

# KINGS MOUNTAIN

# The Herald

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Vol. 114 No. 18

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6A

## School merger on hold again

By GARY STEWART  
Editor of The Herald

Cleveland County school merger is on hold again after the Kings Mountain Board of Education won a temporary injunction Friday from the North Carolina Court of Appeals to stop the U.S. Justice Department from ruling on preclearance.

The Justice Department had planned on issuing its decision on Monday. It began its 60-day review process on March 1 after receiving a letter from the attorney for the Cleveland County Board of Education stating that there were no more stays or injunctions in the court cases.

Attorney Bob Yelton sent a follow-up letter to the DOJ advising it that there was still an appeal pending in the NC Court of Appeals, but the DOJ said it would continue its review.

However, after receiving word Friday that the NC Court of Appeals had issued a 10-day injunction, the DOJ sent word to the Kings Mountain School Board's attorney, Brian Shaw, that it would honor the decision by the Appeals Court.

That 10-day injunction period will end on Monday, May 6 unless Shaw is successful in getting a permanent injunction. The Appeals Court panel is scheduled to hear the case in the fall.

During the 10-day period the NC Attorney General's office, which represents the State Board of Education in the case, will have an opportunity to rebut Kings Mountain's plea for a permanent injunction.

According to Kings Mountain Supt. of Schools, Larry Allen, if the Attorney General's office reacts to the decision the Appeals Court judges would hear both sides of the issue and make a decision on a permanent injunction.

Kings Mountain also recently sought an injunction in Cleveland County Superior Court. According

See Merger, 3A

## MISS KINGS MOUNTAIN



BEN LEDBETTER / THE HERALD

Ashley Hamrick was crowned Miss Kings Mountain Saturday at the Joy Performance Center.

## Hamrick crowned Miss KM in first pageant since 1967

By BEN LEDBETTER  
Staff Writer

It has been a while, but Kings Mountain has done something that hasn't been done since 1967 - crowned a Miss Kings Mountain.

And the winner of the Miss Kings Mountain Pageant Saturday at the Joy Performance Center is Ashley Marie Hamrick. She is the daughter of Howard and Lori Hamrick of Kings Mountain.

Saturday was the second pageant she had competed in. The first was at last year's Cleveland County Fair.

"Excitement, joy, just pure happiness basically," Hamrick said were her initial feelings after being crowned. "Because this is the first pageant I've ever won and the second one I've ever entered."

Having fun and trying something different were the reasons she said she competed in the fair pageant.

And since her competition experience was little, she was surprised to be chosen as Saturday's winner.

"I didn't even think I would make any of the runner-up or be crowned at all," she said.

With her title, Hamrick, a Kings Mountain High senior, will be a representative at community functions and will also receive a \$500 scholarship for college.

She plans on attending Gaston College in Dallas to study neonatal nursing and hopes to work in pediatrics at a Charlotte hospital.

In Kings Mountain, she has been a cheerleader at KMHS and works at the YMCA. She has also done certified nursing assistant work at White Oak Manor.

Calls looking for beauty pageants in the area is why Laurie Mancuso decided to revive the city event.

See Miss KM, 3A

## KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

## Kyle Smith served in parts of 3 wars

By BEN LEDBETTER  
Staff Writer

Kyle Smith has seen three wars from a perspective many people may not think about.

Smith joined the U.S. Navy and was involved in part of World War II, The Korean War and Vietnam.

He was drafted while he was attending Marshall University in his native West Virginia.

"So I thought instead of going in the army, I'd try the navy because my dad was in the navy and my

dad got shot up on Iwo Jima," Smith said. "So I thought I would just go in the navy and follow in his footsteps."

Smith said he had not decided what he wanted to major in at college and thought military duty would clear it, but that was not the case.

"I thought that after a four year tour of duty my mind might be more clear," he said. "But when the four years were up, I still didn't know. I just signed up again for six, and you're halfway home then to

retirement."

The possibility of an early retirement also appealed to Smith.

During his time in World War II, the fighting had stopped in 1945, the year before he entered the war, but all the countries did not sign needed paperwork.

People who were involved in the war in 1945 were considered veterans until all the paperwork was signed, Smith said.

"I got quite an education," he said. "I got an education that I couldn't afford."

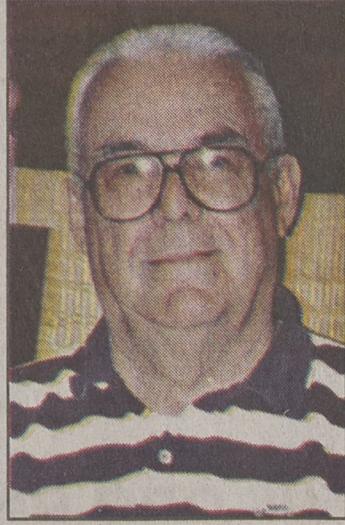
In Korea, he worked on an aircraft carrier as a personnel official. He served on two different aircraft carriers, the USS Independence and the USS Enterprise.

Working on an aircraft carrier was ideal for working at sea, he said.

He was later assigned to a distribution center in Norfolk, Va. There he placed people on ships going to Korea and during part of Vietnam.

Placing people on ships

See Smith, 5A



KYLE SMITH

## Commissioner Harry dies

By BEN LEDBETTER  
Staff Writer

John Harry worked with his brother, Charlie, at the family business, Grover Industries on Laurel Avenue.

But John said his brother was more than an employee at the plant. He was someone to go to for suggesting ideas and for talking about problems or other issues.

See Harry, 5A



HARRY



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