



Happy New Year

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Happy New Year From 'The Gulf'

Chris Smith, 20, called his father from the Persian Gulf New Year's Eve to wish him a happy new year.

It was 9:30 p.m. in Kings Mountain but aboard the USS John F. Kennedy it was 5:30 a.m.



CHRIS SMITH

The Kings Mountain Petty Officer has been in the Desert since Aug. 15 and recently won his promotion. He gave his parents news of his promotion and talked to them about being away from home at Christmas.

"It was difficult being away at Christmas for Chris, a newlywed who missed his wife and family," said his father, Dennis Smith. "We sent him

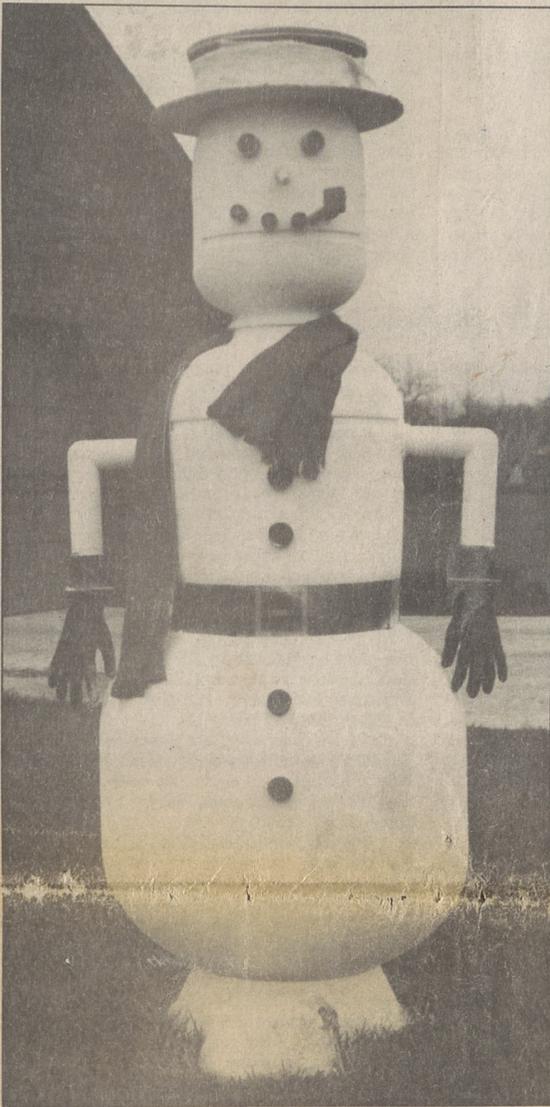
gloves, books, magazines, food and mailed some surprise gifts to his supervisor for a surprise party the ship crew planned on Christmas Eve. Chris said the gifts from home were great but the letters from home are most important." His address is: G2 Division, USS J. F. Kennedy CV-67, FPO New York, N.Y. 09538-2800. Local people who want to write other sailors may address letters in care of J. F. Kennedy, c/o Chaplain's Office, FPO New York, 09438-2800.

Chris attended Crest Junior High and is a 1988 graduate of Hunter Huss High School. After graduation, he graduated Naval Recruit and Airman Apprentice Training in Orlando, Fla. He was formerly stationed in Norfolk, Va. A Garteria sailor, Billy Potter, is on the same ship and the two men served together in Norfolk and shared rides home on several occasions.

Christopher Brian Smith and Rhonda Braswell were married in April 1990. He is the son of Dennis Smith and Cecilia Meade and grandson of George and Levaughn Smith of Kings Mountain and Mrs. Christine Morrison of Kings Mountain and the late W. D. Morrison.

"Chris has been lucky that he was able to call home four times since he's been in the Persian Gulf," said Smith.

Before he stopped talking with family members Monday, including his 11-year-old sister, Megan, Chris Smith asked that they remember and pray for him and all those serving in the Middle East. He wants to come home soon.



READY FOR THIS?-If you ride by the home of Billy and Linda Hoyle in Gold Run you might look twice. But, no, it hasn't snowed on that end of town. This snow man was built out of old parts in the assembly department of Hayward Pool Products during the plant's annual Christmas decorating project.

Looking To '91

Kings Mountain Hopes To See Completion Of Bond Projects

Kings Mountain will see the completion of \$9 million worth of water, sewer and electric bonds projects in 1991, the result of a referendum passed in February 1989.

Community Services Director Tom Howard said many of the projects were started this summer. The remaining bonds for utility improvements are to be sold this month, except for \$500,000 to be kept in reserves for improvements at Moss Lake Dam.

Howard said another major project is the renovation of the new Law Enforcement Center at the old post office downtown. He expects the design to be completed in the early part of the new year with contract letting in 1991.

"This has been a big year for the city but 1991 will be even bigger and better," he said.

Widening of Cleveland Avenue was one of the major improvements accomplished by all city departments working with the Department of Transportation and state

highway crews. Bridges Drive improvements, which began in 1990, Woodside Drive drainage projects and building a new water line for Gold Street will continue in the new year. Construction which got underway at Pilot Creek Wastewater Treatment plant will also be completed in the new year, as well as water plant and electrical upgrading. The purchase of a knuckleboom loader got the city in the recycling business and revolutionized roadside garbage pickup. Two recycling centers are being used by citizens on a regular basis. As the nation becomes more serious about recycling, Howard sees KM citizens getting on the recycling bandwagon. Howard predicts that some water shed regulations will be necessary in 1991 to protect the city's water supply. Results of a dam study will be completed in 1991 to cover Moss Lake and spillway.

See City, 8-A

Schools Hope To Assign Students

Serious work sessions on the elementary student assignment plan by the Kings Mountain Board of Education could lead to adoption of the plan in the early months of 1991.

The plan was developed by Supt. Bob McRae, who said that the reassignment plan is the major initiative of the new year by the board, which will hold another work session Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. at the District office on Parker Street.

The board is reassigning some students because of racial imbalance in elementary schools, particularly at East and Bethware. "We have had meetings explaining the process and don't know how many more may be held to deal with the solution," said McRae.

McRae said the three major building projects at Grover, West and Bethware Schools will be completed in 1991 and East School students, now housed at Central School, will be returning to their old campus

with West School students replacing them at the Central campus next year while improvements are going on at the West campus.

Meantime, construction is "moving along" at the Grover campus, where a major facility will cost about \$1.25 million. McRae said the system is looking at a late-winter completion date at Grover. At the East plant, where major construction is also underway at a cost of \$1.25 million, the completion date will probably be mid-summer. At Bethware School, where projects are also under way at cost of \$1.25 million, the timetable for completion is Fall 1991.

Big news for the Kings Mountain as was in 1990 was the opening of KM Fatherly School and McRae says that the transition was smooth. "We are very pleased with the progress in 1990 and feel that 1991 will be even bigger and better year for our students," said Jim

See Schools, 9-A
Security office in Charlotte, Mountain Rest

Stocking Fund Total \$3,621

Kings Mountain's Empty Stocking Fund fell \$367.17 short of its 1989 collection but was still able to help over 100 people during the Christmas season.

The final total for this year was \$3,621. Contributions of \$180 were received during the final week. The 1989 total was \$3,988.17.

"We want to thank everyone who contributed to the Empty Stocking Fund on behalf of the sponsors, the Kings Mountain Herald and the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association, and also for those who received their generosity," said a spokesman for the Stocking Fund Committee.

The Empty Stocking Fund was able to help 16 families (which included 50 children) with toys and food. In addition, 40 Head Start children in Kings Mountain District Schools each received a toy, caps and gloves.

"We will continue to have this fund as long as the need is there and individuals, clubs, businesses and

churches are willing to share with those less fortunate," said a spokesman.

Final week's contributions:

In loving memory of Estelle H. Ware, by C.D. Ware, \$50.

In memory of Catherine Thomasson, by Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Thomasson, \$10.

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. George Hull, by Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Thomasson, \$10.

In honor of Mrs. Virl Burton, by Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Thomasson, \$10.

Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club, \$100.

Received last week: \$180.00.

Previous Balance: \$3,441.00.

Total for 1990: \$3,621.00

Ledford Dies In Accident

Mrs. Nellie Hord Ledford, 83, of 302 Waco Road, was killed Wednesday morning at 10:14 a.m. when she apparently pulled into the pathway of a truck hauling brick a short distance from her home, according to the Kings Mountain Police Department.

Police identified the driver of the truck as Lemuel Odum, of Kings Mountain, operating a truck owned by Earthfall Productions Inc.

The investigation is continuing by the Kings Mountain Police Department.

Kinmont Closes, 140 Lose Jobs

The New Year brought more layoffs and another plant closing in the Kings Mountain industrial community.

Recession is taking hold with a deeper sting in the Kings Mountain area with the announcement that a second major industry-Kinmont Mills-is closing and 140 people will be looking for jobs next week.

"We have no orders for soft-goods and home furnishings and accessories but we've been hoping for a miracle," said Kinmont Plant Manager Wendell Burton.

Burton said Kinmont gave employees notice Christmas week that the plant will shut down after inventory is completed and all or-

ders shipped out by end of the year. "There are no plans for reopening and the 'for sale sign' is up," said Burton, who joined the plant four years ago. Burton Lake that Friday will probably be recommended with the business.

"It's sad, like a death in the family," said Burton. "Lay-offs this Christmas is not a gift we like to give," said Burton, who blamed a slow-down of the economy and recession which caused the plant to phase out its one-shift operation of manufacturing bedspreads, home furnishings and accessories. Without orders, the plant can't operate.

See Kinmont, 9-A



WINS SHOPPING SPREE - Wendell Barton, left, won a \$500 shopping spree at McGinnis Department Store in a drawing at Baucom Chevrolet-Geo in Kings Mountain last week. Pictured with him are Homer Baucom, center, General Manager, and Harry Splawn, salesman.

Schools, Businesses To Launch Dropout Prevention Program

Kings Mountain District Schools and Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce will launch a new Key Business Program targeted at keeping kids in school at a press conference Thursday, Jan. 10, at 7 p.m. in the Board Room of the District Office on West Parker Street.

The press conference will be held prior to the regular January meeting of the board of education at 7:30 p.m.

"We are very excited about this venture between business and the schools to keep both business and the schools up-to-date on how students are progressing as employees and students and encouraging students to stay in school and work too," said Supt. Bob McRae.

The public is invited to help kick-off the new program with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and business community.

Community To Pray For World Peace January 13

A community-wide prayer service for world peace will be held Jan. 13 at 6 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church under sponsorship of Kings Mountain Ministerial Association.

Local ministers will lead the ecumenical, non-denominational service open to the public. Families with loved ones and friends serving in the Middle East are encouraged to call Dr. Eric Faust at 739-8072 with names to include in the prayer petitions that ministers will use in leading the special prayer service.

"Many in our community are concerned about events in Kuwait and have loved ones serving in Operation Desert Shield. This service will give Kings Mountain citizens the opportunity to come together for

worship and pray for peace and strength in this time of waiting and uncertainty," said Faust, incoming president of the Ministerial Association. Time for prayers of local concern will also be provided, as well as time for silent prayer and meditation.

Rev. John Futterer, pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Rev. George Simmons, pastor of East Gold Wesleyan Church and president of the Ministerial Association, and Dr. Faust are heading up the service.

Names and addresses of service people serving in Operation Desert Shield may also be mailed to Dr. Faust at PO Box 1188, Kings Mountain, 28086. Faust wants to prepare a mailing list to distribute to those interested at the prayer service.