

# 1999

From 4B

Filing by last-minute candidates swelled the total to 31 seeking eight seats in November on Kings Mountain City Council, two seats on the Kings Mountain Board of Education, and three seats on Grover Town Board.

Kings Mountain High football players braved 90-plus degree heat and began pre-season practice sessions.

Ground was broken for a gazebo on an acre and a half lot at the corner of Railroad Avenue and Gold Street. The 30-foot gazebo was designed by Kings Mountain Building Codes Inspector Holly Galloway and Shirley Brutko of the Kings Mountain Branch of the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce.

Rick Moore sold the Ole Country Store to Bob and Barry Patel.

Supt. of Schools Bob McRae explained the new student policy to parents in a meeting at Barnes Auditorium.

Mark White, son of former KM resident Richard White and a teacher at Southeast Guilford High School, was named North Carolina High School Athletic Trainer of the Year.

Kings Mountain's Laura Moss made her debut on Broadway as Letta in the Tony Award-winning production of Death of a Salesman.

A blown breaker at the sub-station off York Road put 25 percent of the city in the dark.

Susie Hughes was named head volleyball coach at Kings Mountain High School.

Grace Robinson, a resident of Kings Mountain Care Center, celebrated her 100th birthday, saying if the world ends in the year 2000 "it's been fun."

North Carolina Farm Bureau broke ground for a new office on Shelby Road.

Lib Stewart, longtime news editor of The Kings Mountain Herald, was honored at a retirement party at The Red Lobster in Gastonia.

Retiring clock operator Delbert Dixon and retiring P.A. announcer Perry Champion were honored with plaques of appreciation for their years of service prior to the Mountaineers' opening football game with East Gaston at Gamble Stadium.

Kings Mountain High running sensation Anthony Hillman topped the 4,000-yard mark in career rushing with 166 yards in a 34-14 opening-season victory over East Gaston.

## SEPTEMBER

City Council approved the annexation of 3.5 miles east and south of the city which increased the city limits by one half. The plan included 10.03 acres in the Linwood Road area and 2,318.76 acres south of the city, most of which is in the area of I-85 and Canterbury Road.

A forum on the Battle of Kings Mountain attracted over 1,600 visitors at Kings Mountain National Military Park.

Lib Stewart of Kings Mountain was installed as National President of The American Legion Auxiliary at the 79th annual national convention in Anaheim, California.

Kings Mountain National Guard helped clear Highway 12 near Kill Devil Hills after Hurricane Dennis.

City Council approved analyzing the 24-inch water line which delivers the city's water from Moss Lake to determine what areas need repaired or replaced.

Phil Kirk, chairman of the North Carolina School Board, presented a banner to East School to recognize it as one of the state's top 25

schools in terms of growth in the ABC testing program.

Bynum Chapel AME Zion Church dedicated a new 8,000-square foot Family Life Center.

Kings Mountain emergency management officials held a meeting at the new Police Department to plan their strategy in case Hurricane Floyd came through the area. One of the most destructive hurricanes in history veered to our right but struck a devastating blow to eastern North Carolina.

Kings Mountain construction worker Paul Gaffney was accidentally shot in the head with a three-inch nail which penetrated his skull, calmly walked to his brother, Mike, who took him to the hospital for surgery. Within a few days he was back on the job.

A long-awaited new traffic signal was installed at the intersection of Mountain Street and Battleground Avenue in downtown Kings Mountain.

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers set a school football scoring record in a 68-0 victory over Bessemer City.

Kings Mountain's Priscilla Rickenbacker was named assistant women's basketball coach at the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay.

Kings Mountain area citizens quickly came to the aid of their neighbors in eastern North Carolina who lost everything in Hurricane Floyd.

The City Utilities Committee began considering allowing an alternative - or grinder pump - sewer system in areas that could not tap on to the traditional gravity flow system.

Kings Mountain Mayor Scott Neisler won the livermush recipe contest at Cleveland Mall for the fourth year in a row.

Arlene Barrett retired after 40 years as secretary at First Presbyterian Church.

Kings Mountain and Shelby's football teams ended the 20th century the same way they began it - with a tie game. The two teams, who opened one of the state's longest rivalries in 1926 with a scoreless tie, battled to a 21-21 deadlock at Shelby's Blanton Memorial Stadium.

Supporters of the proposed new \$1.2 million Kings Mountain Senior Center appeared before County Commissioners to ask for a \$150,000 pledge over a three-year period.

The 75th Cleveland County Fair opened at the fairgrounds in Shelby.

## OCTOBER

Kings Mountain City Council and School Board candidates participated in a public forum at B.N. Barnes Auditorium.

Kings Mountain National Military Park held the 219th anniversary celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain. Guest speaker was Dr. Terry Mays, author of Historical Dictionary of the American Revolution.

Johnny Harris, president of Harris Funeral Home, was inducted as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Kings Mountain Rotary Club.

Longtime Kings Mountain furniture dealer Gene Timms died at the age of 72.

90-year-old Wynn Huskey of Oak Grove laid down his clippers and comb after 75 years as a barber.

Johnny Martin and Cathy Neely were appointed to the Grover Planning and Zoning Board.

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers lost their first Southwestern 3A Conference football game since 1997 - a 20-15 upset to Forestview, a

second-year high school from Gastonia.

Kings Mountain Middle School's Patriots clinched the Tri-County Conference Division I football crown with a 30-0 victory over Burns.

Kings Mountain High's women's volleyball team wrapped up its ninth straight Southwestern 3A Conference title with a 15-8, 15-6, 15-11 victory over R-S Central.

Kings Mountain High School student Jessica Dettler was critically injured in a single-car accident on Stoney Point Road.

Mountaineer Days kicked off at the new downtown gazebo.

Kings Mountain's School Board began a search for a tract of land on which to build a new 5-6 grade school.

Lib Stewart, National President of the American Legion Auxiliary, was honored at a homecoming at Otis D. Green Post 155.

The new 14,000 square foot, \$1.7 million Kings Mountain Police Department was dedicated during Mountaineer Days activities.

The much-anticipated opening of the time capsule at Mauney Memorial Library turned out to be a dud. It took 90 minutes to locate the 25-year-old capsule, which was buried during the city's 100th birthday celebration in 1974. After it was opened, most of the items inside had been ruined by water.

The summer drought just about wiped out the pumpkin crop in Cleveland County.

Kings Mountain City Commissioners Gene White, Norma Bridges and Phil Hager took part in the Cleveland County Planning Conference in Charleston, SC.

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers scored on all nine offensive possessions to defeat Burns 63-7.

Kings Mountain's Johnny Reavis was selected District 31-C Lion of the Year.

Video poker was given a poke in the eye when the S.C. Supreme Court ruled that a scheduled November 2 referendum on the industry was unconstitutional.

Several dilapidated buildings on King Street - including the old Pure Oil Station and the old Carquest Building - were under order to be demolished.

The new Eckerd Drug Store opened for business at the intersection of King Street and Cleveland Avenue.

Alexander Business Park officially opened on East Gold Street.

Timms Furniture began clearing ground for an addition to its business on Grover Road.

Former Herald News Editor Lib Stewart was presented the state's highest civilian honor, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

New Christmas decorations were purchased for downtown Kings Mountain.

Patterson Grove Baptist Church began raising money for a new \$600,000 Family Life Center.

The new Kings Mountain YMCA began a new member drive.

Kings Mountain High's volleyball team won its 13th straight Southwestern 3A Conference tournament championship, defeating R-S Central in the finals 15-12, 15-4, 13-15, 15-6.

City Manager Jimmy Maney reported to City Council that the town had a fiscal year 1998-99 cash balance of \$2.1 million in its water/sewer fund and \$1.1 million in its electrical fund.

Fund raisers were planned to help with the medical expenses of

8-year-old leukemia victim Casey Burnette.

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers defeated East Rutherford 54-20 to set up a battle for first place with South Point.

The Gardner-Webb University Board of Directors approved seeking NCAA Division I status.

In the highest scoring football game in Southwestern 3A Conference history, South Point edged Kings Mountain 56-52 for the conference championship.

A proposal by Duke Power and Carolina Power & Light to buy back power plant shares they sold to 51 cities more than two decades ago and purchase the cities' electricity distribution systems could cost Kings Mountain electrical customers over \$3 million over the next 17 years.

## NOVEMBER

The new \$1.2 million Kings Mountain Senior Center will be named the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life & Conference Center.

18-year-old David Allen Glover was charged with assault and injury, simple assault, attempted common law robbery, and attempted second degree murder after allegedly entering Falls Superette on N.C. 161 and attacking former Cleveland County Commissioner Joyce Cashion. The suspect was shot after scuffling with Mrs. Cashion's husband, Bill Cashion.

Ward 5 Councilman Rick Murphrey was elected mayor of Kings Mountain. Elected to City Council were Bob Hayes, Clavon Kelly, Gene White, Jim Guyton, Carl DeVane, Dean Spears and Rev. Howard Shipp.

Stella Putnam swept all precincts and was the top vote-getter for two inside city seats on the Kings Mountain School Board. Shearra Miller was reelected.

Bill Favell was elected mayor of Grover. Incumbent Jack Herndon was reelected to the Council, along with former mayor Max Rollins, Chuck Potts and Robert Hunt.

Kings Mountain's David Angeles, a student at N.C. School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, won a year 2000 Morehead Scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The jersey #45 worn by Kings Mountain and Cleveland County's all-time leading rusher and scorer, Anthony Hillman, was retired at half-time of the Kings Mountain-North Gaston football game at John Gamble Stadium.

Kings Mountain High's volleyball team lost to East Henderson in the Western N.C. championship game.

Kings Mountain native Mike Blanton was named Publisher of the Kings Mountain group of Republic Newspapers. The group includes the Kings Mountain Herald, Cherryville Eagle, Belmont Banner, Mount Holly News, Bessemer City Record and Cleveland Times.

Kings Mountain cable customers will see a rate increase on January 1, it was announced by Time Warner Cable's Shelby System Manager Floyd Williams.

Kings Mountain Board of Education voted to allow Cleveland County Schools to use \$1.5 million of its construction allocation so the new Springmore Elementary School in upper Cleveland County could be completed on time.

Kings Mountain School Board member Larry Allen was appointed to the North Carolina School Boards Association Board of Directors.

Anthony Hillman scored two touchdowns and gained 170 yards

rushing in Kings Mountain's 46-33 win over North Gaston in the final game of the season at Gamble Stadium. He finished his brilliant three-year varsity career with 5,618 yards rushing and 396 points - both Cleveland County records.

Cunningham Brick Company announced that it would donate all of the brick to the \$1.2 million Kings Mountain Senior Center project.

Marylee Dilling represented Kings Mountain High School in the 1999 Carolinas' Carrousel Parade in Charlotte.

Cleveland County Commissioners began discussing merging the county's three school systems, prompting Kings Mountain School Board Chairman Ronnie Hawkins to publicly state that the commissioners have a "hidden agenda" and the real reason they want merger is that Shelby's total enrollment is dropping and their minority percentage has risen to 65 percent.

The Kings Mountain Relay for Life Committee began a Christmas tree ornament sale to raise money for next year's Relay for Life.

## DECEMBER

Over 500 Kings Mountain citizens attended an open forum at Barnes Auditorium to discuss the possible merger of the three Cleveland County school systems.

The Kings Mountain School Board and City Council unanimously passed resolutions opposing the merger of the county's three school systems.

A tree lighting ceremony at Mauney Memorial Library officially kicked off the Christmas season in Kings Mountain.

Winnie Robinson, widow of Negro League baseball great Frazier "Slow" Robinson, was Grand Marshal in the Kings Mountain Christmas parade.

Some city officials expressed concern about the slow response time of Gaston County EMS into the Kings Mountain city limits.

A six-month undercover drug operation in Kings Mountain and Cleveland County resulted in 82 charges.

The KM Board of Education agreed to purchase approximately 58 acres of land adjacent to Kings Mountain Middle School for a new grade 5-6 school.

17-year-old Jamie Lynn Camp of Kings Mountain was killed and two other persons injured in a two-car accident on Highway 161.

The new Grover and Kings Mountain Councils, and the two new members of the Kings Mountain School Board took office. Dr. Larry Allen and Melony Bolin were named chairman and vice-chairman, respectively, of the KM School Board and Clavon Kelly was appointed mayor pro tem of the City of Kings Mountain.

A fire destroyed the remains of Pauline Mill, which was being torn down.

Joe Ann Crawford, Kings Mountain's first female realtor, died.

East Elementary School students collected \$724.45 in change to help Trenton Elementary School in Jones County, which was heavily damaged during the floods associated with Hurricane Floyd.

Kings Mountain's record-breaking running back, Anthony Hillman, was selected Southwestern 3A Conference Offensive Player of the Year for the second straight season.

Cleveland County Commissioners scheduled a meeting with the three school boards of the county, and at the close of the meeting hired a law firm which specializes in school merger. The action prompted the Kings Mountain School Board to hold a special session and hire a law firm to represent it in the merger issue.

The Lady Luck Casino near Grover changed its plans to bring nude dancing to the club.

City Council approved spending \$16,000 to have a mural depicting its history painted on the side of the old Plunk Brothers building at the corner of West Gold and Railroad Avenue.

Phil Witherspoon retired after 30 years with the Kings Mountain Police Reserves, 11 of which were as a full-time officer.

City Manager Jimmy Maney resigned as a member of the Advisory Board of the Kings Mountain Branch of the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce after a discussion about school merger.

Taco Bell began site preparation for a restaurant on York Road.

The Windjammers Motorcycle Club's 11th annual Ride for the Children raised over \$8,000 toys and \$23,000 in cash for the children served by Children's Homes of Cleveland County.

Charlie Theodore Etters, 73, of Bridges Street, died in a 3 a.m. fire that destroyed his mobile home.

Historic St. Matthew's Lutheran Church was damaged over a quarter of a million dollars in an early Christmas morning fire.

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Please contact Cindi Welch if you have any questions.  
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