

SPEEDING

From 1A

Sgt. David Allen of the Cleveland County office of the NC Highway Patrol said his officers issued 139 speeding citations on I-85 during the month of January.

Both Allen and Kings Mountain Police Chief Melvin Proctor see the effort paying off.

"It's hard to measure if it's cut down on speeding because of the volume of traffic on I-85," Allen said, "but we have seen a decrease in accidents and that's how we judge it."

Allen said he has one full-time trooper assigned almost exclusively to the Kings Mountain area of I-85. He may be pulled off on occasion if there is an accident nearby that he can respond to quicker than a trooper assigned to another part of the county.

Allen said he also has troopers assigned to Highway 74, which also has a 65 miles per hour speed limit including a portion in the Kings Mountain city limits.

"Our guys pretty much stay on the major arteries," Allen said. "You'll find across the state that the vast majority of wrecks are speed related, followed by alcohol use. That's why those are two key factors to our enforcement program. That's what's causing wrecks in North Carolina and here in Cleveland County."

Chief Proctor said he also sees a decrease in accidents in the areas that have been targeted.

"We've been working during the peak periods of speeding," Proctor said. "Most of the wrecks that we work on I-85 are speed related. We're trying

to decrease the speed, which would reduce the number of speed-related accidents."

Officer Burnette said the effort has paid off locally. "The word has gotten around that we're down here," he said, "so most of our tickets now are to people from out of town."

Burnette recalled issuing over 50 tickets on I-85 during a single weekend. Some speeders have been clocked on radar going in excess of 100 miles per hour, he said.

"Our jurisdiction runs from the Gaston County line to the rest area," Proctor explained. "We had been seeing a lot of speeding on 74 Bypass and we worked it steady and it's slowed it down. We can see it helping a little on 85. A lot of out-of-state speeders are coming through here."

Burnette and Proctor said the peak time for speeding appears to be early morning and late afternoon.

"We have issued some citations to persons who had been caught previously," the chief noted. "We have cases where several cars are following in a row. We had one incident where a man and his wife were traveling in separate cars. He had been caught before and his wife was following him. He had told her to be sure and slow down when they came into Kings Mountain. He slowed down, and she came around him and got caught."

The cost of the tickets is not the only result of being caught for speeding. Convictions of speeding for more than 16 miles over the speed limit could result in a loss of driver's license, and each speeding conviction carries points against license that can result in high insurance rates.

"If we don't take the time now to secure the open space, it will be gone," Dwayne Stutzman, with the NC Division of Parks and Recreation said. Speaking in a tongue-in-cheek manner, he said Clay County, in the mountains, could be something similar to a subway stop for Atlanta.

"I see development of Greenways (as) one of the best things you can do," he said.

The next Gateway Connector meeting is May 16 at Crowders Mountain.

GATEWAY

From 1A

Erin Broadbent said the parks have been doing a lot of the same work.

"We began to realize we're all doing the same thing," she said.

Broadbent said Kings Mountain State Park and the national park are already connected. Kings Mountain State Park also joins Crowders Mountain State Park.

Kings Mountain State Park official Frank Couch said he attended a series of meetings when he first started at the park about connecting the parks. But nothing was done.

That was then. "It's really been a real treat to see all of this take place," he said.

The Gateway Project could also help Kings Mountain with its downtown revitalization, and the city is trying to get its downtown business district on the National Register of Historic Places.

Other public and private environmental groups from North and South Carolina were at the meeting.

And while specific projects were discussed, broader themes were also brought up.

SCHOOL BOARD TO MEET

Kings Mountain Board of Education will meet Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Central School.

YMCA

From 1A

ship with the YMCA helps improve the city's quality of life.

"I'm just really proud of that partnership," he said. "I think it brings a lot more recreation to our citizens for less cost."

Currently, the YMCA operates on approximately \$750,000 annually, which includes city funds. It has also increased the amount of recreation opportunities in Kings Mountain since it took over the city's recreation in 1998.

And while a new project was announced Tuesday, a relatively new city department discussed its past financial year.

This will be the third year the city has funded a position for special events and public relations. It was started during Murphrey's first term, and is directed by Ellis Noell.

Murphrey said he wanted to look at providing more special events and started talking to the community.

But while the events cost money to put on, he said the city tries to partner with local businesses to help cut costs.

"It's always good to partner up. It definitely helps monetarily with these events," Murphrey said.

Some of the events which Noell's office has worked on includes Beach Blast, Summer Nites Concert Series, Spring It Up Jazz Festival, and the Over The Mountain Triathlon.

As far as the city's public relations, Noell said Tuesday that he has coordinated 275 newspaper articles with papers that regularly cover Kings Mountain, including 66 front page positions. He also said he has worked with local television and radio stations.

Kings Mountain is one of the few government bodies in the area that funds a special events or public relations person.

Cleveland County cut its Public Information Officer position in 1999 and allocated those funds toward hiring a certified public accountant for the finance department, County Manager Lane Alexander said. Department heads field media inquiries for the county.

In other business:

• Cemetery Director Dorus Bennett mentioned the need for expansion of Mountain Rest cemetery and improvements for the office.

interesting and would be still appropriate today. It read:

"We believe in unity of action that our city property may be preserved, her various industries fostered, and her general advances assured. We advocate a continuance of the fair and impartial enforcement of our ordinances in the thorough improvement of our streets and sidewalks, in the cleaning up and keeping of our cemetery, in the economical administration of our financial affairs, and if possible to be done, in a reduction of our taxes.

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ALAN

From 4A

bulging out, your tongue is plumb out on the stem, and tears are streaming down your crimson red face. This can go on for hours. Cough medicine does but little good. Indeed, the cough seems to thrive on such elixir.

Last but not least in discomforts brought on by the flu has been the cold sweats. Both Saturday and Sunday nights I went to bed swaddled in sweat pants and sweat shirt. How appropriately those articles of cloth are named. Around 2 o'clock each morning I awoke completely drenched in icy cold clammy perspiration. My clothes were soaked to the skin. I was sure I was dying.

The flu is nothing to fool with. More people died worldwide from the great flu epidemic in 1916 than did in World War I. It can still kill you today. The one lesson I learned from this episode is that next year I will have a flu shot. Don't be stupid and miss out on your chance to get one too. In this case for sure, an ounce of prevention is worth a metric ton of cure.

BEN

From 4A

about North Carolina cities bending over backwards for the old ABA Carolina Cougars. And they didn't even have a permanent home - they played in three cities.

Amateur sports in North Carolina have and will continue to thrive, regardless of the fad of professional sports.

GAS

From 1A

The Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill area has the lowest prices at \$1.15 a gallon, which is about eight cents lower than last month. Averaging in South Carolina to the Charlotte area price tends to keep the figure lower, Hughett said.

The site said Tuesday that North Carolina has an average price of \$1.17 for regular unleaded.

The average price for regular fuel in South Carolina on Tuesday was \$1.10, with the Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson area having the lowest prices in the state.

Columbia's prices were slightly higher at \$1.104.

The highest price in the Palmetto State was Myrtle Beach at \$1.13 per gallon.

AAA's Fuel Gauge Report is derived from credit card transactions at over 60,000 stations around the country. Prices in the report are the combined average are the last card swipe of the previous day, with the exception of Saturday and Sunday.

At Parker's Amoco on Shelby Road, motorists on Tuesday were filling up despite the rain.

Danny Bryant said he's noticed prices have started to go up fast.

Bill Parker, who runs the station, said he notices an increase annually. He said the increase at his station usually comes around the spring and brings a 10 to 12 cents increase.

But while prices have increased, Parker said business has kept a normal pace.

"We haven't slowed up any," he said.

FAME

From 1A

Blalock went on to make Junior College All-American at Spartanburg Methodist, and he was Honorable Mention All-American at Tennessee Tech. He played Service ball and one year of pro basketball in Europe. He has held head basketball coaching positions at Hunter Huss, where he coached UNC's Kris Lang, and is presently at Highland Tech, which he also serves as athletic director.

Stephens, who now lives in Mount Holly, was a two-way All-Conference lineman at KMH in 1984 and '85. In '85 he led the Mountaineers to their first State playoff season since 1964 and blocked a potential game-winning field goal attempt to preserve a 14-13 first round playoff win at Canton Pisgah. He started on offense in the Shrine Bowl game in Charlotte - the first KM player selected for the game since 1957.

Stephens went on to start for four years at offensive guard at the University of South Carolina, where he made All-American his junior and senior seasons. He played in two bowl games with the Gamecocks and also played in the Blue-Gray and Senior Bowl all-star games. He played three seasons for the New England Patriots in the NFL.

Tickets for the Hall of Fame are \$10 each and are available at McGinnis Department Store, The Herald, Linwood Restaurant, or from any member of the Hall of Fame committee. Tickets will also be available at the door.

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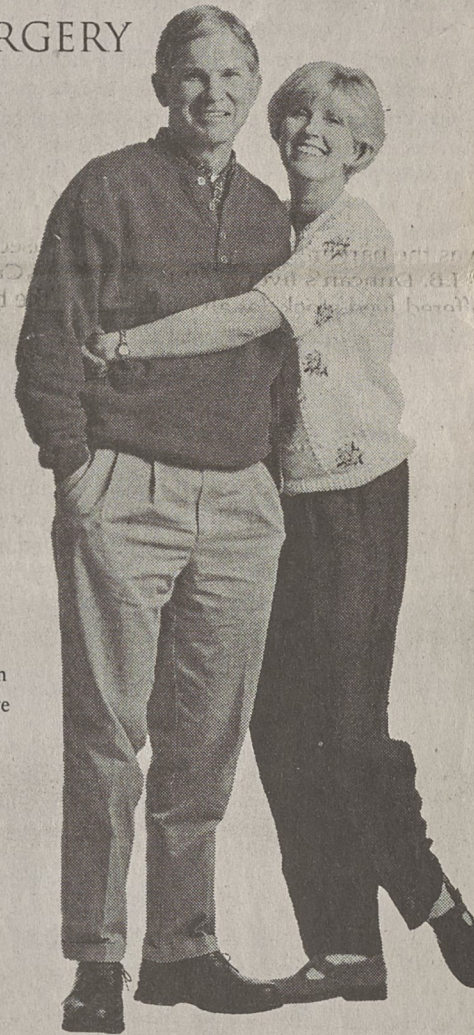
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