

What's in store for Central School? 3A



KMLT presents 'Harvey'

Final shows this week

# Kings Mountain Herald

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## Election 2011

### 4th, 5th contenders emerge in at-large city race

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The hot contest for the open At-Large seat on Kings Mountain City Council is now a five-man race with the filing this week by two more Kings Mountain candidates, Brian Cloninger, 38, 304 Silver Street and Curtis Pressley, 45, 711 Oakland Street.



PRESSLEY



CLONINGER

Incumbent Commissioner Houston Corn announced two weeks ago that he is stepping down from the position he has held for two terms to spend more time with his grandchildren.

Candidate filing for mayor and three council seats up for grabs Nov. 8 ends Friday at noon with the Cleveland County Board of Elections.

As of Tuesday, Mayor Rick Murphrey, Ward I councilman Howard Shipp, and Ward IV councilman Rodney Gordon were unopposed for re-election to four year terms.

See RACE, 7A

## Bessemer City now in elite Main St. program

BESSEMER CITY - The Town of Bessemer City is now a Small Town Main Street City.

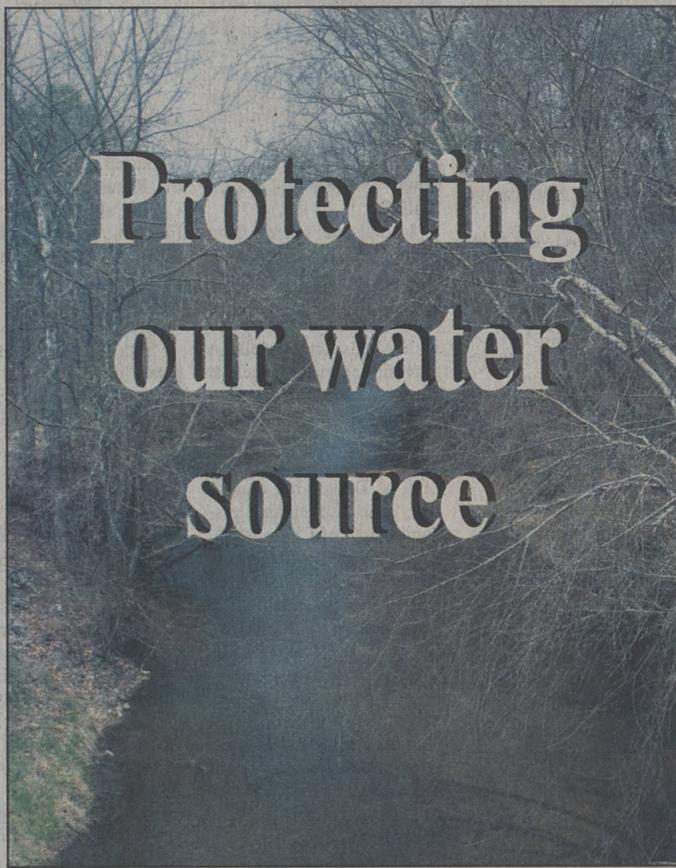
The community will join 31 other communities - including Warrenton, Pittsboro, Lillingon and Troutman - from 17 applicants as Small Town Main Street communities in the program which started in 2003.

Kick-off activities will be held in Bessemer City during the month of September.

Bessemer City is counting on this new status to gain more visitors, shoppers and new residents and to bring new life to downtown.



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## Protecting our water source

Muddy Fork Creek - will this quench our future thirst for water?

### Quenching Our Thirst for WATER

A crystal clear stream gave birth to a gold rush in Kings Mountain. Now the water itself is gold and Moss Lake is the gold mine. In the final chapter of this four-part series we look at this potent resource and how it affects how we work, play and live. This week...

Will we have enough for the future?

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Herald looks at the history, current status and future of our water supply in this four-part series.  
Part 4 of 4

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Could a second lake be in the future for Kings Mountain?

Not now, the US Army Corps of Engineers has told city officials. A second reservoir is not economically feasible.

Preliminary studies have indicated that by the year 2050 John H. Moss Lake may no longer be able to supply the growth expected for the region, but the crippling recession has made a second lake a dead issue...for now.

However, Mayor Rick Murphrey says "Necessity is a great creator," adding that 50 years from now a second lake may be needed to provide drought protection and water for future growth. "We still need to leave John Henry's idea on the drawing board."

Kings Mountain's former mayor, the late John Henry Moss, made a pitch for a second lake as early as 1986 to Kings Mountain city council.

The Herald reported that Moss said a number of people had persuaded him to propose a \$25.8 million water district in response to recent droughts. None of

the plans had been finalized, he was quick to point out, and none of the city's money had been spent on the project. In response to unanswered questions that some said tempered second lake enthusiasm, the mayor told his board that a district would have to stand on its own.

Moss, accompanied by several city council members, campaigned for another reservoir (lake) to government leaders in area towns, inviting them to sign on to the project either as a participant for a new water district or on a "wait and see" approach. Several municipalities in the region were very interested in the proposed lake and its accompanying regional water system. Kings Mountain citizens were interested in how the project would be paid for and whether it would actually benefit Kings Mountain taxpayers.

The Herald reported in 1986 no groundswell of support for the district water project but interest.

Patterson Springs Mayor Hugh Dillingham wrote the mayor that his town council was sincerely interested in a water distribution system in that rural area of Southeastern Cleveland County. Dillingham encouraged Kings Mountain to proceed with the project.

See PROTECTING, 4A

## SWEEPSTAKES

### Man charged with bribery to keep sweeps cafes open

'Last man standing' really wasn't last man with sweeps

EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

A four-and-a-half-month long operation codenamed "Last Man Standing" ended Wednesday morning with the arrest of a suspect who, Sheriff Alan Norman said, wanted to be the "last man standing" with video sweepstakes operations in the county. He now stands before a judge.

Sixty-three-year-old Artie Stevenson Smith of Gastonia was booked into the Cleveland County Detention Center in the wee hours of August 3 under a \$500,000 secured bond. He has been charged with eight counts of bribery of a government official and two counts of felony possession of five or more video poker machines.

Sheriff Norman says that Smith operated two establishments that offered video sweepstakes: Susan's Sweepstakes, 1319 S. Post Rd., and Waco Sweepstakes, 2415 Cherryville Rd.

"Mr. Smith originally was charged approximately four and a half months ago with several misdemeanors at the S. Post Rd. location," Norman said. "Right after that he made contact with a sheriff's sergeant in our narcotics division and attempted to bribe that sheriff's deputy for protection to be the last man standing in Cleveland County."

See OPERATION, 7A

## SCHOOLS

### Some jobs saved, cuts will still hurt

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Teaching positions are 100% funded in the 2011-2012 state education budget for Cleveland County Schools but painful cuts still impact the classroom this school year and could be deeper next year if recession continues.

Assistant teacher jobs are not in jeopardy. Wrangling in the state legislature for months kept anxious assistant teachers worried about their jobs. They return to school Aug. 15 for the Fall term.

"We are really fortunate in the overall picture but there are serious ramifications in the budget for us," said Finance Director Dr. David Lee reporting to the Board of Education Monday night. "The painful cuts are not as big a hit as we expected," he added.

Lee said that the classroom will be impacted by a 46% cut in instructional supplies, an 81% cut in textbooks and a 5% cut in instructional support, a loss of four positions. The budget allocation is 18 students to a teacher in grades 1-3.

Lee said that for the fourth consecutive year there will be no salary increases and if employees are insured by an 80/20 plan of insurance their individual premiums will be \$21.62 monthly. There is no monthly premium for a 70/30 plan.

See SCHOOLS, 7A

## Harvey, final shows this week

EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

"Years ago my mother used to say to me... 'In this world, Elwood, you can be oh so smart or oh so pleasant,'" said Jim Champion playing the role of Elwood P. Dowd in "Harvey". "Well, for years I was smart. I recommend pleasant."

"Harvey", one of the most pleasant of comedies put on by the oh so smart volunteer staff of the Kings Mountain Little Theatre, continues this weekend. Two final showings of this "back-by-popular-demand" play will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Joy Performance Center, 202 S. Railroad Ave. Tickets ranging from \$8 (students and seniors) to \$10 (adults) will be sold at the box office. For reservations, call 704-730-9408 and leave a message.

The story comes to life in the 1950s at the home of the well-mannered and oh so pleasant Elwood P.

See HARVEY, 7A



Jim Champion, playing the role of Elwood P. Dowd reads to Harvey, his six-foot tall imaginary friend...that also happens to be rabbit.

KYRA TURNER/HERALD



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