KINGS MOUNTAIN

The Herald

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Lib Stewart *honored for 47 years at The Kings Mountain Herald* **4A**

SPORTS

Kings Mountain High's Anthony Hillman picks up a big chunk of yardage in last week's scrimmage with Mooresville at Gamble Stadium.

Strike up the band! Football begins Friday

There's nothing like the atmosphere and excitement of high school football, and for Kings Mountain High fans it begins Friday night at John Gamble Stadium. Kings Mountain's football team, band and cheerleaders have been practicing hard for this week's opener against East Gaston. **1B**

Mountaineer football tab inside today's paper

And, speaking of football, don't miss the special insert Mountaineer Football '99 inside today's Herald. The tab features a preview on the Mountaineers' season and information about all of their players and opponents.

Seminoles (who else?) class of Atlantic Coast

Florida State's Seminoles, naturally, are favored to win the ACC this year, but Georgia Tech could also have one of the nation's best teams. 7B

PEOPLE

Lib Stewart honored at retirement party

Longtime Kings Mountain Herald employee Lib Stewart was honored for her 47 years of service Thursday at The Red Lobster in Gastonia. Lib's getting ready to become the President of the National American Legion Auxiliary. **4A**

Gospel/patriotic sing Saturday at KM High

A gigantic gospel/patriotic concert is scheduled for Saturday night at B.N. Barnes Auditorium. Proceeds will go to the American Legion Auxiliary which is sponsoring National President Lib Stewart. **3A**

Fund raisers set for area citizens

When someone's down on their luck or facing a major health crisis, Kings Mountain churches and people are the first to come to their aid. Inside today's Herald you'll read about Delores Suttles, a recent stroke victim, on page 2A, and one-year-old Shana Locklair, who is facing heart surgery, on page 4A. Fund raisers this weekend will help both of them with their medical expenses.

Annexation vote is Tuesday

If City Council members vote "yes" Tuesday night on annexation, the city will have 10 months to prepare for the largest annexation in its history, 2,300 plus acres south and east of the city that would increase the city's area by half.

Proponents of the issue say the move would buffer against Gastonia's encroachment from the east, a protective move that would assure Kings Mountain a new market for expansion of the city's utility sales.

After last week's work session, the vote on the annexation could be a certainty although before last week the subject was getting mixed reaction from several council members and objection from some Canterbury Road residents.

"I've heard a lot from the public this week and I hope that everyone on Council will be as solid for as I am," said Norma Bridges, mayor pro tem. Bridges said those residents in the Canterbury area, particularly, would find they would be paying more for services and in taxes by being annexed by Gastonia.

"And that is coming if Kings Mountain doesn't move ahead now," she said.

After last week's work session Council may not be as far apart as it has been on the annexation issue.

It is the largest proposed annexation in the city's history, and according to Benchmark annexation consultant Richard Flowe it's an opportunity for growth if not grasped by Kings Mountain will go to neighboring Gastonia.

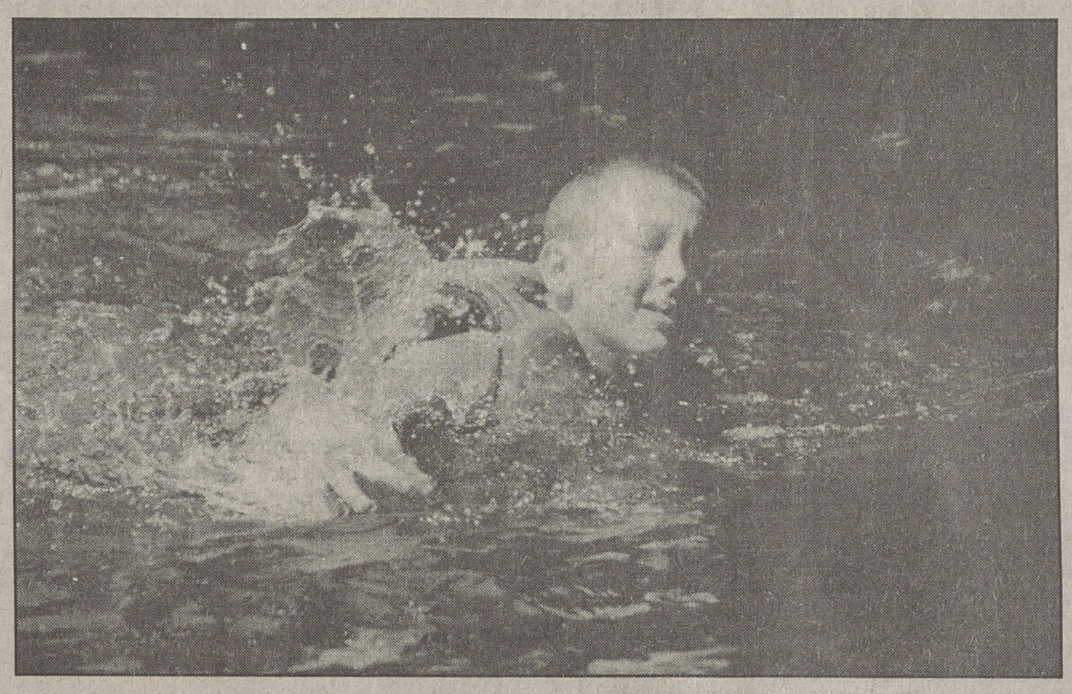
"If you vote this down on August 31 the City of Gastonia can move on it September 1 and now it's only a half mile from Gastonia to Kings Mountain's existing city limits," he said

Bridges, Gene White, Rick Murphrey and Phil Hager have publicly stated they favor the annexation. Councilman Clavon Kelly, "between a rock and a hard place" last week, now says he will vote for the annexation.

Councilman Bob Hayes and Jerry Mullinax say they learned some new things during the discussion, including the fact that there is no current non-annexation agreement between Kings Mountain and Gastonia.

In a meeting with Gastonia officials, City Manager Jimmy Maney said he learned that

See City, 3A



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD
It won't be long until cooler weather comes and all area swimming pools and lakes will shut down until next year. Alan Breakfield, son of Tab and Molly Breakfield, takes every opportunity he can to get in the water.

KM, Grover residents charged in drug cases

The Cleveland County Sheriff's Office's Narcotics/Vice and Cop Division made several arrests last week involving trafficking in cocaine, marijuana and other drug related charges.

A search warrant was executed August 18 at the residence of Scott and Tamela Gantt, 2414 Pleasant Hill Church Road, Grover. Lt. Billy Benton said the search was the result of a two-week investigation conducted by narcotics investigators.

Benton said the department seized 3782 grams of marijuana, $9,453, five long rifles, five handguns including a Tech 9 semi-automatic assault pistol with a 30 round clip, and a 9 mm Taurus semi-automatic pistol.

Arrested were William Scott Gantt, 37, and Tamela Goins Gantt, 36. They were charged with felonious possession of marijuana with intent to sell and deliver marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia for the purpose of storage; sale and/or delivery of a controlled substance.

In a separate incident, the Sheriff's Office arrested a Kings Mountain resident on Thursday. Jack Eugene Goins, 47, 934 Grace Street, was charged with conspiracy to traffic in marijuana, two counts each of possession with intent to sell and delivery of marijuana, and the sale and delivery of marijuana.

Benton said Goins was currently out on bond for charges in March, 1998 when he was charged with trafficking in 130 grams of cocaine and the sale and delivery of marijuana. He said Goins was charged again in October, 1998 with six counts of sale and delivery of cocaine and marijuana and maintaining a dwelling for the purpose of sale and delivery of controlled substances.

Benton said Goins has served time in prison for trafficking in cocaine.

KM youngster struck by car

A seven-year-old boy was treated for injuries Saturday at Kings Mountain Hospital after he was struck by a car at 7:40 p.m.

The driver of the vehicle, Robert Thomas Strickland, 42, of 175 Mulberry Rd., Grover, was transported by Cleveland County EMS to Cleveland Regional Medical Center in Shelby for treatment.

Ptl. Tony Reavis said a birthday party was in progress at 305 Juniper Street and a group of children were playing ball outside and stepped out of the roadway into the driveway waiting for a car to pass.

Reavis said witnesses said the Strickland car swerved and struck the pedestrian knocking the boy to the ground. Reavis said the driver left the scene and was followed by a witness at the scene who said the driver lost control of his car, hit a city utility pole and wires and sank into a culvert causing the vehicle to lift on two wheels and then hit an embankment causing it to begin tumbling end over end. The car then struck a large tree and another utility pole sending it spinning and finally came to rest facing east and rightside up about 361 feet from the intersection of McGinnis Street to the north. Damages were estimated at $7000.

Police charged Strickland with felony hit and run and careless and reckless driving, DWI, driving while license revoked, speeding, failure to reduce speed, no seat belt, and fictitious plate.

Arresting officer was Ptl. B. Biletnikoff.

Senior Center inching closer to goal

Naming rooms for donors is one approach that fund-raisers are taking in the next six weeks to complete a $1.2 million dollar campaign to build a new senior center.

Norma Bridges, a member of the senior advisory board for the past six years, said each of the 24 members of the steering committee has been challenged to give $500 with up to $1,000 in contributions to come from each of the members of the steering committee so that one room in the new facility can be purchased by this working group.

To date, more than $850,000 has been pledged to build a 15,000 square feet Senior Life and Conference Center with construction hopefully to start this year.

"Fourteen rooms will be named for donations of $10,000 to $100,000," said Bridges, who has one $100,000 pledge from a local citizen for whom the center will be named.

Soil testing has been completed at the seven acre site across from The Herald on East King Street and the city has applied for a state permit for clearing and grading the land.

City Manager Jimmy Maney and Advisory Board President Jim Belt and Senior Director Monty Thornburg were meeting with prospective architects this week. Maney said the color scheme and design may be similar to the new police department so that the building can be easily identified as a city building.

"We want to break ground in this calendar year," said Bridges, who said the facility " will show our senior residents that we care and that we are taking care of them for the future."

A visit on any given day to the Depot Center finds senior residents excited about the planning underway for the new facility.

"We had strong leadership from the city, a $500,000 commitment and a state grant of $100,000," said Bridges.

"We are getting there," she said.

Belt gave an update on facility construction plans at the August 18 meeting of the steering committee .

Campaign updates were presented by Carl Elliott, campaign project director and updates on goal were given by campaign co-chair Charles Mauney and Larry Hamrick.

Elliott explained that an Architect for Life plaque will be placed in the lobby of the facility honoring the Architects, representing the top of the pyramid with gifts of $25,000 to $100,000; Benefactors, the second tier, with gifts of $10,000 to $24,999; patrons, the third tier, with gifts of

See Center, 3A

Highway to heaven? 85 more like Hades

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

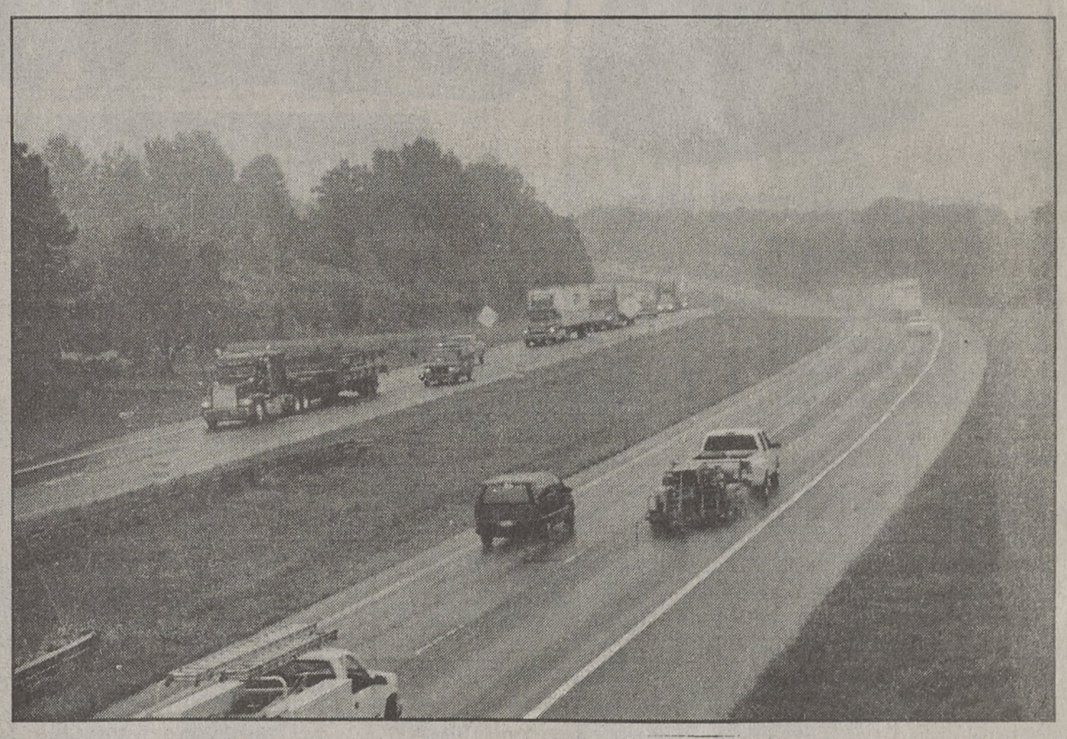
Highway Hades is being caught on I-85 in Gaston or Cleveland counties when road crews reduce traffic to one lane and the temperature is hitting 100 degrees. With an estimated 56,800 vehicles plying that stretch of interstate daily, closing a lane for even a short period of time can create a traffic jam that stretches for miles. Adding salt to the roadwork wound is the fact that work along that sector of highway will not be completely wrapped up until December, 2000.

First, the good news. The stretch of I-85 between Kings Mountain and Grover that occasionally sees traffic backups is getting a sod job that's just 60 days from completion. In addition to the centipede grass sod, the median is being equipped with cable catch barriers.

"The Kings Mountain area of I-85 is experiencing traffic slowdowns due to water trucks trying to keep the new sod from burning up in the heat," said Dan Grissom of the N.C. Highways Department. "The contractor for the cable barrier, Bagwell Fence of Spartanburg, has put down 22,000 square feet of new sod at a cost of $118,957. Water trucks are trying to keep the grass alive until it rains. They can slow but not stop traffic along that stretch of road."

The guardrail and sod job

See Traffic, 3A



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD
Traffic travels at just slightly more than a snail's pace on I-85 south where the Highway Department is shifting traffic to one lane while it resews grass in the median.

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