



# Letters to Santa

Read what the kids want for Christmas... in their own words.. Section "C"



# Kings Mountain Herald

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### Decision of LBTD vote rests with voters

By EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

Signatures are still being collected on petitions for a mixed-beverage-sales-within-city-limits vote, after the call for a referendum was turned down by city council in September.

Citizens for Progress, a group of citizens still seeking a vote on the issue, initiated a petition with the Cleveland County Board of Elections on October 7, 2008. They have until January 5, 2009 to collect the 1,971 signatures they need from registered voters before a referendum can be called through the BOE.

Only the signatures of registered voters, who reside within Kings Mountain city limits, will be counted.

Merchants, business owners and others throughout the community have utilized opportunities like the Gateway Festival, Election Day polling sites, and Mountaineer Christmas to collect signatures. They have even set up petition sites at places like the ABC store, Parker's Amoco, and Bobby Horne Construction where folks can go and sign.

Future economic development was one of the leading factors behind Citizens for Progress' push for a LBTD vote. With the staggering job losses the city has seen in recent months, some who may have opposed the vote before are now signing the petition.

Gregg Johnson, with Citizens for Progress, told The Herald in a previous interview that signing the petition does not mean you are for mixed beverage sales, it just means that you agree citizens should vote on the issue.

But several churches and others in the community have opposed all attempts at a vote, saying that allowing mixed beverage sales would open the city up to more crime and unsavory establishments.

In the end, the decision, and the decision of whether or not a decision will be made in the matter rests with the voters.

## Santa's Cobblers



Photo by Lib Stewart

Councilman Rick Moore, left, and Councilman Mike Butler, right, help Soleta Wilson shop for Jakayla, 2, and Nake-bea Wilson, 1, with Santa's Cobblers Friday at the National Guard Armory.

### Citizens give 1,500 pairs of shoes to neighbors A difference made to over 5,000 people in 3 years

By EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

A line of people started forming outside of the Armory in Kings Mountain at 7 a.m. on Friday for a shoe giveaway that started at 10.

Although the early morning's rushing crowd and traffic congestion fizzled out to a steady stream of shoe-seekers by 11 a.m., the turnout proved to be a reflection of the times. And this good deed of citizens helping their neighbors did not go unnoticed.

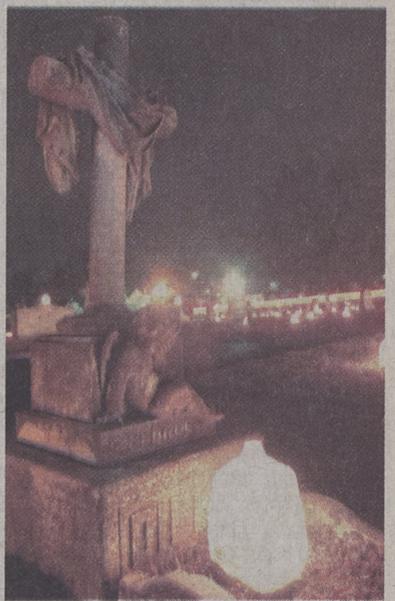
"Santa's cobblers" Mike Butler, Dean Spears, Rick Murphrey and friends pooled their own money to purchase a freight load of 1,500 pairs of shoes to give to the community. They had hosted a similar shoe giveaway at the Patrick Senior Center two years ago. They gave

furniture away in 2007. But this year's giveaway was different.

It wasn't as confusing as the packed room in the center had been or as chaotic as the furniture giveaway had started. This year, the instructions were simple, the crowds were contained and hundreds, if not more, were helped. Small groups, coming in shifts, filtered into the Armory's gymnasium with the instruction of "one pair per person." Although there were some, who tried to get more than one pair or who returned multiple times for their "one pair," there were others whose stories warmed the "cobblers" hearts.

Butler shared the story of one boy at a local elementary school who had been coming to school in his mother's shoes. He was contacted

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Herald file photo

The Christmas Eve luminary show of candles at city-owned Mountain Rest Cemetery is expected to be the biggest ever Wednesday with some 5,000 lights. The public is invited from 6 p.m.-midnight to walk or drive through the cemetery.

### Luminaries shine tonight at cemetery

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Staff Writer

The Christmas Eve luminary show of candles at city-owned Mountain Rest Cemetery will be triple what it was last year with over 5,000 lights, the 2008 event shaping up to be the most impressive ever.

The public is invited to drive through or walk through the cemetery beginning at 6 p.m., entering the Main Gate on Dilling Street and exiting the cemetery on Deal Street. The cemetery will be open, rain or shine, from 6 p.m. until midnight.

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## City inks 20 year contract for water

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain and Cleveland County inked its largest private-public contract in its history - a \$350-\$450 million dollar investment by Southern Power Co. - in a signed agreement Monday during a joint meeting of both the Kings Mountain City Council and County Board of Commissioners at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior & Conference Center.

By the agreement Kings Mountain signed a 20 year contract with Southern Power to sell 12.5 million gallons of raw water from Moss Lake and the city's treatment plant daily to the Atlanta-based company and provide 850,000 gallons of potable water daily to generate steam to produce electricity at a proposed natural gas-fueled electric generating plant on 275 acres of land near Grover. "This is an early Christmas present for

Kings Mountain and all of Cleveland County," said Jo Boggs, chairman of the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners.

Mayor Rick Murphrey, who welcomed the group, echoed Boggs' remarks, saying "This is a great day for Kings Mountain."

In addition to city council, Southern Power officials, county commission and Chamber of Commerce members, Senator-Elect Debbie Clary and Rep. Tim Moore also attended the signing ceremony to offer congratulations.

Southern Power, the largest wholesale energy provider in the Southeast, plans to begin initial construction of its Grover plant by 2010 with opening projected for 2012. With full development city and county officials expect the project to be the county's largest taxpayer.



Photo by Emily Weaver

City and county officials inked a historic contract Monday with Southern Power, the largest wholesale energy provider in the Southeast. Seated, L-R Buddy Jessup of Southern Power, Mayor Rick Murphrey and County Commission Chairman Jo Boggs. Standing, from left, front row, City Councilmen Howard Shipp, Rick Moore, Houston Corn, Mike Butler, Rodney Gordon, Dean Spears, Jerry Mullinax and county commissioners Ronnie Hawkins, Johnny Hutchins, and Mary Accor.

## Eaton lays off 87 employees; total layoffs climb to 900

by ELIZABETH STEWART  
staff writer

Eaton Corporation's Kings Mountain plant will lay off 87 employees Dec. 31, the latest blow to the area hard hit by the down turn in the economy which

has put 900 people looking for jobs.

Plant Manager Mike Izzi called the production layoffs temporary and said of the 51 employees laid off Nov. 14, 27 are still out on temporary layoff and have had no change in status.

During a temporary layoff the company continues medical benefits for six months, not COBRA, but the same plan as active workers. He said for six months Eaton pays its part, the employees pay their part and the benefits remain the same. Dis-

placed workers can sign up for unemployment compensation for up to a year provided they maintain a work search record (ask for a job at two places per week.) Claims may be made by telephone, on the Internet or by visits

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