

Gracie Hopper  
enjoys the  
slopes.



# Kings Mountain Herald

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## Iceman Cometh

Kings Mountain digging out after snow and ice storm hit region Monday



Cleveland County residents awoke Monday morning to a blanket of snow. The winter storm, fueled by a low pressure system from the Carolina coast which mixed with arctic air, dumped around five inches of snow in and around Kings Mountain by Monday afternoon. And come nightfall, the snow was glazed with sheets of ice as flakes turned into freezing rain and sleet.

For motorists, traveling was slow going. For the city's Public Works Department and the North Carolina Department of Transportation the snow and ice posed more work. Teachers had to put a pin in final exams and students got an extra break.

Gov. Bev Perdue declared a State of Emergency on Monday for the entire state because of the storm, readying to call in the National Guard and other reinforcements if needed.

With temperatures predicted to dip into the teens each night this week, forecasters were reminding citizens Monday that whatever melts may refreeze creating precarious travel conditions each morning.

Schools were closed in Cleveland County on Monday and Tuesday as kids were given an extra two days to study for final exams scheduled for this week. But the storm-imposed break will

See THAWING OUT, 6A

### Surviving the storm

Forecasters predicted that sleet and freezing rain Monday night would lead to a glazing of ice, which threatened power lines and tree limbs.

If a fallen power line does happen to fall on your vehicle while you are inside it or if there is no way to avoid driving over a downed line, do not get out of the car and do not touch anything metal, officials warn.

Motorists are also cautioned to avoid trying to drive underneath low-hanging frozen limbs or power lines.

As Cleveland County thaws out from inches of ice-glazed snow, residents are encouraged to exercise caution.

• If at all possible, do not drive until roads are cleared.

See TIPS, 6A

## MPI takes on NC Main Street agenda

By EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

Community leaders and volunteers of Mountaineer Partnership Inc. are rolling up their sleeves and tackling a "to do list" of recommendations provided by the North Carolina Main Street Center. Priority number one - revive downtown.

Over the next six months, MPI members will be working on areas of promotion, organization, economic restructuring and design - the Main Street Center's four-point approach to downtown revitalization.

But first, they'll attend a conference, learning new techniques and marking their first anniversary in the program.

On Jan. 26-28, MPI members and downtown officials will be joining around 400 others from cities and towns throughout the state in Shelby at the NC Main Street Annual Conference.

One local businessman will be honored with a special Main Street Champion Award for Kings Mountain.

The three-day convention will feature professionals speaking on topics such as effective advertising, marketing and preservation. And perhaps the best part for Kings Mountain, being a part of the NC Main Street Program, the help is free.

Officials of the North Carolina Main Street Program and state department of commerce visited Kings Mountain last July, studying downtown properties, its as-

sets and features. A couple of months later, officials returned with a 70-page packet of recommendations of things to work on to help downtown grow.

In December, MPI board members approved work plans for each committee charged with tackling the program's four-point approach to revitalization. Over the next six months, the teams will take on the first three objectives in each category proposed by NC Main Street officials.

The Promotion team, manned by Jim Champion, Reg Alexander, Jeff Grigg, Stuart Thompson, Gregg Johnson, Ginger Ervin and Ron Isbell will work on the first steps of advancing

downtown.

MPI Executive Director Adam Hines said that the team will be rebranding the downtown organization with a new name, logo and image. The promoters will be developing a quarterly newsletter to be distributed in print and electronic form.

The team will develop a website, listing available properties and other information about downtown, including helpful news for consumers on where to shop and for businesses looking to relocate.

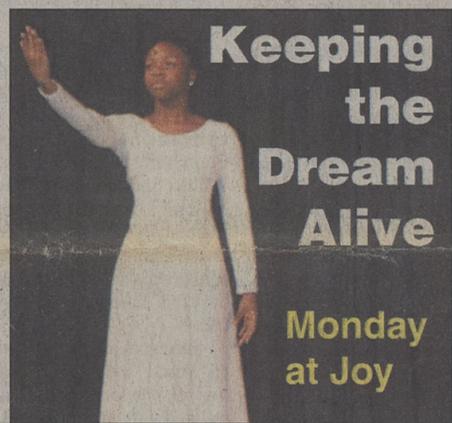
Hines said that the team will develop a downtown asset inventory and business directory, including the location of features like Patriots Park and the Gateway Trail.

Working together, MPI and The Herald will host an advertising workshop open to all KM businesses at the Joy Theatre on Feb. 15. The event, centered on effective advertising techniques, will kick off a buy-local campaign.

Ken Pflieger, Mitch Johnson, Bobby Horne, Camiel Bradshaw, Bernice Chappell and Ben Hubbard make up the Design team. They are currently creating a building and open space inventory of all public and private spaces downtown, according to Hines.

He said that they are looking at which properties are historic, which ones have

See MPI, 6A



Keeping  
the  
Dream  
Alive

Monday  
at Joy

Octavia Gill dances to a lyrical movement at the Joy Theatre "Keeping the Dream Alive"

Rev. Lamont Littlejohn, pastor of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, will be the keynote speaker at the annual Martin Luther King Day observance Monday, Jan. 17, at 6 p.m. at Joy Performance Center in downtown Kings Mountain.

The City of Kings Mountain sponsors the community-wide program to which the public is invited.

Shana Adams will be soloist and the choir of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church and lyrical dancers will perform. Donna Huie-Brooks will be emcee.

A rendition of Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech, delivered originally at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, will be presented by Lester Williams.

## Laying a foundation for improvements



Hometown Hardware owner Howard Elmore, right, helps workers pour the concrete foundation for his store's new entrance. Left to right, Jim Swanson, Kyle Elmore and John Friday work the concrete mix.

By EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

In January 2010, Mountaineer Partnership Inc. and the City of Kings Mountain were awarded a \$250,000 grant for three businesses to expand their operations in downtown. One of those businesses was setting the foundations for its improvements last Friday.

A concrete mixer backed up to the front of Hometown Hardware Friday afternoon as the first drops of rain began to fall. A winter storm was on the way. Hometown Hardware owner Howard Elmore was anxious to get the concrete poured before it came.

The hardware store, which has operated in downtown since 1971 (first as Phifer Hardware and then as Hometown Hardware), was granted \$25,000 of the quarter-of-a-million award to enhance its front entrance. Elmore said that he was glad to get the money to help him do it.

Hometown Hardware is housed in an industrial building on the corner of King Street and Railroad Avenue. It's been there for 17 years, but Elmore said that to newcomers in town or to the naked eye it could be hard to

See HOMETOWN HARDWARE, 3A



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