

KINGS- SPORT TIMES NEWS

TUESDAY

Good morning from:
Abby Bishop
of Gate City.

Tomorrow:
Some students need extra help in order to master academic lessons. But how can parents find the tutor best suited to their child's needs? In Family.

Today
Today: High: 56 — Low: 42
• Mostly sunny skies. Clouding up with rain developing tonight.
Wednesday: High: 59 — Low: 42
• Showers likely.
Extended: Highs: 52-60 — Lows: 27-46
• Rain likely on Thursday, changing to a mix of clouds and sunshine Friday. Mostly sunny and mild Saturday.

Wednesday

Thursday

FAST ACTS
Americans who itemize deductions on their income tax returns typically give just over 3 percent of earnings to charity. The percentage has remained unchanged for the past three years, according to the Chronicle of Philanthropy.

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Parade honors MLK's legacy

■ 'He was a great American and challenged all of us to walk together and see each other as brothers and sisters.'

— Rev. Ronnie Collins

By **CHELSEA SHOUN**
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KINGS-SPORT — Martin Luther King Jr. would have been pleased with how he was remembered in Kingsport Monday, said the organizer of a parade held to honor the late civil rights advocate.

"I believe the legacy, the legacy of Dr. King as we stood together, really came through very well," said the Rev. Ronnie Collins, who organized the parade in downtown Kingsport.

More than 100 people turned out for the event, Collins said. Alderman Nathan Vaughn, Police Chief Mark Addington and various church leaders took part in the parade.

King, who advocated nonviolent protest and would have been 73 last week, was assassinated in 1968 in Memphis.

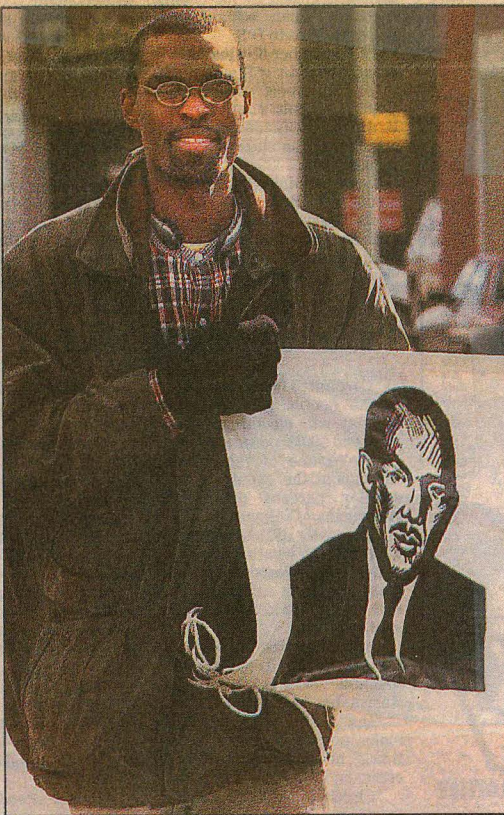
"It's not just a black thing, and it's not just that Dr. King was a great black American," Collins said.

"He was a great American and challenged all of us to walk together and see each other as brothers and sisters."

However, King would say American society still has a ways to go before truly seeing each other as equals, Collins said.

"And it's not just in Kingsport but in the region and country itself. We've come a long way in the last 30 years, but we have not come to the fruition of the true dream," Collins said.

Over the next year, Collins said he hopes some



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Stephen Harden was one of about 100 marchers who took part in Kingsport's Martin Luther King Day parade Monday.

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Parade honors MLK's legacy

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of the people who took part Monday will encourage others to attend 2003's parade.

"We're one of those areas throughout the country with a smaller percent of African Americans," Collins said.

"It's really difficult for us to keep up with what's going on in major cities. We're far behind what goes on in Atlanta, in D.C. and other major cities," he said.

Over the past five years, Collins said the Tennessee and Virginia Fellowship Against Racism has tried to catch up.

"But part of our job is to make people aware of situations," he said of the effort to commemorate King.

"Children are still looking for examples, not just football players and superstars they see on TV. They're looking for people of all ethnic origins working together," Collins said.

While Collins said he wasn't disappointed in Monday's turnout, it definitely could have been larger and included more younger people. About 40 students participated, he said.

"To me, there could have been 5,000," Collins said of the turnout.

"Those who don't have the day off aren't willing to sacrifice an hour's vacation time to go. We have to be more committed and have to think about taking off at least during parade time," he said of the noon event.

Also at Monday's event, 60 low-income families received turkeys and other foodstuffs to help them through the coldest time of the year.

"Today is not a day off. We should be doing things to do things in our society," Collins said. "We need to change our communities and do it in a positive way."

"Project Food for Winter 2002" will continue through March and is sponsored by My Brother's Keeper and Food City Stores.