



Attend Shriners Donkey Basketball Game Saturday At Community Center

Mounties
Sectional
Champions

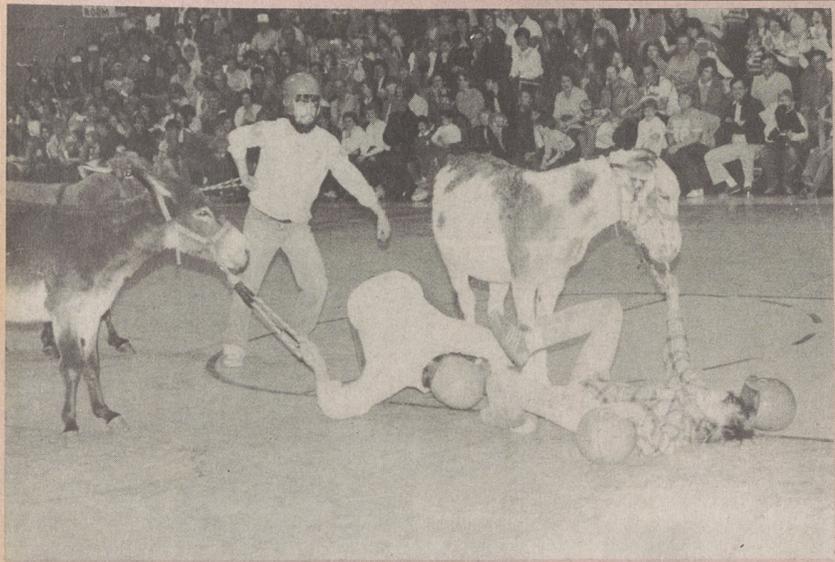
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Donkey game provides many spills...

Donkey Game Is Saturday

White Plains Shrine Club is billing their donkey ballgame as "the wildest and funniest show on earth" which comes to the Kings Mountain Community Center Saturday night at 7 p.m.

Kids of all ages are invited to come to the Community Center as early as 5 p.m. for rides on the donkeys and to enjoy concessions. Hot dogs and hamburgers with accessories will be sold and all proceeds from the event will benefit Shriners Crippled Children's Hospitals.

"You will be absolutely delighted as donkeys attempt to rid themselves of their riders during the ball game. The thrills,

laughter and surprises never ends at a donkey ball game. You will see your neighbors and friends attempt to ride donkeys that are specially trained for the game. Some have not been ridden very far even after hundreds of attempts", said Shiner Darvin Chastain.

The entire ballgame will be comedy filled but there is also a hilarious half time show.

Professional Animal Frolics will be producing the ball game for local Shriners for family entertainment for the whole family. "Come see the wildest and funniest show on earth and help a good cause", said Chastain.

Realtor Says KM Board Is Not Doing Its Homework

A candidate for city commissioner who lost by a close vote in the 1985 city election said Tuesday after the board tabled her request for gas line extension that "city commissioners are not doing their homework."

Mrs. Ruby M. Alexander, of Alexander Realty, had requested gas lines to run to five homes in the New Gold Run Subdivision her company is building in the Oak Grove Community. The request was tabled after Commissioner Norman King asked

if the state had installed casings across the U.S. 74 bridge at Piedmont, Waco Road and Cleveland Avenue interchanges and Gas Supt. Jimmy Maney was absent to answer his questions. "It would be very expensive", said King, if the casings under the road are not in place."

Commissioner Humes Houstin reminded commissioners that a letter in each commissioners meeting folder, presented by the Mayor, reported that the

city's gas engineers had reviewed the city's current gas demand and said there was sufficient capacity "to serve the Gold Run Subdivision with no problem." However, Commissioner Fred Finger questioned the "awful fast payback" anticipated on preliminary estimates of the project and Commissioner Harold Phillips asked for a detailed plan of cost of the project for 100 potential customers. Phillips asked the cost of a tap fee for outside city customers but Mayor Moss said he did not have the figures.

City Commissioner Corbet Nicholson said that the gas superintendent should be present to answer those questions. Commissioner asked for the cost of 1,000 cubic feet of residential gas to outside city customers and the Mayor could not give him the figures without a rate chart. Finger then made the motion, seconded by King, to call for a feasibility study with a detailed plan and cost estimate on the project to be on the agenda for the next month's meeting.

Mrs. Alexander said she had seen road drawings and plans and that castings were in place in all the areas questioned by the commissioners. She said 60 additional home sites are proposed at Gold Run.

A water tap request from Mike Brown, 1506 N. Canser St., was also tabled by the board for more study, but only after lengthy discussion between Codes Director Bob Davies, Brown and commissioners uncertain if Brown's development was being considered as a trailer park which the codes director says does not qualify. Davies also read a city ordinance which

with the attorney. Commissioner Harold Phillips said he had also been told that a retaining wall was included in the original agreement between the city and drug store. Thomasson said a misunderstanding had occurred, that engineers had installed retaining basins, not a retaining wall.

Propst said that his company had gone to additional expense of to complete catch basins and landscaping and that the adjoining property owner was cooperating, is satisfied, and his firm is abiding with its agreement with the city. Propst asked King if he had talked with Mrs. Bearden during the last 24-48 hours and King said he had talked to Mrs. Bearden about a week ago.

Propst said he wished that King had been conscientious enough to call her again before Tuesday's meeting and not use week old information. King said he resented Propst's remarks and that he had looked at the site himself and had strong reservations about voting for acceptance of the project.

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Only Four Speak At School Hearing

By GARY STEWART
Managing Editor

Only four of the estimated 25 citizens attending Tuesday night's public hearing for input into possible reorganization of the Kings Mountain schools grade structures spoke to the board.

The school board is considering re-organizing the grade structures when and if special funds become available for new school construction and refurbishing.

Over the past several months, Supt. Bob McRae and board members have discussed several options, including:

- *Building a new middle school to replace Central School, which has been judged as unsuitable for students. A new school would house the sixth and seventh grades;

- *Move the ninth grade from the junior to senior high, and move the sixth and seventh grades from Central to the junior high

- *Move the ninth grade to the high school, the seventh to the junior high, and the sixth to the five elementary schools;

- *Move the seventh grade to the junior high and the sixth to the elementary schools.

John Caveny Jr., Larry McDaniel, Linda Oliver and Carolyn Hicks, all residents of Kings Mountain, gave their opinions Tuesday. All leaned toward returning sixth graders to the elementary schools, which at present include grades kindergarten through five.

Caveny also encouraged the board to use the middle school concept to its fullest advantage.

"The middle school is an excellent idea," he said. "Unfortunately, it's not an idea that we've used to good advantage. More than anything else Central School has been a two-year holding tank."

Caveny noted that sixth graders are held "almost entirely apart from seventh graders" and that seventh graders who participate in sports do so at the junior high school. There is no school spirit, he said.

"There is no true middle school," he said. "If it's possible to incorporate a true middle school into the

system, I encourage you to do so."

Caveny said he felt the best reorganization option would be moving the sixth grade back to the elementary schools, having a seventh through ninth grade junior high and 10-12th senior high.

Caveny urged the board to take a look at the teaching and learning environment.

"There is some grouping according to achievement," he said. "I would suggest that in some cases attitude is more important than achievement. There are bright students with poor attitudes toward education who are preventing others from progressing properly. There are weaker students with a good attitude who are being held back by disruptive students. Reorganization should seek to remedy that situation as far as possible."

Caveny urged the board to poll teachers for their suggestions. "A teacher's primary job is to teach and the student's is to learn. Both should be allowed to function with as little interference as possible," he said. "The primary function of the school is to educate the students and all other considerations are secondary. Secondary considerations should not be allowed to interfere with that primary function."

Caveny said one of the biggest interferences is extracurricular activities, especially sports. He urged the board to take a serious look at the academic eligibility requirements for athletes. "Sports should be treated as a privilege," he said.

"If we're going to reorganize our schools, reorganize them well," he said. "Reorganize them in a way that encourages a good education and not just 12 years of attending classes."

McDaniel said he favored the sixth grade in elementary schools or in a middle school because of the big difference in size and maturity levels of sixth and eighth graders.

"There is a lot of difference in the maturity of a sixth and eighth grader," he said. "I can remember when I was in those grades and the pressure that was placed on the younger student by the upperclassmen. Those pressures take place today just as the did then."

"There's not that much difference (in the maturity) between seventh and eighth graders, but from the sixth to eighth grade there is a tremendous amount," he said.

Mrs. Moss said she felt most youngsters leaving the fifth grade are not ready emotionally to move to a middle school.

The mother of a Central School student said she felt the board should consider the maturity of the students when making decisions about reorganization.

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Good Friday Snow Day, School Calendar Approved

The Kings Mountain Board of Education amended its current calendar and adopted the calendar for 1987-88 at Monday's meeting at the Superintendent's Office.

Good Friday was approved as a makeup day for one of the three days missed because of bad weather. The other two days will be tacked on at the end of the year, making June 10 the last day for students.

Next year, teachers will begin school on August 13 and first day for students will be August 24. Final day for students will be June 3.

In other business Monday, the board:

- *Heard a report from

Assistant Superintendent Larry Allen on the comparison of salaries of classified personnel in the three county systems. He said secretaries, plant operation employees, and cafeteria employees rank behind the Shelby and Cleveland County systems while teacher aides salaries are slightly above. Supt. Bob McRae recommended, and the board approved, a plan to bring secretaries pay in line with other units as funds become available, and that the board continue to pursue ways to increase pay of persons in other categories.

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STUDENT EXHIBITS—Math and Science students from Grades 4-12 exhibited in the annual Math and Science Fair held at the Kings Mountain Woman's Club Friday afternoon. Judy Gibson, Junior High algebra and geometry teacher, above, admires the large and varied exhibits which filled the auditorium of the clubhouse and were open for public inspection.