

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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Hit the Trails

Winter hiking opportunities abound in area 1B



SPORTS

Sipe to be inducted into Hall of Fame



Sports Hall of Fame on January 29. 4B

Kings Mountain High School men's basketball coach Larry Sipe will be inducted into the Cherryville

Fortner appointed KMHS softball coach



Ricky Fortner has been named head women's softball coach at Kings Mountain High School. 5B

Mountaineer swim teams win tri-meet

Kings Mountain High's swim teams won a tri-meet with Forestview and Canton Pisgah Wednesday at Neisler Natatorium. 6B

SCHOOLS

Merger meeting January 25 in Shelby

The second meeting of county commissioners and the county's three school boards on possible merger will be held January 25 at Cleveland Community College. The Kings Mountain School Board will discuss the matter at its meeting tonight at 7 p.m. at Central School. 2A

COMMUNITY

Council approves zoning amendments

Kings Mountain City Council Monday night approved the rezoning requests of nine property owners. 3A

Flu outbreak not as serious in county

Although the number of flu cases are up in Cleveland County, it's not as bad here as in other parts of the nation. 5A

Rabies cases still on rise in county

Cleveland County Health Department reported three more rabies cases during the week, including the first involving a domesticated animal. Citizens are urged to take extra caution when handling their pets. 6A

Grover approves water, street repairs

Grover Council Monday night approved repair of water lines and repaving on Walnut Street. 9A

Law needs help fighting gambling

A Cleveland County lieutenant says police need help in fighting illegal video gambling in North Carolina. 5A

KM ABC Store funds missing

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain Police are investigating an alleged embezzlement of \$3,800 from the Kings Mountain ABC Store, and the State ABC Board has ordered an audit of the store's business during the latter part of 1999. The State ABC Board also closed the business until at least Friday while the audit is conducted by the State ABC Board's auditor and the local

store's auditor, Darrell Keller.

The store's new manager, former City Councilman Jerry Mullinax, reported the incident to police on January 5. According to Mullinax, it allegedly occurred sometime between Friday, Dec. 24 and Monday, Dec. 27.

According to the report Mullinax gave Kings Mountain Ptl. J.C. Shull, \$3,800 was removed from a deposit bag. Lt. Melvin Proctor is now in charge of the investigation but said he

has no information at this time.

Mullinax, who was defeated in his bid for reelection last fall, said he began working at the store the week before Christmas and officially took over as manager on Monday, Dec. 27. He said he worked "two or three hours a day" Christmas week while also working a notice with his former employer.

Mullinax said he and one other employee began work that week, and December 24 was the last day for two previous em-

ployees.

"It has to be a pretty nasty thing, for me at least, to begin work and this type of thing happen," he said.

Mullinax said he had nothing to do with the disappearance of the money but said speculation "points to" either a current or previous employee.

"Two of us are new," he said.

"I don't know if this is something that was done to make it look like the new employees or not."

Mullinax said the money in question is part of the funds taken in at the store on Christmas Eve. Banks closed at 2 p.m. that day, he said, and the ABC store closed at 5 so a deposit could not be made until Monday morning, Dec. 27. He said "four, five or six" previous and current employees had access to the safe.

Mullinax said the zipper-type deposit bag had approximately

See ABC Store, 5A

GIVING ALL



Kings Mountain Middle School 6th grader Eric Pardo enjoys the view from John Clucas's Kenworth truck. Pardo gave his last 30 cents to Clucas and his family when their house burned last December.

KM youngster gives his last 30 cents to family who lost their home in fire

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

Like the parable in the Bible about the widow's mite, Kings Mountain Middle School 6th grader Eric Pardo had little but gave it all to someone in need. Down to his last 30 cents, Pardo donated his pencil money to help the Clucas family of Woodbridge who lost everything in a fire on December 8.

"We heard over the loudspeaker at school that the Clucas home had burned," Pardo says. "I had some money for a new pencil, but decided to give it to them."

Pardo, who lives at 825 Church Street in Kings Mountain, says the plight of the Clucas family struck a chord in him.

"I have a lot of hope in me and I like to help people," Pardo said. "If anyone knows a person that is homeless, they should give them help."

Jean Clucas wants to go on record thanking Pardo and everyone else who donated money or items to her family. The cafeteria manager at East School, Clucas has praise for Pardo and the Communities in Schools organization.

"It made me cry when I heard about Eric's donation," Clucas said. "He's not at all selfish."

So many people donated items to the Clucas family after the fire that they had eight boxes of clothes left over.

Coincidentally, the clothes fit a family in Polkton that also lost their home a couple of weeks after the Clucas blaze. As a way of thanking Pardo for his thoughtfulness, John Clucas took the young man for a ride in his Kenworth long-haul truck.

See Giving, 3A

Good Old Days remembered

KM senior citizens recall ice man, sweeping lawns

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

All that was missing from Monday's "Good Old Days" gathering at the Kings Mountain Senior Center was a potbellied stove and peanut hulls on the floor. Scheduled to be a regular event, the "Good Old Days" get-together saw 14 seniors enjoy each other's company and memories of times gone by. The event was coordinated by Senior Center staffer Carolyn Bell.

Topics resurrected from the

Seniors' memory banks ran the gamut from preparing foods down on the farm, to stories about how the ice man used to cometh in Kings Mountain. Though all who took part in the talk had different stories from their youth, the common thread between them was how much simpler life used to be.

"Red Mitchem was the ice man in Kings Mountain back in the old days," said Thomasina Brown. "We used to follow the ice truck and get little pieces to eat."

See Seniors, 3A



Kings Mountain Senior Center regulars Charlie Blalock, Joe Smith, and Wanda Hodge joined a group of their friends at the Senior Center on Monday to recall the joys and hardships of days gone by.

ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD



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