

Local group attends NC inauguration

Cleveland County was well represented at the recent inaugural ball of Governor Mike Easley in Raleigh. Local dignitaries who attended the event included Mr. and Mrs. Andy Dedmon, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dalton, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Morgan, Joe Morgan, Stuart LeGrande, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mills, Democratic Chair from Cleveland County Betsy Wells, second vice-chair Rosalinde Hunt, Waco vice-chair Betty Padgett, Anthony Brown, Casar chairman Steve Padgett and Mrs. Judy Padgett. U.S. Senator John Edwards was also in attendance.

Inauguration day began with a drop in breakfast with Secretary of State Elaine Marshall. The Cleveland County group then witnessed the inauguration ceremony on the Capitol grounds. Music was provided by the N.C. Central University Jazz Band. The inauguration began at 11 a.m.

Demons, Deuces lead in duckpins

Dilling's Demons increased its mixed duckpin bowling league to six games Tuesday night with a 8-0 sweep of Ducks R Us.

Dilling (14-2) got a 106 line and 308 set from Mark Midgette and a 106 line and 300 set from John Dilling. Ducks R Us (8-8) were led by Greg Evans with a 137 line and 370 set.

In another match, Mark's Martyrs (8-8) defeated Chris' Crusaders (2-14) 6-2. David Jaroszewski led th winners with a 148 line and 387 set. Zeke Rybczyk had a 111-312 and Mark Abernathy 110-312. Chris Hullender led the Crusaders with a 121 line and 321 set. Ed Philbeck had a 116-315 and Irene Ruley 110-307.

Double Deuces grabbed the early lead in the first week of the third quarter of Thursday night action, sweeping Dead Weight 8-0.

Greg Evans turned in another in a long line of spectacular performances with a 174 line and 443 series. Irene Ruley added a 117 line and 322 set, and Billy Myers had a 115 line and 317 set. Mark Abernathy had a 126 line and 307 set, and Bonnie Warren had a 115-308 for Dead Weight.

Tommy's Them defeated the Half Timers 6-2. Tommy Barrett led the winners with a 120 line and 348 set, and Zeke Rybczyk had a 119-323. Allen Myers led the Half Timers with a 136 line and 365 set.

MERGER

From 1A

ings account. The money that went to Middlebrooks came from the taxpayers of Cleveland County. Given the fact that the merger issue has been going on for over a year and still has not reached resolution, the question arises- are the monies paid to Middlebrooks the absolute only extra cost that has been borne by taxpayers for the situation? "The fees paid to Middlebrooks are the only extra expenses," said Cleveland County finance director David Deer.

Cleveland County manager Lane Alexander echoed Deer's statement.

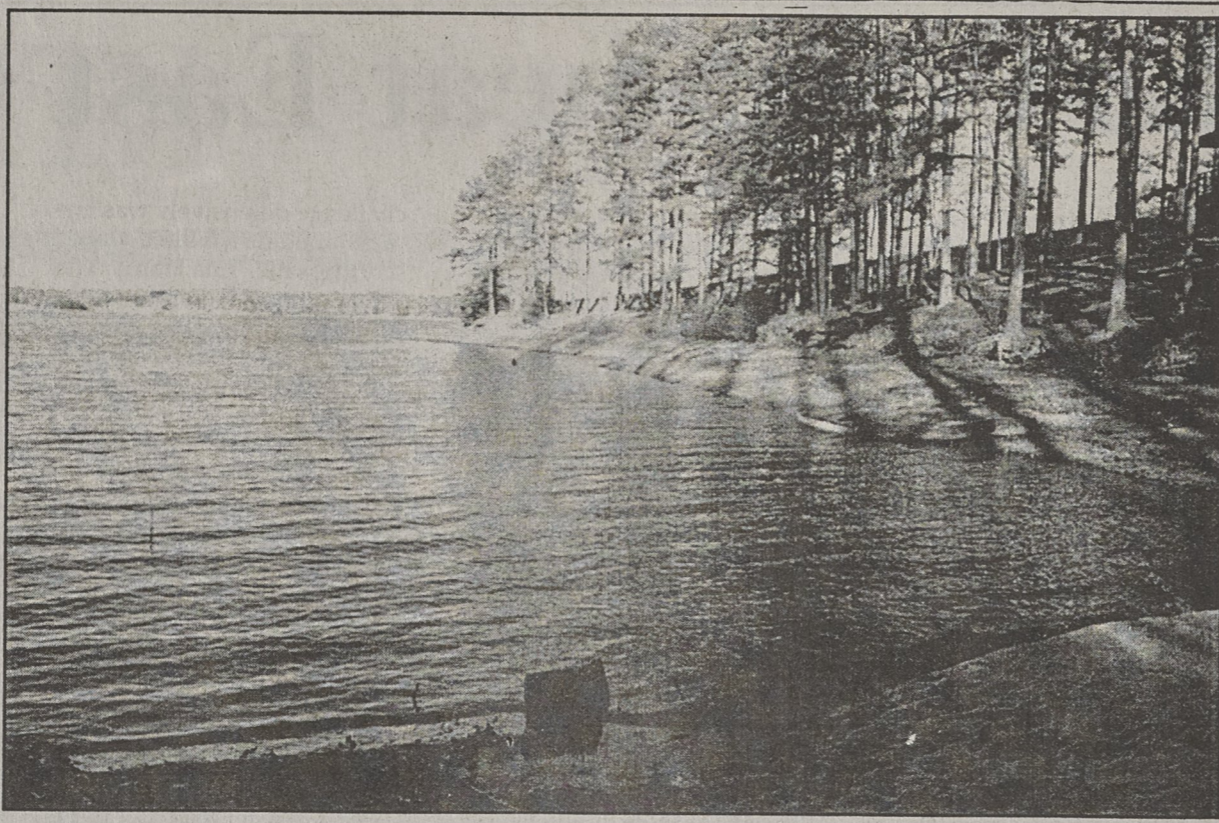
"To my knowledge, the lawyer fees are the only other expenses," he said.

For some folks, those comments just don't wash. Anti-merger activist Kathy Falls said she felt the amount of Middlebrooks' bill seemed low.

"I don't believe that's all he has been paid or that has been spent on merger," Falls said. "What about the court costs and things such as Middlebrooks' trips to Raleigh?"

Another aspect of the merger money issue is the disposition

It's Payback Time!!
Won't be long now,
Mike Goins.
The Big Day
will be here
soon.



Shady coves such as this one on Moss Lake and farm ponds have been getting a thin coat of ice recent mornings. Even though it looks thick enough to skate on, doing so is very risky. Kings Mountain fire chief Frank Burns says stay off the ice.

Walking, playing on icy ponds can be dangerous

The recent frigid temperatures have brought an additional complication besides frozen pipes and other cold weather woes. More than an aggravation, frozen ponds and creeks can also be deadly.

According to Kings Mountain fire chief Frank Burns, the danger of people, especially children, trying to either skate on or cross frozen water is a very real one.

"It takes many days of below freezing temperatures for a layer of ice thick enough to support a person or even an animal to form," Burns says. "Do not

try to walk on frozen water, no matter how cold it is."

According to Burns, ice can give way with little or no warning. Should you find yourself falling through the ice, grab on to ice around you and kick and pull your way out of the water.

A more immediate threat of ice involves our pets. Burns says the Kings Mountain Fire Department has responded to animal rescues on ice ponds before.

"If you live near a frozen body of water and have pets," Burns says. "Make sure when

they are outside they are on a leash."

Having a leash allows you to keep your pet nearby, plus, should the pet fall in the water, you have something to pull it out with.

Anyone who falls in water this time of year should seek immediate medical help. Frostbite and hypothermia are real possibilities and require treatment at once. Call 911 as soon as you can for help.

For more information on winter ice safety, call the Kings Mountain Fire Department at 734-0555.

10-dig dialing put on hold

The 10-digit phone dialing that was scheduled to begin Wednesday in the 704 area code has been postponed until at least January 24. The delay was set by the state Utilities Commission to allow alarm companies more time to complete their transition.

Many alarm systems are programmed to dial just seven-digit phone numbers when activated. Firms said they needed more time to get ready for the switch to 10-digit dialing.

The Utilities Commission heard from the N.C. Alarm Systems Licensing Board in a December 22 petition when they asked for a six-

month postponement. The board estimates that more than 180 companies provide alarms for more than 200,000 homes and businesses in the current 704 area code.

Though some alarms can be reprogrammed from a central location, others must be reset for 10-digit dialing on-site.

The delay in starting 10-digit dialing in the 704 area code was given with a comment that the alarm companies should have been working on their problem sooner. The Utilities Commission is investigating how long a delay will be necessary. They could delay mandatory 10-digit dialing another 60 days

beyond the new January 24 deadline or come up with another solution.

Ten-digit dialing in the 704 area code means that any number called within that area must be prefixed with the area code - even if it's just next door. Also, incoming calls from within the 704 region must also have the prefix to be received. The 10-digit method was determined to be necessary due to the rise in the use of cell phones, pagers, fax machines, modems and other communication devices within the 704 area code.

KM wrestlers win opener over Jags

Kings Mountain High's wrestlers defeated Forestview 49-15 in their opening Southwestern 3A Conference match Tuesday in Gastonia.

KM hosts South Point Friday at 7 p.m.

103 - Asa Harris (KM) d. Murdock 11-4; 112 - Cedric Hunter (KM) tech fall Turner 19-4; 119 - Mike Bell (KM) won by forfeit; 125 - Vince Keller (KM) p. Holder; 130 - Matt Bridges (KM) d. Banko 15-5; 135 - Shane Short (KM) p. Stroup; 140 - Brandon McClain (KM) d. Perez 17-6; 145 - Tanner Putnam (KM) d. Bough 9-4; 152 - Erickson (FV) d. Tyler McDaniel 5-2; 160 - Vance (FV) d. Kino Reynolds 8-6; 171 - Crawford (FV) d. Derek Carroll; 189 - Adonis Matthews (KM) d. Maddox 7-4; 215 - Johnny Gillard (KM) d. Johnson 7-3; Hwt - Shane Smith (FV) won by forfeit.

All shapes and sizes can compete in wrestling

By PHIL WEATHERS

One of the great aspects of the sport of wrestling is that you can be almost any size or shape and participate.

Another positive aspect is that wrestling does not require a lot of equipment. A wrestler's basic need to participate are a uniform, a pair of shoes, headgear, and a mat. The standard wrestling uniform is called a singlet. It has a tight fit, which helps reduce the chance that the wrestlers will grab each other's uniform. It is illegal to grab clothing during a match.

A good pair of wrestling shoes is also essential. Most local sporting goods stores can obtain these for you or you can order them through various wrestling publications or websites.

When a match begins you may notice the protective piece of equipment that covers the ears and the side of the wrestler's head. This piece of equipment is called headgear. It is generally made of a hard plastic and is lined with foam. It also comes with an adjustable chin strap that helps hold the headgear in place.

During the match you may occasionally notice the headgear of the wrestler come off. When this happens the official may stop the match to allow the wrestler to put the headgear back on. When you attend a middle school, high school, or college match you will notice wrestlers wearing headgear.

Individuals wrestle on a mat. Mats generally are in school colors and may feature the school's mascot on it. You will also notice lines and circles on the mat. In the center of the mat there are two lines where the wrestlers meet to start the match. A large circle is marked near the outside of the mat. Wrestlers must compete within that circle. If the wrestlers get outside the circle the official

will blow his whistle to stop the action. At this point wrestlers move back to the center of the mat to start again.

Some schools may have more than one mat. If so, teams may practice during the week on one mat and use the other one for their matches. Teams generally hold practice in a gym or wrestling room. Dual team matches and tournaments are usually held in the school's gym.

Tidbits:

Let's take a look at some key wrestling terms. These are just a few that you may hear or see take place in a match.

Pin - A move used by a wrestler whereby his opponent's shoulders are held firmly to the wrestling mat for a specific time.

Stalling - A situation whereby a wrestler stays away from his opponent or does not force any action.

Neutral position - This is where two wrestlers are on their feet and are not engaged.

Half-nelson - This is a common pinning hold that is very effective if used correctly. This is also a common hold that you will probably see during the course of a match. You may hear coaches yelling to their wrestlers to "shoot their half" during a match, referring to the half-nelson.

The National Amateur Wrestling Hall of Fame is located in Stillwater, OK. It opened in 1976.

A date you may want to mark on your calendar is February 23-24. This is when the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Wrestling Tournament will be held in Charlotte. The tournament has been held in Charlotte for the last several years. More on this later.

Remember to get out and support your favorite team. Here's hoping to see you at the mat!

(Phil Weathers, a Kings Mountain Schools administrator, is former wrestling coach at KM Junior High).

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