

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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SPORTS

Spring sports crank up at high school

With the weather warming, young people at Kings Mountain High School are busy preparing for the spring sports seasons which begin next week. Stories on the Mountaineer baseball and softball teams are on page 2B, and a story on the women's soccer team is on 4B.

Kings Mountain runner to compete in World run

Kings Mountain's Chad Pearson, a freshman at the University of North Carolina at Asheville, is one of only six runners across the United States who will compete for the USA cross country team in the upcoming World Championship in Portugal. 4B

KM basketball teams bow out of playoffs

Kings Mountain High's basketball season is over. The Mountaineer men fell to R-S Central last week in the semi-finals of the Southwestern 3A Conference tournament, and the Lady Mountaineers lost to Trinity Monday night in the opening round of the state 3A playoffs. 3B

PEOPLE

Danny McDowell versatile teacher

Danny Ray McDowell, fourth grade teacher at Bethware Elementary School and a finalist for Region Teacher of the Year, wears many hats in the community. In addition to winning many state awards for his innovative style of teaching, he is also a winning basketball coach. 3A

Glenda O'Shields Woman of the Year

Former Kings Mountain school principal Glenda O'Shields has been named Woman of the Year by the Kings Mountain Women's Club. 5A

BUSINESS

Taco Bell, new hotel close to completion

Several construction projects are nearing completion and almost ready for grand opening near the I-85/161 interchange. The new Holiday Inn Express and Taco Bell are going up fast, and some other businesses are looking at the prospects of coming to Kings Mountain. 3A

Curves for Women opens on Battleground

A unique ladies only fitness center - Curves for Women - is now open for business on Battleground Avenue. The center features a unique QuickFit program which allows women to get in shape in a non-competitive atmosphere. 8A



GIL MCGREGOR

Hall of Fame to induct 4 McGregor to speak at April 11 ceremony at KMHS

The 13th annual Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame dinner and induction ceremony will be held Tuesday, April 11 at Kings Mountain High School.

Gil McGregor, former Wake Forest University and NBA star and current radio commentator for the Charlotte Hornets, will be the guest speaker.

The four inductees include former Kings Mountain High School athletes Regina Brown

and Keith Layton, former KMHS wrestling coach Steve Moffitt, and retired City of Kings Mountain Recreation Director Roy Pearson.

Also to be honored are a number of athletes and teams for special achievement since the last Hall of Fame event.

Tickets will go on sale soon at various locations around town. Tickets are \$10 and include the meal and induction ceremony.

Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

Regina Brown was an All-Conference basketball, volleyball and softball player at KMHS from 1983-86. She led the volleyball team to three Southwestern Conference championships and was SWC Player of the Year and KMHS Female Athlete of the Year her senior season.

She played four years of vol-

leyball and one year of basketball at Western Carolina University where she still holds 17 volleyball records. She led the 1989 team to the Southern Conference championship and was Southern Conference Player of the Year in 1990. She was All-Region in 1989 and 1990, All-Tournament in 1988, '89 and '90, and first team All-

See Hall, 3A

HISTORY IN PAINT



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD

Clive Haynes of Forest City pressure washes the side of the old Plonk Department Store building on Railroad Avenue to get it ready for a mural depicting the history of Kings Mountain.

Artist Clive Haynes begins preparing building for mural

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

Downtown Kings Mountain will soon have a new and striking artwork. Currently being created by artist Clive Haynes, the masterpiece will take the form of a mural on the side of the old Plonk building in the heart of the city. Using a print of Kings Mountain from an 1880s "Harpers" magazine, Haynes will tell the town's story in paint.

"Haynes is a very talented muralist who created a fabulous work in his hometown of Forest City," said Shirley Brutko of the Kings Mountain branch, Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce. "His work will add beauty and interest to our city."

Sponsored by the City of Kings Mountain, work on the mural is presently in the prepara-

tion stage. Hoisted in a "cherry picker" boom, Haynes has been blasting the wall at Plonks and will follow this up with making sure all cracks are filled. When these procedures are finished in about two weeks, Haynes will begin the actual painting work.

"The mural should be finished in about two months," said Brutko. "It will last as long as 25 years."

Scenes for the mural will depict the early life and history of Kings Mountain. Don't look for just a straightforward piece of work. Haynes is noted for his whimsy and plans to have humorous sketches hidden in the body of the larger work. Potential scenes to be included in the mural are mountaineers, British redcoats, a view of the mountain, and agricultural topics. The final cost of the mural will be around \$16,000.

School boards discuss merger

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

Members of the Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, and Shelby City school boards met last Wednesday before several hundred concerned citizens to discuss what they could do to head off the proposed merger of their systems. Through the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners were invited, only Charlie Harry and Willie McIntosh showed up.

Coordinated by Cleveland County Schools Board Chairman Tommy Greene, the two-hour meeting took each one of the nine points county commissioners had drawn up to study in the merger question and looked at way the separate systems could address them without the ultimate need for merger. Greene said the meeting was "a step above a brainstorming session." Greene also stressed the importance of frank but fair discussion during the talks.

"If we take off our gloves and speak up," Greene said, "we are still friends."

Of the commissioners nine points, there were several that the school boards felt they could study and come up with ways to meet the proposed criteria. One idea talked over by school board members from the three districts in response to the commissioners point of providing equitable financial resources to each child in Cleveland County included establishing a county wide school tax with equal distribution of funds to all three systems.



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD
Kings Mountain District Schools board chairman Larry Allen (left) confers with board member Ronnie Hawkins during the recent summit meeting on school merger. The two are vocal opponents to merger of schools in Cleveland County.

Another topic discussed at the meeting was to establish a closer working and planning relationship between the three school systems. Also reviewed were ways that the three systems could coordinate efforts to better serve the bottom 25 percent of students academically.

Throughout the discussion, the main underlying question was if there were actually any inequities in funding, facilities, or academics between the three separate school systems in Cleveland County. When the subject of facility utilization was approached, it seemed as if the core of the merger issue had been reached when Shelby City Schools chairman Jack Hamrick said that some of their schools, including Shelby High, had space for more students.

See Merger, 3A

Officers turn to TV show to help find Asha Degree

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

Over one week has passed, and 9-year-old Asha Degree is still missing. Despite search efforts that have consumed over 9,000 man-hours, no real clues have turned up to explain why the Fallston Elementary fourth-grader walked away from her home in the middle of the night, or what has happened to her since.

"There are no new developments," Alicia Ross of the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department said Wednesday morning.

Efforts to locate Degree have included aerial units from the N.C. Highway Patrol and State Bureau of Investigation, the FBI, Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, local volunteer fire departments, volunteers on horseback, and hundred of concerned citizens combing the land along Highway 18 on foot.

Even though the official week-long ground search was called off Sunday, officials are urging everyone who lives in the area to search their barns, outbuildings, and garages for signs that the child might have sought shelter.

Besides extensive coverage by local media, Degree's story is scheduled to be aired on "America's Most Wanted" television show Saturday evening at 9 p.m. on Fox. Degree's name has also been added to a national database of missing children.

Though hard clues on Degree's disappearance have been few and far between, officials do believe that the child left home of her own accord. What transpired between the time she acted in this respect, and where she is now, is the source of the mystery. Theories and speculations surrounding what happened range from abduction to falling down an abandoned well.



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