

The Herald

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MEMORIAL DAY
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Grace Page, 89, dies Wednesday, funeral Friday

Kings Mountain lost a legend Wednesday morning when Grace Neisler Page died.

The 89-year-old resident of Eden Gardens was a member of a pioneer Kings Mountain textile family, a two-time state skeet shooting champion, a member of the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame, and a champion of youth sports and young people.

Mrs. Page was the seventh child of the late Charles Eugene and Ida Pauline Mauney Neisler. She was educated in the Kings Mountain Public Schools, graduating from Kings Mountain in 1927. She attended Ward Belmont Junior College in Nashville, TN from 1927 to 1929 before entering George Peabody Teacher's College, now a part of Vanderbilt University.

She earned a degree in physical education from Peabody in 1931. In 1937 she married Harry Ephraim Page of Lincoln, and they made their home in Kings Mountain. Mr. Page died in 1985.

Mrs. Page was an avid sportswoman from early childhood. She played varsity basketball for Kings Mountain High School for five years. At Ward Belmont she was a member of the archery team, the bowling team, played catcher for the softball team, and was a member of the basketball team.

As a senior at Peabody, she coached at Ward Belmont.

After returning to Kings Mountain she served as counselor at Camp Greystone near Tuxedo, NC for a number of years.

During her college years she was introduced to skeet shooting and began competing in regional, state and national competition. She was NC Women's State Skeet Champion in 1935 and 1936. When members of her family purchased Oakland Plantation in Columbus and Bladen Counties, she became an ardent deer hunter. In 1994 she was elected to the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame.

Mrs. Page was active in church and civic affairs. A member of First Presbyterian Church from childhood, she taught young people there for over 20 years. For 17 years she led the Brownie Scouts, and served on the Piedmont Girl Scout Council. She was a long-time member of the Kings Mountain Woman's Club.

She is survived by her daughters, Pauline Page Moreau and son-in-law, Dr. David H. Moreau, of Chapel Hill, and Laura Jean Page of Atlanta, GA; sister, Pauline Neisler Brewer of Cary; granddaughter, Dr. Catherine Page Moreau Mathis and her husband, John Paul Mathis of Dallas, TX; and grandson, David Stewart Moreau and wife, Amy Allison Moreau, of Raleigh.

The funeral will be conducted by Dr. Richard Newsome at 11 a.m. Friday at First Presbyterian Church. Interment will be in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

The family will receive friends Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at the Patrick House of First Presbyterian Church.

Memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 1133, Kings Mountain, NC 28086; Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights, Shelby, NC 28150; and Ronald McDonald House, 101 Mason Farm Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Harris Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Alcohol petition drive fails

Both proposed votes concerning Kings Mountain alcohol issues probably will not become reality this year.

City Councilman Gene White, one of the leaders of the forces trying to rid Kings Mountain of its ABC Store and beer and wine sales in other establishments, reported at Tuesday night's City Council meeting that the group has only 1,400 of the needed 2,150 signatures, with only five days remaining until the June 1 deadline.

"I do not foresee a miracle within the next five days," he said.

"I want to thank all of those persons who signed the petition in good faith," he added. "I want to remind the approximately 1,400 voters who signed the petition to express their opinion at the upcoming regular election in which no one will be able to reverse your vote."

Council originally voted unanimously last fall to call for an election on whether or

not to continue ABC operations in Kings Mountain, and also to impose term limits on members of the ABC Board. Ten days later Council rescinded the action with Rick Murphrey, Norma Bridges, Bob Hayes and Jerry Mullinax voting in favor, and White, Phil Hager and Clayvon Kelly voting against. Council also later reversed its decision on term limits.

"It was never my intention to be the chairman of this petition effort," White said. "I con-

sidered my role to be that of a technical advisor and to provide technical tools necessary to get the job done. As it turned out no one individual came forward to assume the leadership role."

White said he and others continued to work hard to secure the needed signatures.

Meanwhile, leaders of the petition drive to seek a mixed drink referendum in the city also report that they probably won't secure the required

number of signatures either. They have done slightly better than the dry forces (with approximately 1700 signatures).

White said he, for one, hopes the wet forces get the required number of signatures.

"I know the 1,400 people who signed our petition are ready to vote," he said. "There will be a lot of missing faces at the next city election."

Despite the failure to receive the necessary signatures to call for a referendum, White said

See ABC, 3A

O Happy Day!

Graduation from high school is a tremendous accomplishment at a time for celebration. Kings Mountain High graduates Constance Simmons (left) and Linda Phannareth (top photo) have been friends for a long time and wanted to share a smile and a big hug prior to walking across the stage of John Gamble Stadium to receive their degrees. In bottom photo, members of the senior class leave the KMHS gym for the long-awaited walk into John Gamble Stadium.

Photos by Alan Hodge



City approves rec arrangement with YMCA

Final action contingent on June lease agreement

On a 5-2 vote, City Council Tuesday night authorized Mayor Scott Neisler to enter into an agreement with the Cleveland County YMCA to manage Kings Mountain recreation programs.

The action is contingent upon approval of a June agreement for the YMCA to lease the Kings Mountain Community Center and all of its Davidson and Deal Street Park athletic facilities, excluding the Walking Track. Council approved a resolution of intent to enter into a lease agreement, but according to North Carolina law the notice of intent must be advertised 10 days prior to the next Council meeting.

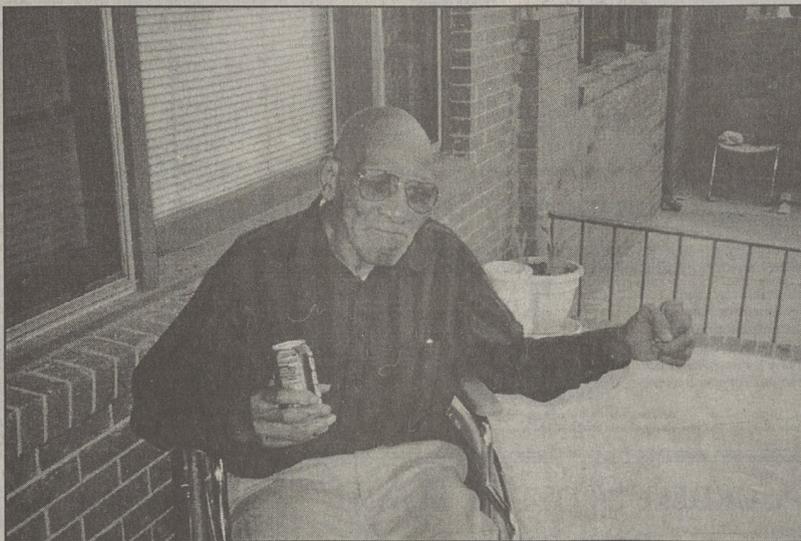
Commissioners Bob Hayes and Jerry Mullinax voted against both proposals. Several members of the community appeared before the board to speak for and against the issue.

Assuming the lease agreement is approved next month, the YMCA would probably take over Kings Mountain recreation programs on July 1, the beginning of the city's 1999-2000 fiscal year. The lease calls for an original three-year term with the option of either party to renew for seven additional one-year terms. There are stipulations for either party to end the lease with proper notice.

The city will pay the Y \$300,000 a year (\$25,000 per month) to run its recreation program. The city currently pumps over \$400,000 a year into recreation, including maintenance and repairs, and would reserve over \$100,000 in a contingency fund for repairs and renovations and special community activities such as Fourth of July and Christmas celebrations, spring and fall festivals, which will continue to be promoted by the city.

See YMCA, 3A

Memorial Day Memories of WWII



A decorated veteran of World War II, Borgan Wilson of Kings Mountain saw plenty of action in the Pacific. Still full of energy at age eighty, Wilson shows how he once used a roundhouse punch to knock out a guy.

Kings Mountain's Borgan Wilson proud of his service in U.S. Army

BY ALAN HODGE
 Staff Writer

Eighty year-old Borgan Wilson is a big man with a big laugh who had plenty of big adventures in World War II. A native of Flat Rock, Wilson lives in the Ebenezer community near Kings Mountain where he often recalls his days in the U.S. Army.

"I was born in 1919 and enlisted in the army in 1941 at the age of twenty two," Wilson recalled. "First I went to Fort Bragg, then to California. The next thing I know, I was heading for New Caledonia in the Pacific to fight the Japanese."

After a spell in New Caledonia, Wilson's outfit, the 351st Field Artillery/Tank Destroyers, was sent to Guadalcanal where he spent

over one year. Some of the worst fighting in World War II took place on that jungle island.

"There was nothing but snakes, mosquitoes, jungles and monkeys on Guadalcanal," Wilson remembered. "There was every kind of monkey you could think of. It was rough because all we had to sleep in was pup tents and all we had to eat was hardtack."

During the Guadalcanal campaign, Wilson lost several friends. Even today when he recalls their names he also remembers the pain of their loss. Wilson also remembers the enemy. On many occasions he saw Japanese soldiers in combat.

"Those Japanese were something else," Wilson said. "They would hide in the hills, swamps, and trees. Sometimes

See Wilson, 3A



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