

► KM man faces sex charges 9A

Kings Mountain Herald

Vol. 111 No. 03

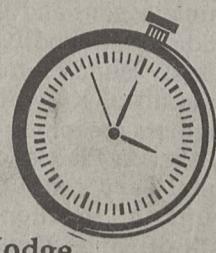
Thursday, January 21, 1999

KM football s
play



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Count
down
to 2000



By Alan Hodge

(Editor's Note: Today we begin a series of articles that look at concerns for the Year 2000. Anyone with suggestions for future articles may call the Herald at 739-7496.)

While banking institutions are working hard to minimize any problems from the Year 2000, there are many things that customers can do to protect their funds. First Carolina Federal Savings Bank manager Kathy Butler in Kings Mountain passed on the following tips.

Keep good records of all your banking transactions, especially for the last six months of 1999 and until you get several bank statements in 2000. Records should include documentation of deposits, investments, ATM withdrawals and loan payments. Bank statements and transaction receipts also are among the documents you should be saving.

Another good idea is to check your transaction receipts against your periodic statements. In there's a discrepancy, contact your bank immediately.

Make sure that your deposit accounts are within the federal insurance limits. If you want more information about FDIC deposit insurance coverage, talk to an FDIC specialist at your bank.

Read and learn all you can about the Year 2000 situation and what banking institutions are doing to protect customers. Pay special attention to mailings from your bank. These often have useful tips. If you have questions or concerns, speak with an employee of your bank who is knowledgeable about the institution's Y2K program.

Consider asking your lender for a printed history of your mortgage, car loan or other debts, including how much of each payment has gone for interest and principal.

Check your credit report periodically. An error in your credit report could result in a higher interest rate for a loan, or a rejection for a loan or job. Get a copy of your report early in 1999 and if you spot a problem, get it corrected promptly. Then, in 2000, get another copy and check it again. To request a copy of your credit report, call any of the nation's three major credit bureaus: Equifax at 800-685-1111, Experian at 800-682-7654, and Trans Union at 800-888-4213. Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, there are limits as to how much you can be charged for a report-\$8 as of late 1998.

If you do banking by home computer, contact the computer manufacturer or software vendor to find out if your systems are Y2K ready. Some companies have Web sites with this information. Also, keep a back-up of your account records and transactions.

Beware of scams that try to cash in on Year 2000 fears. If someone tries to sell you something that's "guaranteed" to fix or prevent Y2K "bugs" be careful. If you have questions or concerns, check with a reputable source such as the manufacturer of a product in question to see if any problem exists at all. Do this research before you pay anyone anything connected with Y2K situations.

Following these guidelines and combining them with a good dose of common sense will go a long way to ensure that your New Year 2000 will be a happy one.

Health Director to propose rec complex

Racquetball,
tennis courts,
seating section
all in plans

Is a new recreational complex at the high school in Kings Mountain's future?

Cleveland County Health Director Denese Stallings, a Kings Mountain resident, hopes

so and she will present a proposal to Kings Mountain City Council Tuesday night that will look at how such a facility can be funded.

Stallings will present a proposed drawing and plans for filing for a grant application with the state to help fund the project.

Stallings is asking the city and Kings Mountain District Schools to back the project and collaborate on its completion.

City Council meets at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. The

public is invited.

Kings Mountain City Manager Jimmy Maney said the plan envisions a multi-level, multi-purpose racquet ball center which would serve as a facility for tennis, racquet ball and shuffleboard with seating around the six tennis courts and lights. Maney said the public would be able to use one of the sets of courts and all the others when they were not in use by students for practice and games. Walkways would surround the facilities and a multi-

purpose recreation room would also include kitchen facilities.

Maney said the new facility would replace the old tennis courts at the high school.

Maney said that some private funds may have to be raised to pay for the facility and depending on whether the grant is approved.

"This can be a very exciting project for the whole community," said Mrs. Stallings.

Also on the agenda is a presentation by Aging Director Monty Thornburg. Recently the advisory board of the Kings

Mountain Senior Center passed a resolution asking the city to back its efforts to build a new senior citizen complex to serve a growing number of senior residents. Senior Advisory Board Chairman Jim Belt said the funds could be raised with public support. Thornburg estimated that the facility could cost between \$800,000 and \$1 million depending if the land is donated.

Thornburg will ask City Council to proceed with plans to build a new senior center.

City manager, police officers win awards

Three City of Kings Mountain employees were honored by Region C Law Enforcement at a recent banquet.

City Manager Jimmy Maney was honored as City Manager of the Year; Kings Mountain Police Department administrative secretary was honored as Secretary of the Year; and Sgt. Lisa Capps Proctor was honored as Drug Agent of the Year.

The three honorees were presented engraved plaques.

"We are very proud that Kings Mountain Police Department brought home three top awards in the Region," said Chief of Police Richard Reynolds.

Reynolds said that Maney, a veteran employee and department head who became city manager in 1996, had been very supportive of the Police Department and under his direction a long-time goal was realized with the current building of the \$1 million law enforcement center. "Due to Mr. Maney's determination this project did not fall by the wayside," said the Chief. New computer systems have already been placed in some of the departments in the city and other departments will be getting the new updated system in 1999. This system will enable each department to enter information throughout the different departments into one system for all personnel and payroll information, vehicle maintenance, purchasing information enabling a better record keeping system and thus cutting down on unnecessary paperwork, increasing job performance, said Reynolds. The police department will also update its software program for the records information.

See Awards, 3A



MANEY



TWIST AND SHOUT- Oree Beatty gets ready to dance at the Kings Mountain Senior Center's 1950s party Friday night. The "twist" is her favorite dance.



CUTTING THE RUG- Everyone was up and dancing at the Kings Mountain Senior Center Friday night. The occasion was a 1950s party that saw nearly 100 folks in attendance.



BLANTON



PROCTOR

KM teen dies of complications from wreck

A Kings Mountain teenager's clothes were packed this week for an anticipated trip to her aunt's home in Philadelphia, Pa. But a call to loved ones at 3 a.m. Saturday canceled those Tuesday plans. Sharon Ann Lewis, 17, died in Carolinas Medical Center.

"We didn't get to say goodbye," said her mother, Christine Sanders.

Sharon was hospitalized November 6, 1998 after a grinding automobile crash left her critically injured with head trauma. Although she could not speak or walk, she had shown

some improvement in recent weeks and was to be discharged Tuesday morning from the Rehabilitation Unit at Carolinas Medical Center.

An ambulance was to take her to the home of Frances Lewis in Philadelphia, Pa. where she was to recuperate in the care of her doting aunt and her relatives.

"That just wasn't to be," said her mother.

"My husband Billy and our younger daughter, Danielle Nicole, had packed all Sharon's favorite things. We just could not give her the kind of care she

needed here," she said. The Sanders live in a mobile home on Bethlehem Road which is not wheelchair accessible.

Nurses told Mrs. Sanders that Sharon was sitting in her wheelchair watching television when she died apparently of a seizure.

"We rushed to the hospital and Sharon had the most peaceful expression on her face as if she was smiling," said Mrs. Sanders.

Doctors gave the family hope in recent weeks that Sharon could improve but that rehabilitation could take years.

Sharon liked to run with her friends and had left that evening to go out to eat with a friend. The friend was driving a small car and he lost control of the vehicle in a curve in Shelby, the car flipped over twice and Sharon was thrown from the vehicle with the car resting on top of her neck and head. The driver was treated at the hospital and released the same day.

Sharon dropped out of school in the 10th grade but prior to the accident had talked about returning to Kings Mountain

See Sharon, 3A



SHARON ANN LEWIS

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