

# The Herald

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**INSIDE**



MORGAN CHILDERS

**Pitchers open with no-hitters**

Kings Mountain High School softball and Kings Mountain Middle School baseball pitchers hurled no-hitters in season opening action last week. Morgan Childers and Kristyn Funderburke combined for a no-hit, 15-0 win for Kings Mountain High's women's softball team over South Point in Belmont Wednesday; and Jeffry Howell, Chris Williams and Jonathan Allen combined for a no-hit, 11-0 win in KM Middle School's baseball team's opening season game at Clover, SC. Page 1B

**Crosswalk set in downtown KM**

The fifth annual Easter passion play Crosswalk will be held in downtown Kings Mountain March 17, 18 and 19. Page 3A

**Women honor Christenson**

Well-known Kings Mountain resident Myrtle Christenson has been named winner of the Kings Mountain Woman's Club "Clubwoman With A Heart" Award. Page 3A

**Life Enrichment notes first year**

The Neisler Life Enrichment Center celebrated its first year in Kings Mountain last week. Page 6A

**Explorer Post learns cop work**

Teens interested in a career in law enforcement are learning the ropes through participation in the Kings Mountain Police Explorers Post. Page 6A

**Grover to create police department**

Grover Town Council Monday night voted 4-1 to create its own police department. Page 7A

**Edwards named to advocacy panel**

Morgan Edwards, executive director of the downtown revitalization group, has been appointed by the Treasury Department to serve on the nationwide Taxpayer Advocacy Panel. Page 6A

## Kings Mountain mourns death of retired fire chief Gene Tignor

By GARY STEWART  
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain said goodbye to one of its true heroes Tuesday when retired fire chief Gene Tignor was laid to rest at Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Tignor died Saturday following a six-month battle with cancer. He was 81.

Friends and co-workers remember him as a true gentleman, community-spirited individual and a dedicated Christian who went about being a servant in the truest sense of the word.

He was the first paid fire chief for the City of Kings Mountain, serving in a paid capacity from 1973 until his retirement in 1989, but he was a volunteer for many years prior.

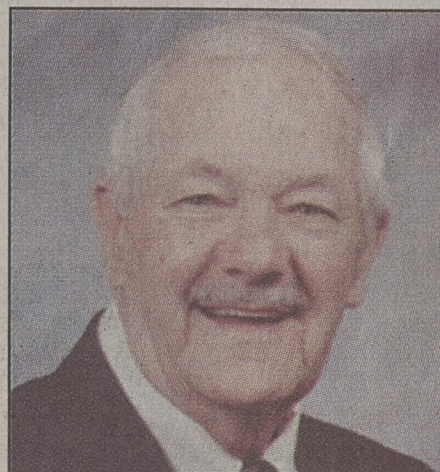
In his capacity as fire chief, he organized numerous programs to benefit the community, especially young people. Prior to the city hiring a public activities director, the fire department organized the town's Christmas parades, helped with other events such as Mountaineer Days, and during Tignor's tenure had a program called "Toys for Tots" in which firemen solicited and repaired old bicy-

cles to give to needy children at Christmas.

The Kings Mountain Fire Museum on Cleveland Avenue was Tignor's idea. He and other firemen and other citizens donated their time to build the building, repair old fire trucks for display, and equip the inside of the building.

John Henry Moss, who was mayor during Tignor's tenure as fire chief, called him "a wonderful human being and a willing contributor to all good causes."

Moss said he first met Tignor in 1946 when he played outfield for See Tignor, 5A



GENE TIGNOR

**FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN**



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

A burned stump smolders in the wake of a fire at Crowders Mountain State Park Monday. Fire fighters contained the fire though officials say it will be some time before it is completely extinguished.

## Wind downs power lines, over 200 acres burned

By ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

High winds downing power lines are blamed for starting two fires Monday afternoon.

Between 100 and 150 acres of woods along Marita Lane and 116 acres inside Crowders Mountain State Park caught fire.

The Marita Lane fire was caused when a tree fell onto an electric line causing it to arch, according to

Kings Mountain Fire Chief Frank Burns. The department was called out at 2:45 p.m. Fire fighters fought the blaze for three hours keeping the flames away from nearby mobile homes.

Around the same time Kings Mountain fire fighters helped fight the Crowders Mountain blaze. Officials say winds caused a power line to snap starting the fire.

Dry conditions, 30 to 40 mile per hour winds and the fire spreading

uphill all contributed to the size of the blaze, according to Park Ranger Kelly Cooke. The fire reached Kings Pinnacle. At times the flames moved 20 feet in five seconds

Fire fighters started a controlled fire to burn underbrush ahead of the main fire's path cutting of its fuel source. While the fire is contained, it will not be out for possibly weeks.

No prescribed or controlled burns had been done to Crowders

See Fire, 10A

## Satellite early voting site proposed at KM depot

By ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain residents may be able to vote early locally during the November municipal election.

Wes Westmoreland presented a plan to the Cleveland County Board of Elections last week which named early voting satellite sites in Kings Mountain, Boiling Springs and upper Cleveland. The board may vote on the plan April 6.

The local site would be located inside the Kings Mountain Arts Center, also known as the old depot. The Patrick Senior Center and Mauney Memorial Library were named as alternate sites.

The plan calls for the satellite sites to be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the Monday through Friday prior to election day and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Saturday prior. A board of elections site in Shelby would be open 15 days prior to the election.

The county board of elections included in the budget it approved Monday enough money to keep three satellite sites open for 15 days. This does not mean 15 days must be adhered to, according to elections Chairman Steve Wells.

Wells said he wants a plan which both parties are happy with before submitting it for state approval. Wells is meeting with Westmoreland this week.

Westmoreland says he created the plan as an individual, not in his role as chairman of the county Republican Party. He did say that the county Democrat Party may suggest some changes.

Democrat Party Chairwoman Betsy Wells said she was "delighted to see the Republican Party is interested in allowing voters in

See Voting, 7A

**KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE**

## King does all for kids

By ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

On Monday morning Dr. Jane King read aloud to students in Connie Savell's North Elementary classroom.

The visit was a trip down memory lane for King. North Elementary was her first Kings Mountain teaching job. King came to Cleveland County from Franklin, a North Carolina mountain town where she had taught seventh and eighth grades.

At North she taught sixth and fourth grades before being asked to participate in a statewide program which would help mainstream classroom teachers work with exceptional children. Through the new role, King was able to get a masters degree from UNC-Charlotte.

King said the knowledge she gained about exceptional children has put them in an important place for her.

"We must do for all children," she said.

During that time she wrote diagnostic and prescriptive plans for teachers to use with exceptional students. The plans were precursors to today's individual education plans.

Later King worked briefly for the Southwest Educational Service Alliance in Albermarle. She returned to Kings Mountain as principal of West Elementary. Later she was moved back to North Elementary. For the last 15 years of her career, King worked as director of instruction for Kings Mountain District Schools. She also was an assistant superintendent.

During her career, she earned

an Ed.S. from Appalachian State University and a doctorate from UNC-Charlotte. The ASU program met in Gastonia. King and another administrator filled the last two slots available.

"I believe God works in my life," she said.

King attended UNC-Charlotte with school board members Steve Curtis and George Litton and Gaston Schools Superintendent Ed Saddler.

"We really encouraged one another," she said.

During the three years she worked on her doctorate, Kings father and nephew died and her mother became ill.

During her education career, King has watched curriculum planning develop. As a young teacher she used a text book as the curriculum guide.

See King, 10A



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD  
Dr. Jane King reads "Aunt Chip and the Great Triple Creek Dam Affair" to students in Connie Savell's classroom at North Elementary School Monday.