



If it's baseball and softball season, can spring be far behind?

Kings Mountain school baseball and softball teams will begin their seasons this week. The KM High baseball and softball teams will host Crest and Canton Pisgham in round-robin action Saturday beginning at 11 a.m. While the varsity baseball teams are playing on Lancaster Field, the softball teams will be playing at the adjacent KM Junior High field.

The junior high baseball team opens its season Monday at home at 4 p.m. and the KMHS tennis team also opens its season this week.

For pre-season reports on all these teams, plus basketball, wrestling and bowling results, see pages 1-3B.

Bloodmobile Visits Thursday

Kings Mountain Hospital will sponsor an American Red Cross Bloodmobile visit on Thursday, March 5, in the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church. Donors will be processed from 12:30 until 6 p.m. Goal for the one day visit is 125 pints of blood.

To be eligible to donate, a person must be between the ages of 17 and 70 and be in good health. Anyone wanting additional information can call the Red Cross Office at 487-8594.



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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

Apartments Damaged By Fire

Four duplex apartments were damaged by fire and water Friday morning when fire, believed to have started in an electric blanket, spread quickly through the attic to an adjoining unit and resulted in evacuation of four families on Thornburg Drive.

Kings Mountain Fire Department was called to the residence of Ophelia Watson, 216 Thornburg Drive, where the fire originated in the bedroom. Watson's home and her neighbor's house at 218 Thornburg Drive were heavily damaged by fire. Two more units in the apartment complex were water damaged, according to firemen, who said that all four families had to relocate until repairs could be done to the four apartments.

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Photo by Ray Clemmer

FIREMEN ANSWER SECOND AUTOMOBILE FIRE—A 1962 Ford Van operated by Lee Smart of S&P Painting Company caught fire on the 161 Exit ramp on Cleveland Avenue Tuesday. It was the second car fire extinguished by city firemen this week. Minor damages were reported.

I-85 Truck Stop Damaged By Fire

A grease fire in the kitchen area of the I-85 Truck Stop and Restaurant on Dixon Road caused heavy damages to the second floor of the building Thursday night.

The lower floor, which houses a restaurant, was also heavily damaged by smoke and water.

Assistant Manager Scott Laughridge said that no damage estimates are available but that work is underway to reopen the restaurant. "The Truck Stop is open 24 hours a day and we are pumping gas and fuel and the store part of the Truck Stop remains open", said Laughridge. The second floor of the building, which contains a lounge, showers and offices will be repaired he said.

Firemen from seven volunteer fire departments responded to the fire alarm which went off at 10:30 a.m. Thursday night, Kings Mountain Rescue Squad, Cleveland County EMS and a Red Cross disaster van was on hand during the night.

Laughridge said that customers were evacuated without incident and that several firemen were treated for smoke inhalation. The major portion of the fire was

in the roof and ceiling areas and steel beams made it difficult for firemen to reach the blaze, said Laughridge.

Bethlehem Fire Chief Larry McDaniel, who praised the work of all firefighters, said a tanker driver provided tremendous help by transporting 9,000 gallons of water from the fire department's fill-up point at the Holiday Inn. McDaniel said the driver, whom he could not identify but believed to be a passerby, stopped and offered his help.

Jim Testa, owner of the firm, General Manager and Vice President Barry Laughridge and Scott Laughridge, Assistant Manager, also praised the efforts of volunteer firemen, the Red Cross and Rescue personnel. "We appreciate all of them and thank them for their bravery and courage" they said.

Fire departments responding to the blaze were Bethlehem, Waco, Grover, Oak Grove, Number Three, Cleveland and Shanghai Volunteer departments. Four firemen remained at the scene until early morning Friday.

Local Democrats To Meet Thursday

Local Democrats are gearing up to fight proposed changes in precinct lines at area precinct meetings Thursday night at 8 p.m.

"We encourage all Democrats to attend precinct meetings at the polling places", said West Kings Mountain precinct chairman Willie Marable.

Mrs. Marable said one of the items on the agenda for the meetings will be vote on a resolution drafted by the Cleveland County Democratic Party opposing

changes in precinct lines which would reduce the number of precincts in the county. Mrs. Marable said that at each Precinct meeting in the area new officers would be elected for the coming year.

West Kings Mountain Precinct will meet at the National Guard Armory where Mrs. Marable will preside.

East Kings Mountain Precinct will meet at the Community Center where Bill Cashion will preside.

Grover Precinct will meet

at Grover Rescue Squad Building where Dear B. Westmoreland will preside.

Bethware Precinct will meet at Bethware School where Myers T. Hambricht will preside.

The county elections board has been working on possible changes in precinct lines in an effort to make the voter registration totals in each precinct more uniform. As currently being proposed, the changes would reduce the number of precincts from 28 to possibly 17.

Bob Deaton, chairman of the Democratic Party of Cleveland County, said that leaders of the party plan to be very vocal in their opposition to the changes being considered by the Elections board and have drafted a resolution of opposition which precinct members will consider at Thursday's meeting.

Hearing Tuesday

Kings Mountain's Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the proposed reorganization of the schools Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Central School auditorium.

The system is considering several reorganization options, all of which would require some additional facilities or upgrading of present facilities.

For a detailed description of the options the board is considering, see Supt. Bob McRae's column on page 1-C of today's Herald.

Three Charges Dismissed Against Philip Bollinger

Cleveland County District Attorney William Young Monday morning dismissed charges of felonious assault, resisting arrest and running a red light against Philip G. Bollinger, 30, of Kings Mountain.

According to District Court records, Young said "charges were dismissed after an independent investigation by the SBI revealed there was not sufficient evidence to proceed criminally."

Bollinger, son of City Animal Control Officer Stretch Bollinger of the Kings Mountain Police Department,

was arrested on Jan. 27 by City Patrolman Don Johnson. Both the senior Bollinger and policeman Johnson were "relieved of duty with pay" by the city board of commissioners pending an investigation by the Kings Mountain Police Department and the SBI into an altercation at a Cleveland County magistrates office the evening of Jan. 27 as young Bollinger was being booked.

Acting Chief Bob Hayes said the investigation is continuing of the alleged incident and neither Bollinger nor Johnson has returned to work with the city.

Credit Union Celebrates Anniversary

Fifty years of service to the community was celebrated by the Kings Mountain Federal Credit Union (formerly Margrace) at the annual meeting of officers, directors and stockholders Thursday night at Resurrection Lutheran Church.

Curtis Ring, Vice President of Governmental Affairs for the N.C. Credit Union League, presented a 50 year plaque to Treasurer and Credit Union Manager Carl Goforth under whose leader-

ship a new charter was applied for and on May 24, 1982 the Kings Mountain Federal Credit Union came into being.

Today the membership has grown from 300 members in 1982 to more than 1,200 members and the assets from \$343,000 to over \$2 million. The local association reached the \$2 million mark in February, said Goforth, in his report to stockholders.

Howard Bryant, a member of the board of directors, in

presenting a history of the association, said that 15 men bought one share of stock for \$5 and started the Margrace Credit Union at the old Margrace-Pauline Mills 50 years ago. They were F.C. Roberts, Charles H. Moss, G.C. Barber, R.P. Thomas, R.H. Webb, Lemuel L. Ware, R.D. Miller, M.B. Moss, Hall A. Goforth, Howard Jackson, Harry Kimmell, Haskell D. Wilson, John H. Floyd, Paul

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Gary Sale Is Not Guilty

Former Kings Mountain police officer Gary E. Sale, 40, was found not guilty Friday in Cleveland County Superior Court on charges that he stole \$10.00 worth of gasoline from a Kings Mountain service station.

The jury deliberated for about an hour before returning the not guilty verdicts on four counts of misdemeanor larceny.

Sale had been accused of pumping gasoline into his car without paying for it on four occasions in February and March 1986 at Jerry Oliver's Mustang Oil Station on East King Street in Kings Mountain. After his conviction in Cleveland County District Court Aug. 5, 1986, Sale was fired by the Kings Mountain Board of Commissioners who had suspended him with pay from his job as a patrolman when the charges were lodged by Jerry Oliver, Sr. Sale appealed the ruling to Superior Court. He was hired as a deputy in the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department. He and his wife, Mary, are now living in Ellenboro.

Throughout last week's trial in Shelby Sale maintained that he was innocent, con-

tending that Jerry Oliver, Sr. was seeking revenge because Sale helped arrest Jerry Oliver, Jr. on a more serious charge of felonious larceny of gasoline. Prosecutor Deputy Attorney General Chris Brewer of the N. C. Department of Justice presented testimony by Oliver, his son, a nephew, Brian Oliver, and an employee, Scott Bush, who testified that on four occasions Sale pulled his car up to a self service island, pumped a few dollars worth of gas, reset the pump to "0" and pumped an additional amount which Sale then charged to a weekly account.

Brewer presented sales receipts from the gas station and readings from the pumps which, he said, proved that certain amounts of gasoline were taken without payment.

In making his case for the defense, Defense Attorney Steve Dolley of Gastonia presented witnesses who said they heard the Oliver's admit in private they "wanted to get back at Sale."

Sale had been a Kings Mountain policeman for seven years.



SERVICE—Curtis Ring, above, at right, presents a 50 year plaque to Carl Goforth and Manager of Kings Mountain Federal Credit Union, center, as director looks on.

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