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# Kings Mountain Herald

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## Dear to step in as interim county manager

**ELIZABETH STEWART**  
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 Retired County Manager David Dear is expected to step into his former job with the county – this time as interim manager – until a manager is hired to replace Eddie Bailes who unexpectedly left the position last week.  
 The formal hiring of Dear and the beginning of advertisement for the permanent position was on the agenda of last night's commissioner meeting in Shelby.  
 Bailes unexpectedly resigned

April 30 for personal reasons, according to Ronnie Hawkins, chairman of the county board of commissioners. Bailes contract had an annual salary of \$159,000 and was to roll over in July following annual evaluation, according to Hawkins.  
 Hawkins said Bailes gave no in-



David Dear

dications for his resignation, citing only personal reasons. "He is a nice guy and we wish him well," said Hawkins.  
 "Vice Chairman Jason Falls and I talked with Eddie last Tuesday morning and his resignation came as a shock," said Hawkins, who said board members and department



Eddie Bailes

heads were notified and he announced the resignation at the close of the April 30 work session. A motion was made at last week's work session for Hawkins to serve as chief operations officer until the position was filled.  
 "It's been a busy week," he said. Bailes and Financial Officer Chris Crepps were already working and just needed to plug in the numbers on the 2013-2014 budget, according to Hawkins. He said that Dear, who retired two years ago as manager, had agreed to assist during

county budget planning.  
 Bailes served two years as county manager and, before becoming assistant manager, was HR Director for a number of years.  
 David Dear had been multi-tasking for the county before Kristin Fletcher came on board in economic development and, since his retirement two years ago, has been employed by the county under the economic development umbrella. "David will be stepping out of that role for a while to serve as interim manager," confirmed Hawkins.

## Hall of Fame induction Saturday

Three state champions and a Kings Mountain man who reached the pinnacle of the sports writing profession will be inducted into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame at its 26th annual induction ceremony Saturday, May 11 at 6 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church.  
 This year's inductees, all of whom were elected on the first ballot, include:  
 -Kings Mountain High's first state wrestling champion and current Kings Mountain Middle School coach Alfred Ash;  
 -A state champion in both the shot and

See HALL OF FAME, 8A

## Rules set for Senior Center

Rules and regulations for rent or lease of city-owned H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life & Conference Center, for a special event at which beer and wine would be served, were set by city Council Tuesday.  
 The rules stipulate that the holidays of New Year's Eve, July 4th, and Halloween will not be days at which the Center will be rented, if beer and/or wine might be served.  
 The rules specify that the applicant must obtain an ABC permit and liability insurance, pay a \$300 deposit in event of damage to the building with a refund if no damage is done; and pay the salary or salaries of a sworn police officer on duty at the event. Handouts in the form of applicable materials will be given to all who apply at the Senior Center.  
 Questions or assistance in locating the proper applications and/or signing off on the law enforcement requirements should be directed to Sgt. Lisa Proctor or Cpl. Todd McDougal at the Kings Mountain Police Department, 704-734-0444.

## Spruce Street now one-way

It's now one-way traffic on Spruce Street (in front of the fire department) from Cherokee Street east to Regal Drive.  
 New signs are going up and a drop box will soon be located on the street for residents paying utility bills. This change is an effort to resolve the heavy traffic on the 15th and 25th of each month when utility customers are lined up at city hall to pay bills.  
 The one-way traffic would not interfere with fire department vehicles. Chief Frank Burns said the change would eliminate cut through traffic.  
 Both Burns and Police Chief Melvin Proctor said one-way traffic on Spruce from Cherokee East to Regal Drive would be the safest option.

## Celebrating survivors!



The survivors lap of the 15th annual Relay for Life Friday was led by the CC Marine Honor Guard and cancer survivors Charles Burns and Glenda Terry, brother and sister of KM Fire Chief Frank Burns.  
 Photo by GARY STEWART

## Relay for Life a success! Over 10K raised at Friday night's event

by DAVID BLANTON  
 Hundreds of people – cancer survivors, their relatives and those honoring the memories of lives taken by the dangerous disease – braved cool and windy weather and poured in to the Kings Mountain Walking Track Friday for the 15th annual Relay for Life.  
 Revelers and organizers capped the night with a series of singing and dance productions put on by the Kings Mountain

High School Chorus' Kings Revue, local Zumba instructors and Step-N-Out Dance Productions, a youth dance troupe, and a hilltop fireworks extravaganza that signaled the end of the fundraising event, which in one night alone raised more than \$10,000, according to organizers.  
 The spirit of the evening, which ran from 5 p.m. to midnight, was one of hope and determination in a race against an illness that has shattered so

many families, not just in this community but across the globe.  
 "They really worked hard. They said 'I'm not good at this.' Then they'd go out and sell 20 [raffle tickets] in a day" said Sharon Eaker, a staff member and captain of Kings Mountain's Patrick Senior Center team. "That is very inspiring." Although it was the center's first year getting involved in Relay for Life, its members and

See RELAY, 7A

## Faunce gets rezoning

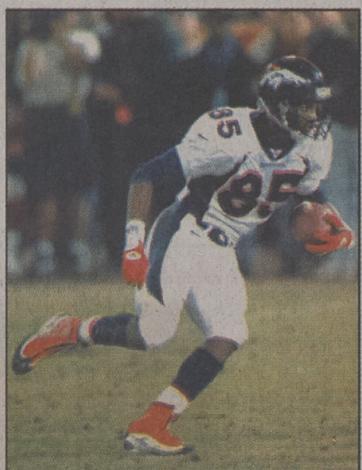
**ELIZABETH STEWART**  
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 By 6-1 the Kings Mountain City Council last Tuesday rezoned-over opposition of West End Neighborhood—the property owned by Faunce Properties bounded by West Mountain Street, Phifer Road and West King Street. Ward V commissioner Keith Miller cast the "no" vote.

A protest petition filed by property owners required six "for" votes to rezone the piece of property that the developer sees as a business corner.  
 After the meeting several residents said that the property dispute had been going on "long enough" and city council was tired "of it."  
 The rezoning case first appeared before city council five years ago when Walgreens approached Kings Mountain businessman David Faunce about purchasing the property for a drug store. Over the years Faunce has changed the zoning request several times and the most recent change – approved during public hearing last Tuesday – was from residential to conditional use of office permit, allowing only for medical or non-medical uses.  
 During the lengthy process the city planning department asked representatives of West End Neighborhood to work with the city and the developer and address the concerns in an effort to resolve them for both home owners and the property owner.  
 "The interest of homeowners should take precedence over commercial development," members of the West End Neighborhood wrote city council members in a memorandum prior to the meeting, and reiterated concerns during public hearing.

The proposed new building's height and width and

See FAUNCE, 6A

## Green to bring the 'Promise' to Cleveland County



Willie Green, a former NFL player, plans to bring the Cleveland County Promise to the area. The Promise is a free scholarship to every student that goes on to college after graduating from a CC high school.

**ELIZABETH STEWART**  
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 Willie Aaron Green, 47, former NFL football pro from Kings Mountain, says everything happens for a reason and Cleveland County Promise is this area's "second chance for many families."  
 Excited about the potential success, Green says "Cleveland will be the envy of every other county in the state."  
 Green has founded and is CEO of a non-profit organization called the Cleveland County Promise with an eye to providing free scholarships to every Cleveland County student who graduates from high school.  
 It's an ambitious project but Green says in each school in towns where the program

is available the response in financial backing has been tremendous and a financial aid and career advisor helps students fill out all the forms and sets up trips to visit colleges. Gragg & Gragg has donated office space for the program at 1137 Marion Street, No. 102, Shelby, and Cleveland County Schools is offering a classroom at each high school for career and financial advisors to work with students.  
 Donations from private donors and businesses makes the program possible.  
 Green has seen huge success particularly in El Dorado, Arkansas where the school dropout rate was high. As a result of the program test scores went out the roof.

See GREEN, 6A



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