

KINGS MOUNTAIN

The Herald

Thursday, December 4, 2003 Vol. 115 No. 49 Since 1889 50 Cents

*****CAR-RT LOT**C 008
307 11-11-05 0001A00 9P 85
MAUNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY
100 S PIEDMONT AVE
KINGS MOUNTAIN NC 28086-3414

defeat Clover
for first win

8A



CHRISTMASTIME IN THE CITY



Tree lighting ushers in Christmas season

The Christmas season is officially under way in Kings Mountain. Hundreds of children and adults (top photo) came out Monday night for the annual tree lighting celebration at Mauney Memorial Library. Ashley Cain (right) talks with Kirstin Postell following the ceremony. Both are fourth grade students at East Elementary School.



KM's Accor to chair CC commission

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners elected its first woman chairperson Tuesday night. Commissioners unanimously selected Mary Accor for that position.

Accor called it "one of the highest milestones of my life."

"I'm honored to be your chairman," she told a packed commission chambers.

"I want to stop and honor God because He is first in my life. Without Him this would not be possible."

Accor then asked several people to stand including her husband, father, sisters, administrative assistant, pastor and members of the Commission for Women. She also took time to remember her late mother.

"I wish she could have been here."

Outgoing board chairman Willie McIntosh nominated Accor and Ronnie Hawkins made the second.

"I appreciate your confidence in electing me. I will not disappoint you with

God's help," Accor told the board.

Board members praised her.

"It's been a true honor working with you over the past three years," McIntosh said.

He called the board unique in that members have respect for one another. Hawkins said he was proud to be a member of the board.

Accor received a standing ovation from the crowd.

She is the first African-American woman to serve on the board. One female, Joyce Cashion, has served on the board previously.

Accor heads up administrative services for Kings Mountain District Schools. She administers Title 1 funds, supervises guidance counselors, coordinates the Summer Academy, directs performance based licensure for beginning teachers, assists with teacher recruitment, hires substitute teachers, acts as a district office contact for Project TEACH and coordinates community relations.

Accor was principal at Bethware for eight years. Before that she served as principal of the alternative school during its first year. She was in the classroom for eight years also. Accor grad

See Accor, 3A



ACCOR

KM, Grover parades Saturday

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Christmas parades will take place Saturday in Grover and Kings Mountain.

The Grover parade, sponsored by the Women's Club, will start at noon. Line up begins at 11 a.m. at Spring Acres.

The route will travel up Main Street, right on Laurel, right on Mulberry, left on Cleveland to First Baptist

where the parade ends.

There is no application fee or theme. Participants should call Evelyn Willis at 704-937-9047 to let her know how many spaces their entry will require. Participants are allowed to throw candy to spectators.

The Grover Fire Department and Rescue Squad are assisting with the parade.

Martha "Mott" Turner, a Grover native, will be the

grand marshal. Mrs. Turner has been very active in the Grover Women's Club, selling pinto bean supper tickets and cookbooks. She was the second highest selling member for the club's two cookbooks.

Mrs. Turner has two children, Johnny Turner and Vickie Prost, both of Simpsonville, S.C. She has two grandchildren who are both in college.

"We are so proud that she

committed to be Grover's grand marshal," said Evelyn Willis of the women's club. "Mott loves her church and her town of Grover. She has been so helpful in the Grover Area Women's Club."

Some of the entrants include Little Angels Daycare, ABC Printing, Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, Cleveland County Commissioners, St.

See Parades, 3A

Public meeting December 11 on proposed trail system link

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

The public is invited to hear about a proposed trail system linking the city with three nearby parks Dec. 11. The 7 p.m. meeting will be held at the Patrick Senior Center.

Three trails starting in the City of Kings Mountain will connect with a ridgeline trail running between Crowders Mountain and Kings Mountain state parks and Kings Mountain National Military Park.

City officials say the trails will help the town capitalize on its natural, historical and cultural resources.

"Those three things are what make a community unique. It's very important to our economic development," said Steve Killian, city planner.

The National Park Service named the city a Gateway to its park after Kings Mountain National Military Park Superintendent Erin Broadbent and Mayor Rick

Murphrey applied for the designation. Kings Mountain was among 13 towns in the southeast to be accepted into the program.

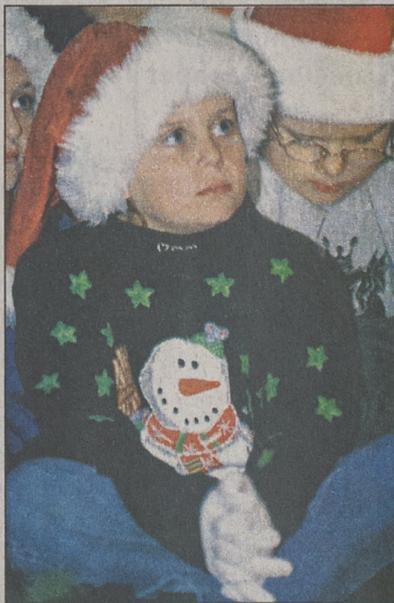
According to Murphrey, 500,000 visit the two Kings Mountain parks annually. He hopes the trail system will bring some of those people into town.

Gaston County is now working on the ridgeline trail between the three parks. Before the three trails originating in Kings Mountain can be built, easements must be secured from approximately eight property owners.

Murphrey does not anticipate a problem getting those easements.

The city owned Davidson and City lakes, a Boy Scout camp and the former Foote Chemical are located where trails will run along with some individually owned property. A bridge over Interstate 85 is located on the Foote property. Killian calls that "invaluable." It cost \$3.1 million to build a similar

See Trail, 3A



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD
West Elementary fourth grader Carolina Baker listens to Mayor Rick Murphrey read the Christmas story at Monday's tree lighting ceremony at Mauney Memorial Library.

KM native murdered in Florida last week

Two well-known local families this week are mourning the tragic death of their daughter and sister in Florida.

Kings Mountain native Karla Smith Van Dusen and her husband, Richard Van Dusen, were murdered Wednesday, November 26 near Tampa, FL.

"Mrs. Van Dusen was the daughter of former Mayor

Kyle Smith of Kings Mountain and Billie Farris of Shelby. She was the step-daughter of Mikie Smith of Kings Mountain and was the sister of Mark Smith of Kings Mountain, Michael Smith of Youngsville and Lee Farris of Shelby.

Mrs. Farris, who is a well-known business woman in the area, recently moved

See Murder, 3A

Council accepts financial audit

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

The City of Kings Mountain voted to accept its financial audit during last week's meeting with council member Gene White the lone dissenter.

White wanted to wait until the Dec. 16 meeting to give council an opportunity to review the report. The audit was distributed one day prior to last Tuesday's meeting.

In a weekly memo to council, City Manager Phil Ponder recommended waiting until the Dec. 16 meeting to vote.

White presented a list of questions to present and incoming council members regarding the audit. He plans to review those questions during the Dec. 16 meeting.

Among the questions was a request for elaboration on internal controls and testing processes for billing of accounts receivable.

In an interview earlier this week, White focused on how industrial rate customers are billed. The city uses a multiplier of 10 on their accounts. According to White, a clerical error could easily distort the amount these customers are billed.

White will ask the auditor to compare the general fund balances between this year and last year. According to a city

See Audit, 3A



FIRST NATIONAL BANK
Celebrating 129 Years

Kings Mountain
300 W. Mountain St.
704-739-4782

Gastonia
529 New Hope Road
704-865-1233

Shelby
106 S Lafayette St.
704-484-6200

Bessemer City
225 Gastonia Hwy.
704-629-3906