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Kings Mountain HERALD

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JINGLE BELL RUN - The soggy day on Saturday didn't stop the Jingle Bell Run sponsored by the Kings Mountain Family YMCA. Runners are pictured along with a crowd of supporters at the starting line and finishing line in the First Baptist Church parking lot. Photo by ELLIS NOELL

Walmart opens today

The new Walmart Neighborhood Market opens Wednesday (today) following a brief ribbon-cutting ceremony at 7:30 a.m. at 1101 Shelby Road.



Sue Jones

The grand opening celebration will include presentation of \$8,000 in grants from Walmart to local community groups.

A big Family Welcome is planned by Walmart on Saturday from noon until 3 p.m. with face painting, cupcake decorating and free food samples while they last.

The new store is approximately 41,000 square feet and offers a wide

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Parade skips soggy Saturday for sunny Sunday

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The Kings Mountain Christmas Parade would be delayed by rainy weather, but it could not be denied.

Floats representing local groups -- including churches, teams, bands, dance troupes and small and large businesses alike -- coursed through the city streets under clear and sunny skies on Sunday afternoon after the city postponed the popular event originally slated for Saturday.

The parade -- a longtime Christmas tradition in town drew a healthy crowd along its 1.1-mile route as young and old alike could be seen competing for the best view (and the best candy) all along the traditional route that winds from City Hall through Battleground Ave. and down along King St. until close to York Rd. The Kings Mountain High

School marching band provided a moving concert along the route, while a host of pageant winners, elected officials and dancers enlivened the crowds that lined the street.

Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey led the line of floats and cars. He was joined by Police Chief Melvin Proctor, Kings Mountain Fire Chief Frank Burns, a number of Kings Mountain City Council members, Cleveland County Board of Education members and N.C. State Representative Tim Moore.

Car clubs, football teams and cheerleading squads rounded out the list of marchers and float passengers.

The parade's traditional final piece was Santa Claus, who probably threw more candy than anyone else.

City organizers felt compelled to put the parade off one day when the area

awoke Saturday morning to gray skies and a persistent mix of rain and drizzle. "The city was ready to go on this, but unfortunately the weather was so miserable we felt it would be best if rescheduled," said Ellis Noell, the city's special events director, who added that the rescheduling probably cost the parade a handful of participants due to schedule conflicts that could not be avoided.

"My optimism had waned by around lunchtime when it looked like we were going to get rain most of the day." To the entrants' and crowd's delight, mother nature had a complete turnaround within 24 hours, when the parade opened Sunday to bright and sunny skies and warmer temperatures than Saturday.

"I saw a good turn out, which I think was helped by clear skies and overall good weather," Noell said.



Karen Tucker, deputy city clerk, with Ellis Noell

And for some the schedule switch was serendipitous.

"I'm glad it moved," said Bessemer City resident Drew Lisman. "I wouldn't have come if they held it (Saturday) when it was so wet and cold. This is better anyway."

As in years past, the parade was videotaped by Cleveland Community

College and will be shown at various times this week on C-19. Hosts of the show are Scott Neisler and Cleveland County Board of Education member Shearra Miller. KTC Broadcasting will also stream the parade on its website, www.ktc-broadcasting.com.

More Parade photos, Page 12

Elderly lady sleeps through burglary

A 86-year-old woman slept through first degree burglary at her home early Thursday morning.

Kings Mountain police said the woman woke up about 2:30 a.m. to find that someone had come into her home and left with a 43 inch Samsung Plasma TV and a air conditioner.

The woman told KMPD Officer J. L. Dee that she woke up to turn up the heat in her house and found that both a window and door were open and her television set and air conditioner missing.

The incident remains under investigation by police.



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Consultant working with Grover board

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GROVER - "We are a small municipality and a consultant we have hired will help us weigh-in on internal control issues," Mayor J. D. Ledford said after Monday night's city council meeting at which Lithia E. Brooks of Oak Island was present to give a progress report after a short time on the job.

Brooks specializes in local government finance and

administration and is a retired finance director for Stanly and Brunswick Counties.

Brooks will be working with town staff, the town auditor, the Local Government Commission, and the Internal Revenue Service to iron out issues the board is facing.

"She will be giving us a lot of education and training too," said the mayor.

Ledford said the crux of the matter the board is facing

See CONSULTANT, Page 7

City of Bessemer City eyeing change in charter

The city council of Bessemer City is considering changing its charter to allow the mayor and council members to serve four year staggered terms.

Public hearing will be conducted by Mayor Becky Smith at 7 p.m. on Jan. 12, 2015 in Council Chambers.

If passed, the three council members who receive the highest number of votes in the November 2015 election will serve four year terms and the three council members who receive the least amount of

votes in the November 2015 election will serve two year terms.

After the November election the six council seats will be staggered from using this method one time only to go from unstaggered to staggered terms.

Council approved Monday night a resolution of intent to amend the City of Bessemer City charter to stagger the council members terms of office and to amend the office of the mayor's term of office from two to four years.

Roberts celebrates 100th birthday Sunday

ELIZABETH STEWART
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Louise Hambright Roberts, 100 on Tuesday, isn't ready for the rocking chair yet.

The spry century-old senior citizen has an infectious sense of humor and a positive attitude that belies her years.

She enjoys life and looks forward to greeting friends at her birthday bash Sunday from 2-4 p.m. at Kings Mountain Baptist Church.

Louise has her own personal trainer two days a week. "I kick with the left foot and kick with the right," laughs Louise. She has her silver hair styled and nails manicured every week at the beauty parlor. And,



Louise Roberts

wonder of wonders, she has no wrinkles.

Longevity runs in her family. Her sister, Aileen Cantrell of Atlanta, is 97; her sister Bess Phifer of Kings Mountain is 96; her sister, Lucy Kinard died at age 93; her brother, Anderson Hambright of the Antioch Community is 93; her

sister, Sue Hambright Drye and brother, Tom Hambright, reside at the Hambright homeplace in the Antioch Community and a brother, Lawrence Hambright, is deceased.

Born on a farm in the Antioch Community near Grover, she is the oldest of eight children of the late Ethel and Tom Hambright. She is the widow of Eugene Roberts and they operated a grocery store in Kings Mountain on N. Piedmont Avenue for a number of years. Her job was washing and starching white aprons every day, ironing them, and keeping them fresh for her husband to put on in the store.

See ROBERTS, Page 6

Letters to Santa in next week's issue



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