air Force Reserves. Representatives of service club auxiliaries will place wreaths.



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