

County's first black commissioner seated

7-A

In the cool, cool, cool of the evening ... KM Mountaineers open football practice



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PANTHER PATH

Carolina Panthers Run to Clemson coming through KM next week

Local runners will carry the football in the Coca Cola/Carolina Panthers Run to History Monday at 4 p.m. and Tuesday at 9 a.m. festivities in downtown Kings Mountain.

Celebrity runners, including Kings Mountain Mayor Scott Neisler and Kings Mountain High School varsity football players, will participate in the Tuesday morning run, taking the ball from the Gaston County line to the KM Antique Mall area on S. Battleground Avenue, the same location where the entourage will come into town on Monday.

The hoopla promoting the Panthers has been arranged locally by the Cleveland Chamber.

Kings Mountain Chamber executive officer Jeannie Moore says that local residents are sprucing up downtown to show the historical flavor of the area.

At least 10 local people will help carry the ball in the two events expected to draw a large crowd of spectators.

Moore said each Chamber of Commerce is planning celebrations along the Panther's route from Charlotte to Clemson, SC for the Panthers' home opener.

In Kings Mountain, the ball will also be taken to the local hospital

and nursing home by the Panthers mascot who will be making the first-ever public appearances during the event.

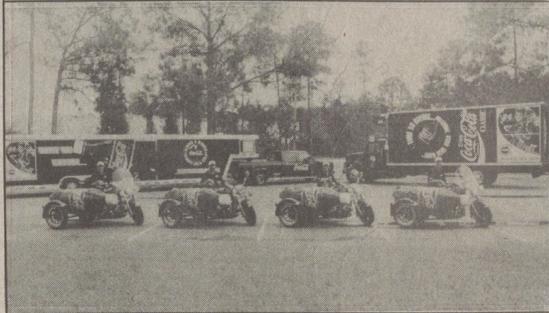
"This is going to be a major happening," said Moore.

"It has the potential to touch a lot of Cleveland County people and involve them in the spirit of this historic first game."

The entourage into Kings Mountain will come in from Gaston County on King Street, turn onto S. Battleground at the overhead bridge and stop in the center of town. Several vendors will be offering hot dogs and sandwiches, including Griffin Drug and Sub Station, and Coca-Cola will be distributing free Coca-Colas.

The entourage will be escorted by four Harley Davidson riders with Coca-Cola Contour Bottle sidecars with the riders handing out free Coca-Cola soft drinks, a motorized diner that's really a remote radio station and the WBT Panther van. At all stops, fans can purchase "Thrill on the Hill" packages, which include a pair of game tickets and commemorative t-shirts. All proceeds go to Panthers Charities.

The entourage will spend the night in Kings Mountain Monday and participate in the Kings



Mountain celebration at 9 a.m. Tuesday.

The 135-mile Charlotte to Clemson run begins with a pep rally Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the heart of Uptown Charlotte at Trade and Tryon Streets where Carolina Panthers owner Jerry Richardson and sons Mark and Jon will join a group of dignitaries to hand the ball off to the Panthers' new mascot for the first leg of the run.

From Charlotte, volunteer and celebrity runners will carry the ball through Gastonia and Kings Mountain into South Carolina through Blacksburg, Gaffney, Spartanburg, Greer, Greenville,

Easley and finally to Clemson for an August 11 pep rally prior to running the ball on the field for the home opener August 12 against the Denver Broncos.

"The kind of spirit shown by the local chambers of commerce demonstrate that this team has won the hearts of people all across the Carolinas," said Hal Price, sports marketing manager for the run sponsor, The Coca-Cola Company.

"The enthusiasm has been tremendous. It's going to be a lot of fun and a great event to launch our new affiliation with the Panthers."

The run will leave Charlotte from the Charlotte Coliseum on

See Panthers, 2-A

Lawmakers rest after historic, lengthy sessions

Lawmakers this year legalized carrying a concealed handgun with a permit after December 1 and ordered the Governor's Crime Commission to report to next year's session of the General Assembly on how the law is working.

Rep. John Weatherly, Kings Mountain Republican, said the action came at the urging of the public.

"The public was clamoring for this to be law," he said this week on his return home after adjournment of the historic 1995 session dominated by Republicans for the first time this century.

Other area legislators are Rep. Debbie Clary, of Shelby, Republican; Dr. Jack Hunt, Democrat Representative, of Lattimore; and Senator Dennis Clary, Republican, also of Lattimore. Neither was available for comment at The Herald's presstime.

After passing the final budget compromise Friday, lawmakers met Saturday morning to complete the remaining bills of the six-month session.

"Probably the rest of our delegation is like me, ready for a vacation," said Weatherly, who said they will probably return to Raleigh several times before the convening of the 1996 General Assembly in May.

"We were pleased that we had a good session and the GOP majority party proved that we could conduct the business of the state in a fair and orderly manner," said Weatherly.

Weatherly said government downsizing, eliminating a tax and spend philosophy dominant for a long time, and giving the people the right to veto power of the governor were important actions taken by the General Assembly.

"We repealed the intangibles tax and cut income taxes considerably but neglected to give community colleges a boost as the legislature had promised about five years ago," he said.

Weatherly said the House approved more money for community colleges but the Senate took a different direction.

"We did downsize government and cut back on some of the over zealous regulations," he said.

Weatherly said there was a large reduction of the federal government in block grants to the state and once the Supreme Court rules on the re-districting of Districts 1 and 12 the legislature may have to meet for a special session.

Weatherly's bills to enact automobile air bag disclosure and a video rental later return measure are pending in the Senate. Also pending

Herndon only candidate to file

The filing by incumbent Grover councilman Jack Herndon was the only area political activity of the week with filing deadline two days away.

Herndon seeks reelection on the board which will fill two commissioner seats and elect a mayor. Incumbent Mayor Ronald Queen has also filed for reelection.

The quietness of the current election season in Kings Mountain bothers elections chairman Becky Cook, who said that she can't recall a quieter political season in this area which usually finds many candidates seeking offices particularly in a year when the mayor's seat is up for grabs.

A contest has developed in the mayor's race between Mayor Scott Neisler and former commissioner Jim Childers and there is a three person race for the at-large seat now held by Norma Bridges. Challenging Bridges are Wendell Bunch, James Norris and Ronnie Grigg.

Bunch, a newcomer to politics and owner and operator of Town and Country BBQ, said in a filing statement this week that he has his own agenda for improvements in the city, including projects to keep from raising taxes.

He pledged to seek fair and equitable treatment for all city employees and said that department heads should answer to the city manager, rather than individual council members.

In Kings Mountain incumbent Phil Hager has filed in Ward 1 and incumbent Phil Guyton has filed in Ward 2.

The Board of Education race in Kings Mountain has also held little interest apparently for candidates other than incumbents. Shearra Miller and B. S. Peeler have both filed for reelection to the two inside city seats they hold.

The filing deadline is Friday at noon. Kings Mountain candidates must file with Becky Cook, 717 Meadowbrook Road, 739-3950.

Cleveland County candidates and those seeking the two inside seats on the Kings Mountain Board of Education seats must file with Debra Blanton, Cleveland County Board of Elections, 484-4858.



BUNCH

HERNDON

See Law, 10-A



City workers Willie Inman, left, Carroll Sanders and Steve Hamrick, forman of the Water/Wastewater Department, make repairs after a main water line burst on Crocker Road early Saturday morning and left a 30 feet hole in the road.

Water break leaves hospital, other areas dry Friday night

A main water line on Crocker Road burst shortly after midnight Friday and left most of Kings Mountain without water for a short period while city workers scurried to find valves in the dark.

Walt Ollis, Director of Water/Wastewater for the City of Kings Mountain, said that a motorist apparently did not see the 30x20 feet hole cut by the break and drove into it. When city police and the highway patrol arrived they found the driver sitting atop his vehicle and unhurt. Clifford Lovelace towed the vehicle, according to police.

Ollis said that almost all city residents lost water for at least two hours because of the high volume of water shooting from the hole.

Workers shut down valves leading to the break about 1:30 a.m. Saturday, according to Ollis.

The road was closed this week as city workers made the repairs to the line. State road crews will also be working to build up the road from the base and replace asphalt.

"Just before the line was repaired Kings Mountain Hospital was beginning to hurt for water

See Water, 2-A

Myers promoted to sergeant

Community service comes naturally to Sgt. Bob Myers, who volunteered as a city reserve officer for seven years before he became a full-time patrolman in June 1983 and a full-time officer in 1990.

This week Chief Bob Hayes promoted the Kings Mountain native to the rank of Sergeant.

"Bob does a good job and loves his work," said Hayes.

Myers grew up in the Kings Mountain Herald print shop, delivered newspapers at age nine and then went to work at The Herald on a full-time basis after graduation from Kings Mountain High School in 1957. At one period in the Herald's history, Bob, his brothers,

Bill, Allen and David all worked in the Herald composing room and in 1970 Bob and Allen opened Myers Printing in downtown Kings Mountain which Bob still operates on a part time basis.

"Paul Jackson, Red Walker and Gene Matthews taught me the ropes at The Herald and I worked at the Mount Holly News (the Herald's sister paper) for a while before I got into my own business," said Bob.

One summer during a slow season at his local print shop Bob extended his volunteer service to the local police department and he found that he liked being a cop better than he liked printing church

bulletins, club booklets and political cards.

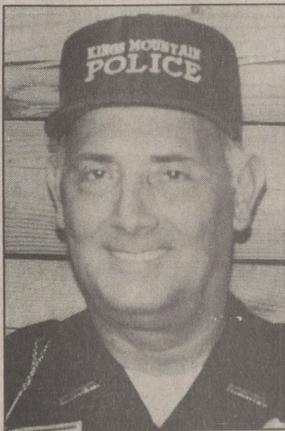
For Myers policing is a real challenge and his philosophy is to take one day at a time.

"I enjoy working with the public and each call that a policeman makes is different," he said.

Myers said he has the opportunity to work with dedicated professionals and he highly recommends law enforcement as a career for young people.

Myers completed rookie school at Shelby Police Department and most recently was a patrolman in Sgt. Derek Johnson's squad. When

See Myers, 2-A



SGT. BOB MYERS

State prepares King Street for next month's repaving

State highway crews will soon begin repaving of King Street in Kings Mountain from one end of the city to the other, according to Public Works Superintendent Karl Moss.

This week state highway crews starting raising manholes and valves and placed orange and white signs which mean that drivers should use caution in traveling busy King Street, said Moss.

Moss said that paving probably won't begin for about a month but highway department crews are making preparation.

Moss said he has been told that the State Highway Department's next project after the completion of Highway 18 is King Street or

Highway 74 which runs through Kings Mountain.

Moss said that King Street, from the West at Pizza Hut to the East at Canterbury Road, was last paved in 1988.

City crews have been working for several weeks on the realignment of Sims Street at First Baptist Church.

The State Department of Transportation approved funding for paving of 19 miles of secondary roads in Cleveland County during fiscal year 1994-95 at cost of \$1.4 million; in 1996-97 of 10.57 miles at estimated cost of \$1.4 million and in 1997-98 of 10.81 miles of \$1.5 million.

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE



SHERRY HAMRICK

Sherry Hamrick leaving Crisis Ministry

By ELIZABETH STEWART of The Herald Staff

Sherry Hamrick said she prayed that God would show her where to serve Him and she found that calling in the Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry.

Her personality fits her job as Director of the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association-sponsored program since July 1990.

Hamrick, 48, who is resigning on September 1 to be a full-time grandmother, not only distributes money to help the less fortunate but has been a willing listener and counselor to the hundreds who seek help in temporary crisis situations.

According to Hamrick there is no easy answer to the growing problems of hurting people and she says they are all around us. She said her faith has become even stronger during her service as director and before that as a volunteer at the Food Bank. She says that it will be hard "to walk away" but she will continue to pray

and encourage the unchurched to become active in a church.

During the first six months of this year 276 people came to Sherry at the Community Center for help. A total of 311 people were given food and \$1,666.38 was paid for rent for 11 families and \$1,049.50 was paid for medicine for 17 people. In addition, crisis money included \$8,799.98 to 87 people for help in utility payments.

The hardest part of her job was saying no to the 78 people turned down during the last six months who applied for funds. Applicants are screened and sometimes it takes 10 calls about a client before approval is given, says Hamrick.

"Money is donated by churches, individuals and the United Way for the truly needy people and frankly I used to get tied to alot from some individuals who came to me with sad stories that I believed," she said.

See Sherry, 2-A