

# KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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## SPORTS



Csharian Coleman helps keep KMHS volleyball team on top of Southwestern Conference. 1B

### Mountaineer spikers still leading conference

Kings Mountain High's girls volleyball team ran into a couple roadblocks against a pair of nonconference powers over the weekend, but they're still undefeated in the Southwestern Conference. 1B

### Mounties tie Shelby, host unbeaten Chargers

Kings Mountain High's football team tied Shelby 21-21 in a nonconference thriller last Friday in Shelby, and will host one of the top 4A teams in North Carolina Friday at 7:30 when the Crest Chargers come to John Gamble Stadium. 1B

## CHURCH

### Arlene Barrett ends 40 years with First PC

Arlene Barrett, who is retiring after 40 years as secretary at First Presbyterian Church, will be honored at a reception Sunday at the church. 6A

## COMMUNITY

### Your blood is needed Thursday at Central UMC

The Kings Mountain Lions Club will sponsor a visit of the Cleveland County blood-mobile Thursday from 1:30-6 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church. With the recent hurricane in North Carolina, blood needs are more critical than ever. 3A

### Mayor Neisler four-peats as county livermush king

When it comes to cooking creative livermush recipes, Kings Mountain Mayor Scott Neisler is the king. He won the livermush recipe contest at Saturday's Cleveland Mall Livermush Festival for the fourth time. 3A

### Kings Mountain Police make two drug arrests

Kings Mountain Police executed search warrants at two local residences, resulting in charges against two local residents. Police say they will be targeting street dealers between now and December. 5B

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HEATHER BARR/THE HERALD

Johnny Applesseed of Windy Hill Orchard and Cider Mill, Inc. shows children how he can peel an apple into a circular strip and take out the core with one tool at last weekend's Pioneer Days at Kings Mountain State Park.

## KM comes to aid of flood victims

BY ALAN HODGE  
Staff Writer

Floyd, the monster hurricane who stomped his way across the eastern Carolinas last week, stubbed his toe when he got to Kings Mountain. Predictions by weather boffins who said Floyd would bring 80 mph winds and torrents of rain to the western Piedmont, including Cleveland County, proved to be greatly overblown. The simple fact was, Floyd had a mind of his own about where he wanted to go.

Amateur meteorologist Ken Kitzmiller of Kings Mountain checked his rain gauge Thursday morning but was disappointed.

"If any rain accumulated in the gauge from sprinkles during the night, it had all evaporated by morning," Kitzmiller said. "All we got were some winds that hit 30 or 35 miles per hour."

Cleveland County EMS crews had a relatively quiet time during what little bit of storm came our way.

"To my knowledge we didn't receive any storm-related calls," said EMS training officer Lewis Jenkins. "We had a few calls but they weren't storm related."

The Kings Mountain fire and police departments also passed an uneventful night.

"Everything was peaceful Wednesday night," Fire Chief Frank Burns said. "We had no problems related to the winds."

Thanks to a program of aggressive tree trimming initiated after Hurricane Hugo, the City of Kings Mountain fared well in Wednesday's winds.

"We were in good shape," said city Manager Jimmy Maney. "There was on-

### How you can help

4A

ly one outage due to wind and that was a phone line downed by a limb."

Cleveland County Emergency management crews were glad the weather wasn't as severe as first predicted, but said a little bit of rain would have been nice.

"We lucked out with the storm," said Dewey Cook. "There was no debris to clean up and we only heard of one power line being down."

Even though Cleveland County got off easy, the eastern part of our state took a terrible beating from Floyd's torrential rains and surf surge.

Fresh from a trip to the Outer Banks to help with Hurricane Dennis, troops from Co. B 505th Engineering Battalion at the Kings Mountain Army National Guard Armory saddled up and headed Down East again to help victims of Floyd where over 150,000 people were without power.

"We've sent over 70 men down to the Wilmington area," said Sergeant Paul Terry of the 505th. "From there they are fanning out to help in whatever capacity they are needed."

Also on their way to the coast was a team of technicians from area BellSouth offices. Driving a caravan of 21 trucks and vans, the 30 BellSouth workers were from Cleveland County, Rutherford County, Asheville, and Charlotte.

See Floyd, 3A

## City to consider natural gas expansion

By GARY STEWART  
Editor of The Herald

The City Utilities Committee will recommend to City Council Tuesday night that it accept a five-year capital expansion study for the city's natural gas system as prepared by its consulting engineer, Heath and Associates.

If approved, the expansion could result in extending services to a vast majority of residences and businesses in and around Kings Mountain, and would be financed over a five-year period through the capital raised by the services and not through bonds or loans.

Heath outlined the program to the Utilities Committee dur-

ing a lengthy meeting Monday afternoon at City Hall.

Heath studied several areas in and around the city, and will recommend that many of them be approved for services during the next five years. Some of those territories include Ebenezer Road, Bethlehem Church Road, Phifer Circle, Galilee Church Road, and Williams Road. He said those areas would have an economic payout "of between six to ten years, which is good." He will recommend that those projects be undertaken within two years.

Other areas are recommended for expansion within five years, including Bethlehem Road, and I-85 in the area of

Foot Mineral. Two areas that were studied but will not be recommended for expansion in the near future are Dixon School Road and Crowders Mountain.

In some cases, Heath said the city may want to "stake out a territory...hoping for something to happen" for the future. Included in that list is Highway 216 north, where Heath said there are "not many people out there now" and the payout would be in excess of 25 years.

He pointed out that bids were recently opened for expansion into the new Cleveland County Industrial Park, for which Cleveland County will pay half the cost.

Having already secured a tenant, Heath said that project will pay for itself quickly.

The study also suggests that the city negotiate a tap with Public Service Gas Co. to use its existing line near Foote Mineral if an emergency situation ever occurs that would cause the city to shut down its system.

In a related matter, Heath also suggested that his company be allowed to conduct a comprehensive study of the cost of gas services. He said his company did a study in 1989 and updated by letter in 1994.

"The last ten years the gas industry has turned upside down," Heath said. "We encourage doing a full-scale rate

study every ten years."

City Manager Jimmy Maney was quick to point out that the study has absolutely nothing to do with raising rates, but instead is aimed at determining exactly how much it costs to provide services to each client, especially industry.

"We have had customer inquiries from people wanting to buy their gas directly from Transco and use our lines to transport it," Maney said. "We need to take a look at what the costs really are. We are not looking to go up on rates - just attempting to identify what those costs are."

## KM Utility Committee may consider grinder pump use

By GARY STEWART  
Editor of The Herald

With almost 95 percent of its "traditional" residential building lots already used, Kings Mountain city officials may soon have to make a decision on whether or not to develop a grinder pump policy which would allow building of residences on non-traditional lots which are lower than the city's gravity-fed sewer lines.

Butch Kerns, developer of a subdivision on Williams Street, appeared before the City Utilities Committee Monday afternoon asking for approval to install grinder pumps in a planned five-lot cul-de-sac.

The utility committee, though not opposed to the idea, tabled the matter until it can get advice from experts in Raleigh and develop either a policy or pilot program.

Committee members and other city officials expressed a need that standards be set that would protect the city's interest.

Kerns' proposal was that the grinder pumps, which cost anywhere from \$2,600 to \$5,000 each, and the lines going from the resident to the street, be the property of the resident and that the force main that carries the material to the city's lines be owned and operated by the city.

Grinder pumps are relatively new to this area. It was pointed out that Shelby recently developed a grinder pump policy, and that Gastonia is allowing them. Mecklenburg County has allowed them for years.

"They have been in service nationally since the sixties," Kerns pointed out. "What were once thought were unbuildable lots now have become usable land."

See Grinder, 3A



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD

Justin Norman washes windows at the Kings Mountain Senior Center during Saturday morning's Day of Caring, sponsored by Cleveland County United Way. Volunteers also cleaned out the old caboose which has been used for storage.



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