Kings Mountain Herald

Vol. 111 No. 02 | Thursday, January 14, 1999 | Mountain, NC • Since 1889 • 50¢

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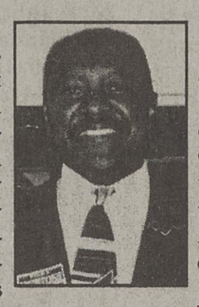
GOP sweeps County

Willie McIntosh leads the way with 5,994 votes

CABANISS HARRY CRAWLEY HENDRICK

Cleveland County voters elected the first Republican majority county commission in the history of the county Tuesday, ousting three incumbents as 10,405 people went to the polls.



McINTOSH

In Kings Mountain the off election produced a heavier turnout than expected and as expected the local candidates Charlie Harry, of Grover, who won election to a four year term, and incumbent Mary Accor, of Kings Mountain, was defeated, had strong support.

Tim Moore, Kings Mountain lawyer and acting chairman of the Cleveland County GOP, credited the GOP win to the quality of the candidates and the "five very solid candidates well known in the county."

"We conducted a strong get out the vote campaign and were realistically expecting to win three seats," said Moore, optimistic with voting trends in the county. "Of course, we are obviously pleased with the results."

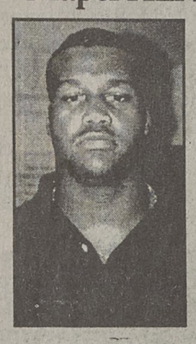
Although the top votegetter was a Democrat, the Republican sweep assures the continuation of a working Republican majority on the previously seven member board cut to five by a federal judge's order.

Shelby Police Lieutenant Willie McIntosh led the ticket with 58 percent of the vote, 5,994. He was the only black of

See Election, 5A

INSIDE

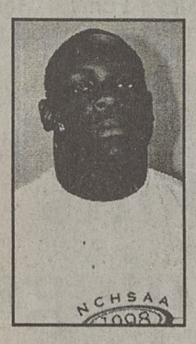
Chapel Hill bound



FEEMSTER

Kings Mountain High football star Mariko Feemster has committed to playing football and getting his higher education at the University of North Carolina. B1

Headed to East-West



CURRY

Kings Mountain High football star Julius Curry has been selected to play in the East-West All-Star Game, and teammate Frank Hopper has been chosen as an alternate. B1

Starring for Deacons

Kings Mountain sophomore Jackie Houston expects to play the #1 or #2 singles position for the Wake Forest women's tennis team this spring. B3

Building for seniors?

Kings Mountain Senior Center Advisory Board plans to ask City Council for study for a proposed new building. A3

Countdown to 2000

There will be plenty of celebrations around the nation as the new millennium approaches. A6

Ice storm was costly

The recent ice storm was costly, not only to government agencies that had to work overtime to restore power, but to citizens who had to deal with lack of heat and broken water pipes. A6

Looking to year 2000

Kings Mountain District Schools is asking for public input as it prepares its calendar for the 2000-2001 school year. A7

Taking course on road

Cleveland Community College takes its computer courses on the road as a public service to area businesses. A8

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY

12 noon - Kings Mountain Rotary Club, Ramada Ltd.

6:30 p.m. - Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club, Central United Methodist Church.

7 p.m. - John H. Moss Reservoir Commission, Kings Mountain City Hall

7 p.m. - Kings Mountain American Legion Post 155 meets t Legion building.

7 p.m. - White Plains Shrine Club meets at Masonic Lodge.

MONDAY

Martin Luther King holiday. All schools, government agencies, and post office will be closed.

9-11 a.m. - Free health fair, Bethlehem Baptist Church fellowship building.

TUESDAY

7 p.m. - Planning and Zoning Board meets at City Hall.

BLACKHAWK ON THE BALLFIELD- An Army "Blackhawk" helicopter landed at East School Tuesday as part of the school's "Starbase" program. Here, teachers and students check out the big bird.

RIDIN' HIGH

Starbase program helps East students improve math and science skills

By Alan Hodge

East School in Kings Mountain was all excitement Tuesday morning when an Army helicopter touched down on the ball field. No, it wasn't an invasion or crash, but all part of the "Starbase" of North Carolina program.

Started in Michigan in 1989, "Starbase" is an educational enrichment program for students in grades 4-6. The goal of the program is to give "Cadets" hands on opportunities to improve their skills in math and/or science in a drug free environment. Another important aspect of the program is to build self esteem and confidence.

To teach and inspire the students,"Starbase" brings together educators and military personnel in a unique way. This team effort provides a support system for students as well as creating an excellent educational environment. Just a few of the many courses that "Starbase" students may participate in are model rocketry, geography, shuttle science, aerodynamics, and goal setting.

When the Army UH-60 "Blackhawk" helicopter first came into view Tuesday morning, the kids at East School knew they were going to be in for an unforgettable day. As pilot CW2 Greg Calvert from Salisbury eased the big green bird down onto the school grounds, all eyes were on his smooth performance.

After the ship was secured, "Starbase" volunteers, including Major General James Emerson, headed to the school auditorium for a special program explaining what "Starbase" can mean to students and teachers alike.

"We visit at least 20 school per year in North Carolina," General Emerson said. "We want to stimulate the student's interest in science and math as well as deliver an anti-drug message."

As part of the program, General Emerson and his volunteers handed out dog-tags made especially for East School's 4th and 5th graders who would be taking part in "Starbase." As each child received his tags, and assignment within the program, the excitement was electric.

See Starbase, 5A

Anthony Guy loses courageous bout with cancer

God had other plans for Anthony Edgar Guy, 24, and the young Kings Mountain artist lost his courageous fight with brain cancer and died January 9, 1999 in Carolinas Medical Center after being airlifted January 5 from Mexico where he was undergoing treatments.

ANTHONY GUY

"We are grieving for ourselves because we didn't have more time with him," said his father, Ed Guy.

"He was the light of our lives," said his mother, Judy Beard Guy.

Anthony's beautiful paintings and his sketches of his family and his home in Walnut Acres stood out in the abundance of floral tributes at Harris Funeral Home Tuesday. Memorial services were conducted by his pastor, Rev. Dick Newsome, at 4 p.m. Tuesday at First Presbyterian Church. Burial was in Patterson Grove Baptist Church cemetery.

Anthony's family and a host of Kings Mountain friends rallied around him in recent months as his parents and brother, Jeff, prayed for a miracle and took Anthony to Mexico for treatments.

"You don't give up, you just try to do all you can," said the father, a teacher at Davidson School. Guy said he will never be able to thank Kings Mountain people for their love and friendship.

The family planned to come home to a New Year's celebration with Anthony but his condition worsened and they brought him by air ambulance, not to the home he loved filled with his pen and ink sketches and flowers he grew, but to Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

Fate could have had a hand, said Guy, in the friendship that developed at the 24-bed Mexican clinic between Anthony's older brother, Jeff, and Ialaba Aquilaur, a lab technician who also helped nurse Anthony. The young woman returned with the Guys to Kings Mountain and she and Jeff Guy plan a spring wedding.

See Guy, 5A

Each day business as usual for Zeb Plonk, 91

By Alan Hodge

When you step into Zeb Plonk's room at EdenGardens of Kings Mountain, the first thing you notice is how much it looks like a businessman's office.

First, there's the tall file cabinet in one corner. A desk with papers and letters neatly arranged takes another space. A concise list of phone numbers hangs on the wall. There's a good reason for all this order.

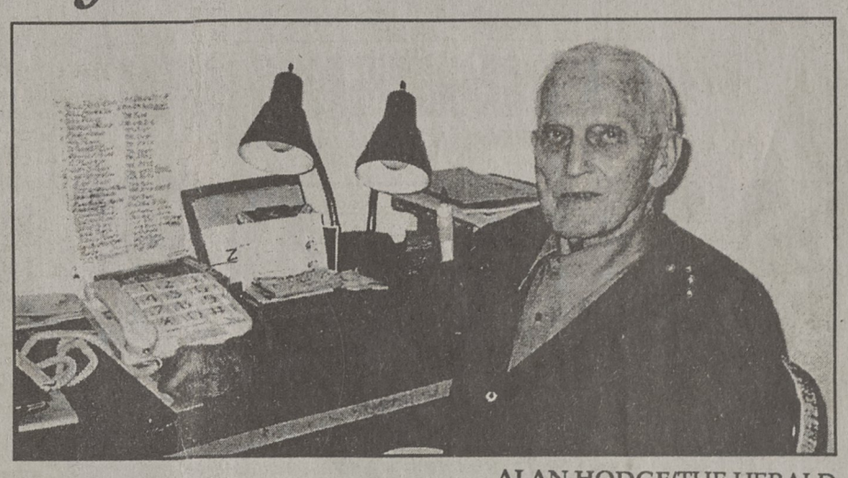
Plonk, who celebrates his 91st birthday this Friday, spent 42 years as an executive with Liberty Mutual Insurance of Boston before retiring as vice president of the company. During his years as an insurance industry leader, Plonk rose from claims adjuster to a position where he oversaw Liberty Mutual's entrance into the computer age.

Not just a businessman's businessman, Plonk can also claim to be a fellow whose athletic accomplishments equal his professional achievements. A star baseball, basketball, and football player during his school years, Plonk was elected to the Kings Mountain Hall of Fame in 1994.

Despite his impressive deeds behind a desk and on the field, Plonk hasn't forgotten his roots in Kings Mountain.

"I grew up on my parent's 200 acre farm," Plonk said. "There were ten of us children who helped our parents Clarence and Ellen Plonk do the farm work."

See Plonk, 5A



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD

Zeb Plonk to celebrate his 91st birthday Friday

First Carolina Federal

Kings Mountain
300 W. Mountain St.
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Gastonia
529 S. New Hope Rd.
865-1111

Shelby
1238 E. Dixon Blvd.
484-0222

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