

The Herald

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Thursday, January 30, 2003

Vol. 115 No.5

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KM gets 6 1/2" snowfall Thursday

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

The city was covered in more snow than it has seen in several years last week. Many people wrecked their cars by sliding on the ice, and city officials worked tirelessly to improve the situation and make sure that no one got hurt.

According to Police Chief Melvin Proctor, the biggest problems experienced by the city during the snow storm were those involving tractor trailers. When the tractor trailers tried to get off the interstate and onto Kings Mountain roads, they would wreck and block the roads.

The snow did not really cause many problems for the public works department, said Director Jackie Barnette. However, the ice that froze on the roads that night caused many problems, he said.

"The snow wasn't a big deal. It was the ice that came afterwards," he said.

Although a few slick spots remain in shaded areas, Barnette said the major problems were cleared up as quickly as possible. By Friday evening, all of the roads in Kings Mountain were passable, he said.

Fire Chief Frank Burns said all major problems were avoided during the storm. The fire department did not receive very many calls, he said, and of those received, none involved a fire. Of course, several wrecks occurred, and the interstate was backed up, he said. Several people fell in the ice and snow, but most were transported by ambulance or got to the hospital on their own, he said. However, these problems were not severe.

"Fortunately, we did not have any emergencies," he said.

The fire department was prepared for any emergencies that may have occurred, he said. As the snow got deeper and deeper on Wednesday night, firefighters put chains on the tires of the firetrucks just in case they had to drive through the snow.

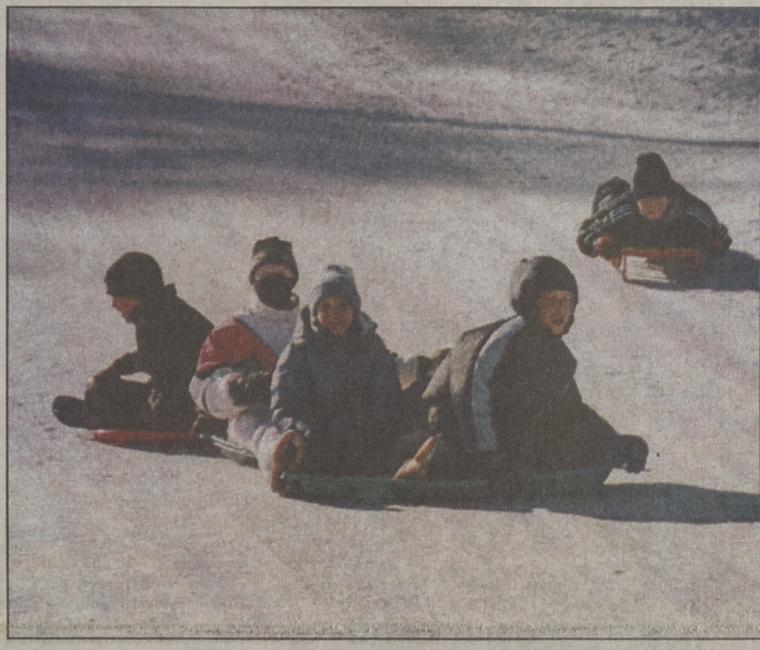
The water department did not experience any major problems during the

See Snow, 3A

SNOW DAY

Thursday's big snowfall and low temperatures since left enough snow on the ground to keep kids active for days. Many of them found the steep hill on Hillside Drive at Landing St. the perfect place for sledding. Taking part in the fun were Dawson Adams (right) and Brent Hunt, Brandon Gantt, Caleb Henderson, Samuel Dye, Hannah Dye, Ryan Doty and Jordan Doty.

GARY STEWART / HERALD



Frozen pipes keep area plumbers busy

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

With temperatures below freezing, many unexpected problems can arise. Most people focus on trying to keep warm when the weather is cool and do not think about the pipes at their house getting cold. In Kings Mountain last weekend, local plumbers spent many hours helping people whose pipes both froze and burst.

Zach Stroup, the owner of Goforth Plumbing, said that his business was very busy over the weekend with calls about frozen and busted pipes.

"We had probably 30 calls over the weekend," he said. "Our men worked all day Saturday and all day Sunday, until Sunday night. We don't mind, but it would be nice if the calls were more spaced out."

Stroup offered some advice to keep pipes from freezing. He recommended letting the water drip a little bit during the night. He said he let the faucet in his bathtub run a little during the night to keep his pipes from

freezing. He also said to keep crawl space doors under the house closed. When air gets to the pipes in the crawl spaces, the pipes freeze quicker. Most of the pipes his business worked on over the weekend were at the foundation level, he said. He also said to keep pipes and wells covered as much as possible. He had a couple calls about frozen wells over the weekend, he said.

Phillip Bollinger, of Bollinger Plumbing, said he also had 35-40 calls about busted pipes over the weekend.

"About the only rest we've gotten is going home and sleeping," he said. He said he worked from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. all weekend.

Bollinger also recommended that people leave their water dripping at night if it is below freezing. The constant drip of the water will keep the pipes functioning, which will in turn keep them from freezing.

"It's a lot cheaper to leave it dripping than to have it fixed," he said.

See Pipes, 3A

Emergency shelter plan put on hold

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

On Tuesday night, the City Council voted unanimously to shelve plans for an emergency shelter in Kings Mountain, at least until next month. Council members decided it was too early to discuss a budget amendment, allowing the purchase of a \$40,000 generator for the emergency shelter at the senior center.

Although a committee appointed by the council, which included the fire and police chief, directors of the senior center and the Red Cross, and members of Cleveland County

Emergency Management, looked at many shelter possibilities, they decided that the best location for the city's primary emergency shelter would be the senior center. Not only would the senior center accommodate people with special needs, it also has a kitchen, is handicapped accessible, and would do well as an alternative operating location for the city in an emergency. Also, the center is on the opposite end of the community as the armory, which will probably serve as a secondary shelter.

In order for it to be an effective shelter, the senior center needs an emergency generator to supply power

in case the electricity in the city goes out, like it did during the ice storm. The generator the committee chose for the shelter is a 150 KW generator, which is large enough to run the entire senior center by itself.

"We looked at several different possibilities, but this will run the whole complete senior center," said Mayor Rick Murphrey, who was also involved in the process.

Once the order is placed for the generator, it will arrive in ten to twelve weeks. City staff members will be able to install it themselves, so costs will be reduced in the area of installation.

The purchase of the generator for the center was supposed to be the main object of discussion at the meeting. However, Councilmen Gene White and Dean Spears announced at the meeting that they had met with the senior center advisory board, which voiced the opinion of not wanting the public to use the center as a shelter in emergencies.

"They just don't want the building messed up," said Spears. He and White also said that the senior center and Red Cross staff had been left out of the process of choosing a shelter, even though the directors of both

See Shelter, 3A

City seeks grant to improve park

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

Patriot's Park, located in downtown Kings Mountain, hosts many events throughout the year. With the downtown area of the city being revitalized and improved through the downtown incentive plan and the new murals, the park is also going to be made into a nicer place for citizens to gather.

Right now, city officials are looking at a plan to make the park more people friendly, said Mayor Rick

Murphrey. The park will be made more accessible to the public with more benches, picnic tables, and trees.

"With more and more activity there, we want to make sure it's a safe area," said Murphrey.

The park improvement plan is part of the plan to make Kings Mountain more accessible to the public, he said. The plan, known as "active living by design," also includes making more bike paths, greenways, and sidewalks to better connect

See Park, 3A

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

Jordan a minister, music's his tool

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

"I do not call myself a musician. I feel, first of all, I am a minister who happens to use music as a ministry tool," said Morris Jordan, Music Minister and Minister to Senior Adults at First Baptist Church in Kings Mountain. "My calling to be a minister comes above any accolades I may receive as a musician."

Jordan has served full time as a music minister for 41 years and another three years as a part time music minister, while he was in school. February 1 will mark the end of his 16th year at First Baptist Church.

Jordan graduated from Carson-Newman College with a BA in church music and a minor in English in 1961. He also earned his MA in music education from Appalachian State in 1966. He specialized in voice at both schools, although he played the trumpet in high school and the French horn in his college band. In fact, he still plays the French horn in the church's wind ensemble.

Jordan's job in Kings Mountain involves coordinating the activities and ministries of the senior adults, as well as overseeing the music in the church. He doesn't direct all of the music groups at the church because there are so many of them. He does direct

See Jordan, 3A



MORRIS JORDAN

Smallpox vaccinations will begin in February

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

Cleveland County Health Department workers may see the first stage of smallpox vaccinations soon.

Although the first stage of vaccinations is expected to begin this week throughout the United States, Cleveland County will probably have to wait until mid-February. The vaccinations are a part of the plan set forth by the Bush administration as part of Homeland Security.

The smallpox vaccinations

will be given in three stages. The first stage will probably take place in mid-February in Cleveland County and will include certain workers in the health department, said Gay Melton, RN and Adult Health Nursing Supervisor in the health department. Melton is also over the immunization department in Cleveland County.

In the second stage of the process, vaccinations will be offered to other people in

See Smallpox, 2A



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