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# Kings Mountain Herald

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KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C. 28086



**RECEIVES DIPLOMA** - Rusty Bumgardner receives his high school diploma from Principal Jackie Lavender in commencement exercises Tuesday night at Kings Mountain High School.

## Utility Committee To Ask City To Buy Computers

Hand-held computers for the city's meter readers to eliminate the time spent re-reading meters and replace a manual system were approved by the Kings Mountain Utilities Committee Tuesday as they held a long session in which they made recommendations for engineering proposals which will result in the next two years in mapping of the water and sewer system and a city-wide hydraulic analysis of the city distribution systems.

The proposals came on the recommendation of City Manager George Wood and City Engineer Tom Howard and will be made by the utilities to the full city council at the June 13 meeting.

Wood said that the cost items are budgeted, including \$19,000 for the four hand-held computers for meter readers; \$29,000 for a hydraulic analysis, including mapping of the existing water system; \$32,000 for system wide mapping of the city's sanitary sewer collec-

tion system and \$20,000 for manuals on standard specifications and construction details for the city.

David L. Pond, of W.K. Dickson & Co. Inc., the city's engineering consulting firm, will present the proposals to the full board at the June 13 meeting.

The utility board is recommending that Pond provide the engineering services, some of which are expected by December and some of

See Utility, 10-A

## Burns New KM Fire Chief

Training plays a big role in fire-fighting and Kings Mountain's new Fire Chief Frank Burns, 38, will promote more and more training when he assumes new duties July 1.

Burns, who has 16 years experience with the city and five years as Assistant Chief of the Volunteer department, was hired Tuesday by City Manager George Wood at annual salary of \$24,000.

Wood said extensive interviewing of a field of 15 applicants, then narrowed down to three city firemen,

has been conducted during the past several weeks. A review board was composed of Wood, retired Chief Gene Tignor, and fire chiefs from the adjoining towns of Cherryville and Lincolnton with Wood making the second round of final interviews.

Burns, a maintenance supervisor at Eaton Corporation for 10 years, is excited about his new job. A Kings Mountain native, he was a paid fireman from 1974-78, working under Chief Gene Tignor, and has

See Burns, 8-A

## Foote Mineral Taken Off Of Hazardous Waste List

Foote Mineral Company was removed Tuesday from a list of 85 sites identified by a state agency as an inactive hazardous waste site.

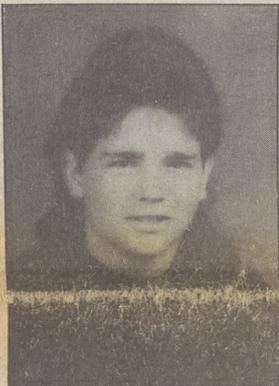
Charlotte Varlashkin, a spokesman for the Solid Waste Management Section within the Division of Health Services, said incorrect information from the Kings Mountain company indicated that Foote had on-site disposal which they do not. Varlashkin said Superfund will revise their ranking and remove Foote from the list.

Foote Mineral of Kings

Mountain, Fasco Controls Corp. of Shelby, Gaston County Dyeing Machine Co., Stanley and Mount Holly, and Lithium Corporation of America, Bessemer City, were all targeted by the state agency as having contaminated sites that must be cleaned up. Gaston and Cleveland Counties are home to two of the 1,173 most serious hazard area industries among 85 of 800 revised from a priority list.

Foote Mineral Company

See Foote, 3-A



CASEY JONES

## Accident Breaks Student's Neck

Casey Jones, 15, has put his summer plans "on hold" since an accident at Kings Mountain Junior High last Thursday.

Casey underwent surgery Friday after suffering a broken neck during "horseplay" with a friend during Physical Education class on the school playground. "We were wrestling," said Casey from his hospital bed at Gaston Memorial Hospital.

Casey said he was happy to be out of Intensive Care and into Room 535 where he has already had visits from his 9th grade classmates.

Casey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Jones of Kings Mountain, said he would begin therapy next week at Charlotte Rehabilitation Hospital.

He had planned to work at McDonald's this summer but he says those plans will have to be changed. Feeling bad during summer break is no fun, he admit-

ted, but he was glad to be recuperating.

"It will be awhile before I want to do any wrestling," he laughed.

Kings Mountain Junior High Principal Jerry Hoyle said the accident occurred on the school playground about 15 minutes before the bell ran for dismissal of classes on Thursday. "Our coaches were on top of the situation and kept the student still until help arrived from Emergency Medical Services and Casey was rushed to the hospital." As soon as Hoyle learned that Jones was moved from Intensive Care into a room he made the announcement on the intercom system at school and Casey started having calls and visits.

Casey said he hopes his friends will continue to come to see him at the hospital and after he returns home. "I appreciate their concern," he said.

## Hospital 'Cost Shift'

### 21¢ Of Every Dollar Helps Pay Someone's Bill

Twenty-one cents of every dollar appearing on the average North Carolina hospital patient's bill goes to pay for someone else's care, according to figures released by the North Carolina Hospital Association. The figures released cover 129 North Carolina general hospitals, including Kings Mountain Hospital, for 1987, the latest year for which such figures are available. Psychiatric hospitals and other specialty hospitals were not included in the report.

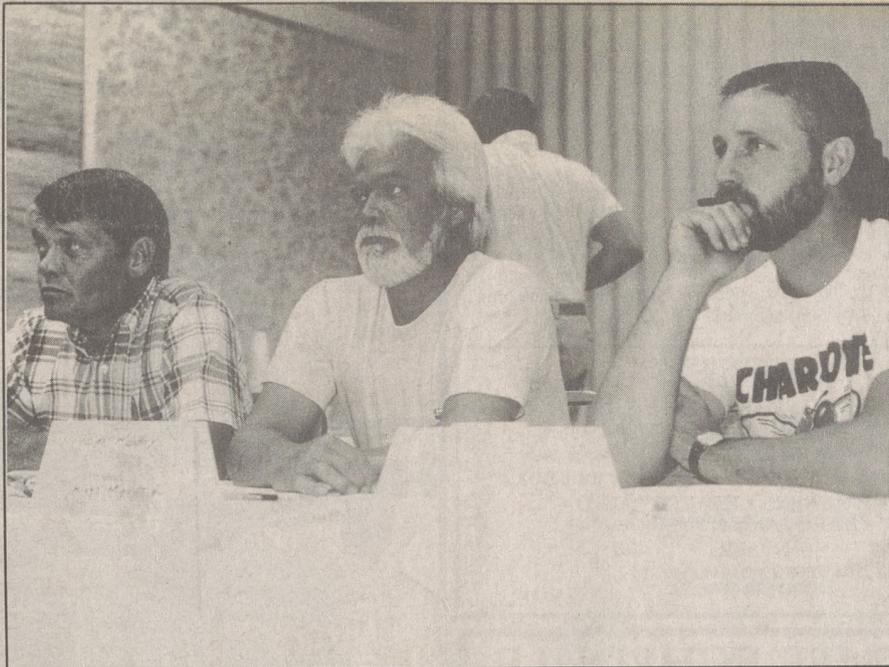
This added charge, called the "cost shift", is built into hospital rates. It helps make up for charity care, bad debts and shortfalls from government Medicare and Medicaid insurance programs. Rising losses in all four categories is a major cause for hospital rate increases, the association said.

Lack of insurance or enough insurance causes bad debts and charity care. In 1988, Cleveland County was ranked 76th in the state with an "at risk" population of 27 percent, according to research provided by Christopher J. Conover, a research associate at the Duke University Center for Health Policy Research and Education. Twenty-seven percent translates into almost one out of every three residents of Cleveland County who is uninsured or underinsured, therefore creating more bad debts and more cost shifting.

Medicare is a federal program providing health insurance to elderly and disabled people. Medicaid is a joint federal-state-county program covering certain categories of poor people, such as infants and pregnant women. Neither program pays hospitals' full charges.

"Most hospitals in the state would have to close or drastically cut care to uninsured patients without the

See Bills, 8-A



**SEMINAR**-Larry Smith, Tom Roddy and Scott Buchanan, left to right, listen to instruction at Electricities seminar Wednesday morning at Holiday Inn in Kings Mountain. The seminar is attracting employees from municipalities covering a wide area and continues until Friday noon. Classroom instruction, as well as hands-on experience in underground installation and transformer work, is a feature of the class hosted for the first time by City of Kings Mountain.

PHOTO BY MARTY HOHMANN

## Sewer, Water Projects Completed

Kings Mountain has completed two major sewer and water line projects which will allow expansion in the southern and western sections of the city.

A \$625,000 eight-inch gravity sewer line from Falls Exxon Station on York Road to the city's new 400 GPM pump station and back-up station two miles south of I-85 beyond Thermocote Welco was put in service Monday. Thermacote contributed \$38,000 of the cost and county funds supplied \$119,000.

Ramey Inc. was general contractor and W. K. Dickson & Co. were project engineers.

City Council approved the project Feb. 15, 1988.

City Engineer Tom Howard said the sewer installation will allow for expansion along 161 South.

A second major project will provide water to customers on Highway 74 West and cost \$497,000 with the county supplying \$220,000 of the cost. The line runs from McDonald's to the city's booster pump station across from Dennis No. 3 Store on Shelby Highway. The installation includes 31 fire hydrants to

provide fire protection for the residents of the area and 172 water line taps. Citizens living on both the north and south sides of Highway 74 West can tap onto the line by filling out appropriate permits at City Hall.

Howard said that 30 city customers on Gold Street Annexation will be switched to the new system and an old water line abandoned which was not providing adequate water pressure or fire protection.

City council approved the 74-West waterline project Jan. 18, 1988. Rhodes Construction Co. was general contractor.

Main extensions of gas to the new Logan Park Sub-Division on Margrace Road and to Paul's Seafood on York Road will open up areas of town for expansion, said Utility Director Jimmy Maney. "Running gas to the new sub-division will open up the apple orchard area in that section of town where we hope, someday, to cut through and tie-in Phifer Road in a loop to Southwoods," said Maney. The gas extensions to York Road would also benefit residents of the Galilee area.



**OPENS PUMP STATION**-Jimmy Van Dyke, supervisor of the city's pump department, unlocks the gate at the new pump station on York Road which the city put in service this week.

## Electricians Take Part In Training

BY MARTY HOHMANN  
Of the Herald Staff

Technology is always advancing and the City of Kings Mountain is keeping up with the changes. With more areas turning to underground power lines, Kings Mountain is playing host to a safety and training program sponsored by Electricities of North Carolina, Inc. to address concerns over that type of system.

Electricities is a Raleigh-based agency which draws its membership from 65 municipalities providing their own electrical service. The agency provides technical assistance, systems betterment training, energy management, safety and training seminars, linemen career development, communications information, management services, legislative assistance and legal aid. Kings Mountain became a member of Electricities in January.

The three-day seminar is being held at the Holiday Inn from May 31 until noon on June 2. During that period Carlton St. John, seminar coordinator for Electricities, hopes to teach linemen from Virginia, South Carolina and North Carolina municipalities some lessons that could save their lives.

"It's a real privilege to come in and see your faces this morning. I don't take it for granted," he told the group of 37 men who attended the conference. "That's really what this school is all about is to prepare you for a bright and successful future."

St. John recognizes the importance of the training because he has seen men who have died needlessly in the line of duty. He has more than 15 years of hands-

See Cities, 8-A

## Beauty (?) Pageant To Benefit Rescuers

The second annual Kings Mountain Rescue Squad womanless beauty pageant will be held Saturday at 7 p.m. at B.N. Barnes Auditorium.

All proceeds will go to benefit the Rescue Squad.

Some of the most beautiful "women" in Kings Mountain will be competing for the crown and all the honor and prestige that goes with it.

Contestants include Jonie Blanton, Johnny Hutchins, Marvin Chappell, Todd Cerwin, Steve Wilson, Kenny Falls, John Haskins, Scott Brodnax, Dale Wilson, Scott Mann, Steve Barrett, Dale Bragg, Randy Bell, Al Moretz, M.C. Pruette, Harry Kyle and Osborne Messer Jr.