

1999

A chronology of Kings Mountain news of the past year

JANUARY

The first ice storm of 1999 left nearly 5,000 City of Kings Mountain electrical customers in the dark. The hardest hit areas were Linwood Road and Ridge Street.

All-American Fitness opened for business at 213 South Battleground Road, Kings Mountain, featuring state-of-the-art exercise machinery and monitoring equipment.

Kings Mountain High's varsity basketball teams swept R-S Central in their opening Southwestern 3A Conference games at the KMHS gym.

Brad Sturgill, second baseman for the South Stokes Sauras and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bradley of Kings Mountain, signed a letter of intent to play baseball at Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC.

Water and sewer service to a proposed mobile home park was discussed at the meeting of Grover Town Council. Developer Tommy Keeter asked the council to provide sewer and water service to a 12-acre site near the town cemetery which would contain three mobile homes per acre.

Republicans captured three of the five seats on the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners. Democrat Willie McIntosh led the voting. Others elected were Joe Cabaniss, Charlie Harry, Jim Crawley and Joe Hendrick.

Anthony Guy, 24-year-old son of Ed and Judy Guy, lost his courageous battle with brain cancer. He had been in Mexico taking special treatments which had proved successful on other patients.

An Army helicopter from the Starbase program in Charlotte came to East School to help students celebrate their improved scores in math and science skills.

Zeb Plonk, successful businessman and Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame member, celebrated his 91st birthday at EdenGardens of Kings Mountain.

The City of Kings Mountain constructed a new sidewalk on Cansler Street to connect the two public housing projects in that area - Orr Terrace and McGill Court.

The Senior Center Advisory Board appeared before Kings Mountain City Council to ask for a study for a new senior center in town.

Kings Mountain District Schools' Ready, Set, GROW program - a program designed to give pre-kindergarten students a head start on success in school, received the Governor's Program of Excellence Award from Gov. Jim Hunt at the mid-winter Superintendent of Schools/School Board Chairmen meeting in Charlotte.

Cleveland Community College took its computer training program on the road, providing customized computer training to businesses in the county.

Mariko Feemster, All-Conference guard for Kings Mountain's Western 3A Championship football team, committed to play college football at the University of North Carolina.

Kings Mountain's All-Conference guard, Julius Curry, was selected to play in the East-West All-Star football game in Greensboro in July; and KMHS All-Conference defensive tackle Frank Hopper was named as an alternate.

Kings Mountain teenager Sharon Ann Lewis, 17, died in Carolinas Medical Center of complications from a November, 1998 crash which left her critically injured with head trauma.

Kings Mountain High football star Frank Hopper announced that he would further his education and football career at East Tennessee State University.

Local racing legend Clarence "Grassy" Smith, 79, died. Although he never drove a race car, Smith built championship cars and engines for more than 50 years. His son, Freddy, is the defending and five-time World Dirt Track Champion.

Kings Mountain City Council voted 4-3 against supporting a proposal by County Health Director Denese Stallings to seek grants to help fund a proposed recreation complex at Kings Mountain High School. The group supporting the complex proposed tennis courts, racquetball courts, kitchen and rest room facilities to serve the school system and the community.

The proposed new Kings Mountain Senior Center received a \$100,000 grant from the State of North Carolina, and also got support from the City Council which agreed to provide a one-third match and do a feasibility study.

Local banks said they were on top of the Y2K computer problems and predicted everything would go smoothly when January 1, 2000 rolls around.

First-time donors helped Kings Mountain High School reach its goal of 55 pints of blood for a Cleveland County bloodmobile visit.

Jay Rhodes, former banker, basketball coach and college athletic director, assumed duties as Vice President of the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce in charge of the Kings Mountain Branch.

Dan Brooks, Defensive Line Coach for the National Champion Tennessee Volunteers; former KMHS player Steve Baker, Head Coach Ron Massey, and Supt. of Schools Dr. Robert McRae were guest speakers at a banquet and awards ceremony honoring the 1998 Kings Mountain High football team (14-2), the top winning team in school history.

Selena Trott was named Woman of the Year by Kings Mountain Woman's Club. She has been a member of the club for 42 years.

Kings Mountain was ranked one of the top 50 small cities in the U.S. by Site Selection Magazine.

FEBRUARY

West Elementary School students taught classmate Andres "Andy" Villar of the Dominican Republic, to speak English.

Kings Mountain began a review of salaries of all employees with a goal of implementing a pay scale which would help the town hire and keep good employees. Many members of Council pointed out that the city had become a "training ground" for employees who get experience here and move on to higher paying jobs in other cities.

Kings Mountain High All-Conference tackle Kareem Marshall committed to play football at Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College, with a long-term goal of transferring to the University of North Carolina for his junior and senior seasons.

Kings Mountain's all-time leading pass receiver, Kendrick Bell, signed to play football and baseball at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro.

Kristie Brinkley, a KMHS senior who led the Lady Mountaineers' volleyball team to its first-ever state championship, signed a letter of intent to play volleyball at the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

Kings Mountain High's wrestlers, who finished third in the regular season, knocked off regular season champion North Gaston by one point to win the Southwestern 3A Conference tournament championship.

Kings Mountain Middle School's boys basketball team knocked off Burns to take over first place in the Tri-County Conference.

Grover Town Council voted to provide free water, sewer and garbage service to a proposed Grover Branch of the Cleveland County Library.

Lube N Cruise opened for business at 400 York Road in Kings Mountain.

Kings Mountain Middle School began its own radio broadcasts to promote school schedules and events.

Republicans Jim Crawley and Joe Cabaniss were elected chairman and vice chairman, respectively, at the first meeting of the new County Board of Commissioners.

Kings Mountain's Board of Education unanimously passed a resolution asking for a special one-cent sales tax to fund school construction.

Kings Mountain celebrated its 125th birthday in a brief ceremony at City Hall. A new 4 x 6 feet city flag was unveiled to fly over city hall.

Mauney Memorial Library broke ground for its new \$542,000 Harris Children's Wing, named after the late N.C. State Senator and Harris Funeral Home owner, J. Ollie Harris.

Kings Mountain's second annual Relay for Life fund drive for the American Cancer Society kicked off with a meeting at city hall.

Plans for the proposed new se-

nior center got under way when City manager Jimmy Maney and Aging Director Monty Thornburg met with architect Glenn Stevens of Charlotte.

Former Kings Mountain High wrestler and state heavyweight champion, Shon Byers, the 4th ranked amateur wrestler in the United States, began training for tournaments and trials which he hopes will result in his being chosen for the 2000 Olympics.

Kings Mountain High's girls swim team won its second straight Southwestern 3 A Conference championship in the annual conference meet at Neisler Natatorium.

Kings Mountain High's first-ever women's soccer team began practice under coach Dan Potter, who had organized the men's program here 10 years earlier.

Kings Mountain 15-year-old Tyler Falls was selected to play for the Roberto Clemente All-Stars in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in December.

Kings Mountain School Board member Melony Bolin went on record as favoring a study to consider merging of the three public school systems in Cleveland County.

Billy Byers, 13, died after a 10-year battle with Batten's Disease.

Sandra Stone was promoted to assistant branch manager of Central Carolina Bank in Kings Mountain.

Kings Mountain citizens had mixed reaction to the Senate's acquittal of President Clinton on impeachment charges.

Kings Mountain High School scheduled a two-year series with South Carolina 4A power Gaffney.

Several Kings Mountain High swimmers competed in the state 3A championship in Chapel Hill.

Kings Mountain City Council approved \$367,000 in pay raises to 160 city employees.

Kings Mountain City Manager Jimmy Maney wrote a letter to county commissioners requesting that Kings Mountain be included in any bond issue that's put before the voters for construction of senior citizens centers.

Councilman Phillip Hager,

Attorney Mickey Corry and pastor Prueella Sanders spoke at the annual Black History Month program at Mauney Memorial Library.

The city received a \$50,000 grant for the Battleground sewer project.

Kings Mountain High wrestlers Anthony Ash and Julius Curry won their weight division in the state 3A wrestling tournament at Charlotte's Independence Arena.

Kings Mountain High football player Andy Leigh signed a letter of intent to continue his football career and education at Mars Hill College.

MARCH

Kings Mountain anti-alcohol forces launched a petition drive to rid the city of alcohol sales.

Mayor Scott Neisler drafted bills to present to local legislators calling for annexation of city-owned property at Moss Lake, and a 3 percent hotel occupancy tax for Kings Mountain.

Grover City Council began discussing whether or not to extend water services to gambling established across the South Carolina line.

Carolyn R. Paysour resigned her position as Supervisor of the Kings Mountain ABC Store to take a position with the North Carolina State ABC Commission.

Kings Mountain High's Chapter of the National Vocational/Technical Honor Society inducted 20 new members.

Kings Mountain Middle School's boys basketball team defeated Burns 47-40 for its 11th straight win and the Tri-County Conference Division 2 championship.

Calling it an "uphill battle and a holy war," Kings Mountain dry forces kicked off a petition drive calling for an election on abolishing alcohol sales in Kings Mountain.

Kings Mountain School Board approved a long-range facility study that calls for constructing a new 5-6 school that should be completed by August 2001.

Kings Mountain School Board agreed on an "educational" approach to try to curb smoking at John Gamble Stadium and other outdoor school facilities.

Kings Mountain High's girls soccer team opened its inaugural season with a 4-0 victory over Gastonia Hunter Huss.

Kings Mountain High's baseball team opened its season with a 7-0 victory over Crest.

City Council began discussing the possible sale of city-owned Davidson and City lakes.

East Elementary School won the Lighthouse School Award as being one of the schools leading the way in North Carolina in programming, student achievement, and excellence.

City Council instructed City Manager Jimmy Maney to update a water/sewer rate study and give projections on the cost of capital improvements.

Della Bell retired after 21 years as personnel manager at Parkdale Plant #5.

Kings Mountain High senior Anthony Ash was named Wrestler of the Year in the Southwestern 3A Conference.

Arey Companies opened a new One Stop convenience store at the intersection of Highway 74 Business and Highway 74 Bypass.

Kings Mountain High senior Corwin Clayton was killed in an automobile accident on Highway 150 near Lincolnton.

Baubles, Bangles, and Beads, featuring costume jewelry, opened in McGinnis Department Store downtown.

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers pounded six home runs in a 17-1 victory over Canton Pisgah.

Kings Mountain Middle School opened its baseball season with a 19-3 win over West Lincolnton.

King Mountain's Norris McCleary began his final year of spring football practice at East Carolina University with an ultimate goal of making the NFL.

Kings Mountain senior Julius Curry was named the Gaston Area Wrestler of the Year by the Gaston Observer.

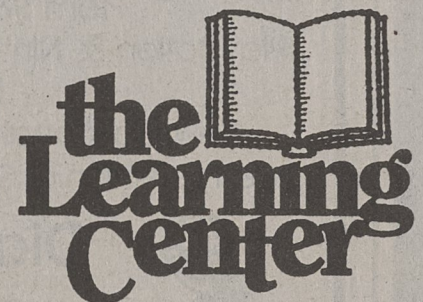
City Council delayed a vote on appointing a fifth member to the ABC Board and discussed revers-

See 1999, 4B

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SPRING 2000

Class	Location	Instructor	Days	Time
CLEVELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE				
ABE/ESL	Campus 1132	Browne	MTWTH	8:00am-12:00pm
ABE	Campus 2027 / 2028	Newman / Gassman	MTWTH	8:00am-1:00pm
ABE/ESL	Campus 2027 / 2028	Jenkins	MTWTH	5:00pm-9:00pm
AHS	Campus Learning Center	Raines	MTWTH	8:00am-9:00pm
AHS	Campus Learning Center	Raines	F	8:00am-4:00pm
HRD	Campus 2021	Hosch	MTWTFH	8:30am-3:00pm
OTHER CLEVELAND COUNTY LOCATIONS				
ABE/AHS	Day Reporting Center 308 Gardner Street, Shelby	Petty	MTWTFH	8:00am-12:00pm & 1:00pm-4:00pm
ABE/AHSESL	Central United Methodist Church 113 S. Piedmont Church Kings Mountain	Dellinger	MTWTH	8:00am-12:00pm
ABE/AHS	Grover Elementary School 206 Carolina Ave., Grover	Cogar	MT	5:00pm-9:00pm
ABE/AHS	Casar Elementary School 436 School House Rd., Casar	Foster	MW	5:15pm-9:15pm
ABE/AHS	East Elementary School 600 N. Cleveland Avenue Kings Mountain	Atwell	MTTH	6:00pm-9:00pm
ABE/GED/ESL	Job Link Career Center Charleston Place 201 W. Marion St., Shelby	Call 484-4050 to Pre-Register		
HRD	Job Link Career Center Charleston Place 201 W. Marion St., Shelby	Call 484-4050 to Pre-Register		

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