

Capital roll call

A look at how our area's state legislators voted in Raleigh during the past week.

N.C. House

HB147 — Hospital Temporary Bed Increases (Concurrence Vote): Permits a hospital to temporarily increase its bed capacity after notifying the Division of Facility Services and directs the Medical Care Commission to adopt temporary rules for the licensing of neonatal care beds. Adopted 109-0. Sent to the governor for approval. YES: Mitchell, Setzer, Frank Mitchell.

HB189 — Repeal Fisheries Sunsets: Authorizes the Coastal Resources Commission to adopt temporary rules to establish exceptions to the 30-foot buffer requirement along public trust and estuarine waters, allows structural modifications to piers to prevent or minimize storm damages and extends the time that temporary rules to protect the water quality and riparian buffers in the Catawba River Basin. Adopted 103-4. Sent to the governor for approval. YES: Setzer, F. Mitchell.

HB1070 — Trustee and Estate Changes (Concurrence Vote): Amends the provisions for the resignation, removal and renunciation of estate trustees and for the

appointment of appointment of successor trustees. Adopted 101-0. Sent to the governor for approval. YES: Setzer, F. Mitchell.

SB281 — Pass-Through Tax Credits: Allows a pass-through entity to allocate a housing tax credit to any of its owners at the discretion of the pass-through entity. Adopted 38-0. Sent to the House for consideration. YES: Cal Cunningham. EXCUSED ABSENCE: Jim Forrester.

SB241 — Health Insurance Termination Notice (Concurrence Vote): Increases the penalty to a felony for an insurance fiduciary to cause termination of group health or life insurance coverage by nonpayment of premium without giving notice to members of the group. Adopted 45-0. Sent to the governor for approval. YES: Cunningham, Forrester.

SB247 — Clean Water Bonds (Concurrence Vote): Delays the issuance of bonds authorized for community and supplemental grants and establishes new criteria for the award grants administered by the Rural Economic Development Center. Adopted 38-0. Sent to the governor for approval. YES: Cunningham, Forrester.

SB1002 — Campaign Finance Enforcement (Conference Report): Permits the State Board of Elections to seek civil penalties of three times the amount of an illegal contribution from donors making or candidates accepting illegal contributions. Adopted 105-2. Sent to the governor for approval. YES: Setzer, F. Mitchell.

N.C. Senate

SB281 — Pass-Through Tax Credits: Allows a pass-through entity to allocate a housing tax credit to any of its owners at the discretion of the pass-through entity. Adopted 38-0. Sent to the House for consideration. YES: Cal Cunningham. EXCUSED ABSENCE: Jim Forrester.

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SB1002 — Campaign Finance Enforcement (Conference Report): Permits the

State Board of Elections to seek civil penalties of three times the amount of an illegal contribution from donors making or candidates accepting illegal contributions. Adopted 43-2. Sent to the governor for approval. YES: Cunningham, Forrester.

HB1070 — Trustee and Estate Changes (Senate Version): Amends the provisions for the resignation, removal and renunciation of estate trustees and for the appointment of appointment of successor trustees. Adopted 37-0. Sent back to the House for concurrence.

HB1147 — Hospital Temporary Bed Increases (Senate Version): Permits a hospital to temporarily increase its bed capacity after notifying the Division of Facility Services and directs the Medical Care Commission to adopt temporary rules for the licensing of neonatal care beds. Adopted 45-0. Sent back to the House for concurrence. YES: Cunningham, Forrester.

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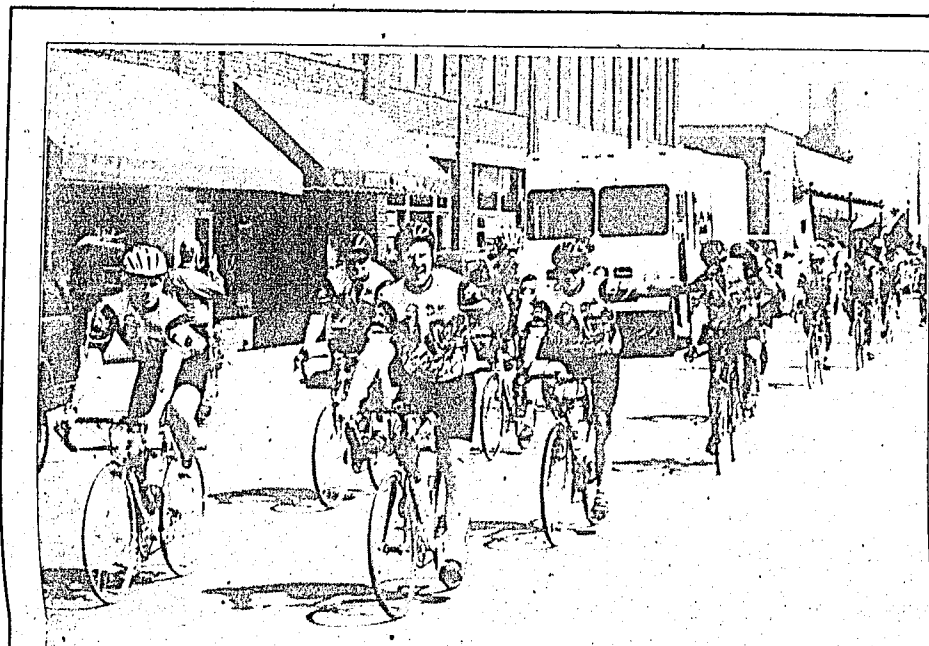
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Riding for United Way

These bicyclists, all employees of the The Williams Companies of America, pedal through downtown Mooresville on a company relay ride from New York to Houston. Last week's ride raised awareness — and nearly to \$20 million — for United Way across the U.S. Representatives of Williams presented a check for \$200,000 to the Mooresville-South Iredell United Way, representing a dollar-for-dollar match of local pledges received by Mooresville-South Iredell United Way for the 2001 campaign.

Noted scholar to lecture on Dead Sea Scrolls at Davidson

James C. VanderKam, a distinguished scholar in the field of ancient world history, will present Davidson College's Old Testament Studies' lectures on "The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible" today and Thursday.

The presentations begin at 7:30 p.m. in the C. Shaw Smith room of the Alvarez College Union. Admission is free.

VanderKam is the John A. O'Brien professor of Hebrew Scriptures at the University of Notre Dame. He received his B.A. degree from Calvin College in 1968, studied at Calvin Theological Seminary, and received his Ph.D. from Harvard University.

VanderKam's areas of scholarly interest are the history and literature of Early Judaism and the Hebrew Scriptures. His research in the last decade has focused on the Dead Sea Scrolls, and he is a member of the editorial committee that is preparing the editions of the remaining unpublished scrolls.

For more information, call 704-894-2263.

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Marking an anniversary of triumph

By BYRON CROWLEY
Special to the Tribune

The Battle of Kings Mountain, fought on Oct. 7, 1780, was a pivotal one in America's quest for independence. It lasted only an hour, but it caused a domino effect of its that tumbled the British.

Lord Cornwallis' trusted officer, Maj. Patrick Ferguson, was killed and the left wing of Cornwallis' army was destroyed. It ended the Loyalist dominance in the Carolinas, halted the British advance into North Carolina, forced Lord Cornwallis to retreat from Charlotte into South Carolina, and gave Gen. Nathaniel Greene the time he needed to reorganize the American forces.

This short battle came about when Ferguson sent a proclamation to the mountain settlements, telling them to lay down their arms, or he would "lay waste the countryside with fire and sword."

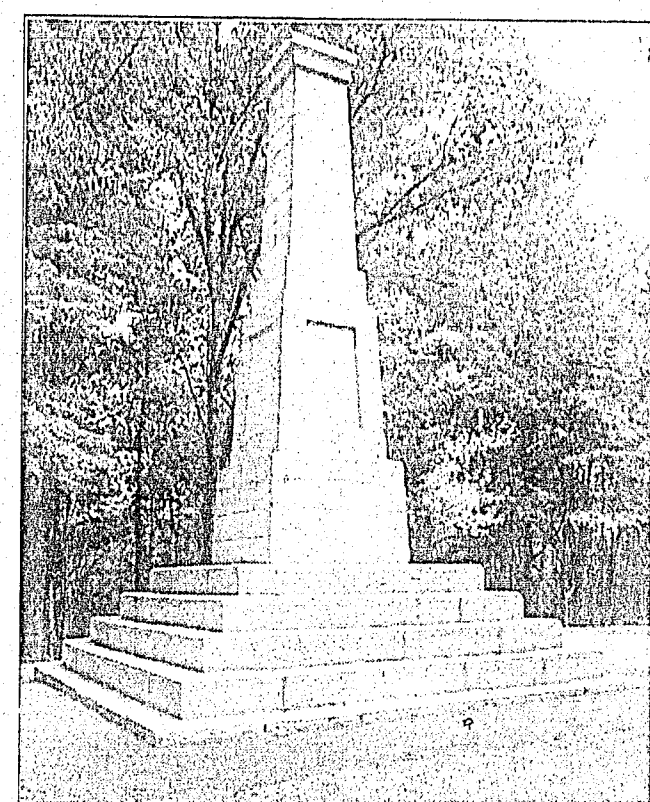
This caused the Overmountain men to pick sharpshooters from their ranks and cross the mountains from what is now Tennessee, western North Carolina, and southwestern Virginia, and a few men came from Georgia and South Carolina growing in numbers as they marched. They came to Kings Mountain

for one purpose — to find and eliminate Ferguson. And this they did.

President Herbert Hoover placed Kings Mountain with Bunker Hill, Lexington, Trenton, and Yorktown in the annals of American History. "As one of the crucial engagements in our long struggle for independence," In 1931 Congress established the Kings Mountain National Military Park.

On the 1.5-mile self-guiding loop Battlefield Trail you see both the Patriots' and the Loyalists' perspective of the battlefield, with markers depicting their locations. As the trail winds, look to the top of the ridge. There, 150 feet above the surrounding area, and silhouetted against the sky and few trees, Ferguson was an easy target for the Patriot sharpshooters. His entire command was either killed or captured.

Monuments to some of the fallen dot the trail. There's a granite memorial at Ferguson's cairn, honoring him as an officer of distinction, and a monument for Maj. Chronicle, the Virginian who led the North Carolina troops. Descendants of North and South Carolina troops paid for the 1880 Centennial Monument; and the Hoover Monument was dedicated on



1880 Centennial Monument paid for by descendants of N.C. and S.C. troops.

the 150th anniversary of the battle. The tall, stately U.S. Monument was dedicated by the federal government in 1929.

Leaders of the Overmountain men also served their new country well. John Sevier became Tennessee's first governor. Isaac Shelby, born in the Watauga region of North Carolina — and for whom the town of Shelby was named because Kentucky's first governor, Benjamin Cleveland, for whom Cleveland County is named, served as a civic leader and judge in North and South Carolina, and Georgia.

Next month, on Oct. 6 and 7, there will be an encampment at Kings Mountain, with reenactors, weapon drills and firing. A ceremony commemorating the victory at Kings Mountain on the 221st Anniversary begins at 3 p.m. with the arrival of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association members. A ceremony with a keynote speech will be held in the auditorium, followed by a wreath laying ceremony at the U.S. Monument.

If you're going From Mooresville take I-77 South to I-85 South to Exit 2 in North Carolina. Go south on NC 216 (Battleground Road), which becomes SC 216 (Hambright Road) at the state line, and follow this road into the park. It is approximately 65 miles from Mooresville.

The Visitors Center (864-936-7921) is open all year except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day Hours: Daily 9-5; no admission charge.

A 1909 U.S. monument at the military park (Photos by Byron Crowley)

Teacher education programs receive exemplary ratings

Seven of North Carolina's 47 teacher education programs received an exemplary rating and one received a low-performing rating in the third Performance Report on Teacher Education Programs for 2000-01, presented recently to the State Board of Education.

The seven exemplary institutions are Appalachian State University, Duke University, East Carolina University, Salem College, University of North Carolina-Greensboro, University of North Carolina-Pembroke and Western Carolina University. Shaw University received a low performing designation.

This report rates teacher education programs according to three overall criteria: compliance with state and national accreditation standards, the quality of program completers, and involvement with and service to public schools. Each program received points based on whether it met or exceeded each criterion and scores were totaled to determine which programs were designated Exemplary or Low Performing. Institutions receiving 135 points or greater were identified as Exemplary Institutions with 95 points or fewer (if all information was reported) or receiving less than 70 percent in each category of information were identified as Low Performing.

Overall trends outlined in the report showed that enrollment of undergraduate degree-seeking students was down slightly from 5,988 to 5,940 full-time students and from 503 part-time students to 496. At the same time, an increase occurred in the enrollment of students seeking to meet licensure requirements but not to receive a degree. Twenty-three percent of full-time students, in fact, are not seeking a four-year degree from the teacher education programs, signifying that they are prospective teachers who may

already possess four-year degrees in other fields.

Lateral entry teachers enrolled in one or more classes leading to licensure increased by approximately 32 percent from 2,123 in 2000 to 3,135 in 2001.

The grade point average for teacher education programs remains significantly above the 2.5 required for admission to the programs, signifying that the quality of potential teachers in the programs remains reasonably high.

State Board of Education Chairman Phillip J. Kirk Jr. challenged higher education institutions to use this report as a springboard to make needed improvements in their programs. "Just as our state's school accountability program has prompted local school systems to more carefully focus school improvement efforts, this report card can provide information to encourage our state's public and private universities and colleges to improve their programs," Kirk said.

The State Board of Education has the authority to approve or close teacher education programs in North Carolina.

Preparing this annual report card of teacher education programs requires local institutions to work closely with DPI teacher education officials to supply data and information.

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