



KM In Regional Basketball
Tourney Friday In Hickory
5-A

Kiwanians Celebrate
50th Anniversary
3-A

Donkey B-Ball Game
Set Saturday
7-A



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KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C. 28086

KM Schools To Ask County For \$1.6 Million

Channel 1 Picture Getting Very Snowy

The possibility of the 12-minute newscast Channel 1 for Kings Mountain junior and senior high students has been turned on and off so many times the picture is getting very snowy.

The school board approved the satellite news program several months ago and was all set on it being turned on at the start of the 1990-91 school year. But the State Board of Education had other ideas.

After the North Carolina School Board ruled that the program could not be shown in a 5 1/2 hour school day, Supt. Bob McRae announced that the local system would abide by the ruling, even though he personally felt it was a decision that should be left up to local school boards.

Then, the Thomasville School Board sued the state

and a judge ruled that even though the state board had the authority to set a policy banning the broadcast, that it had done so without going through proper channels and that Thomasville could show the program.

That appeared to put some new hope into other systems that were planning to show the programs, and some of them began showing it March 5. But the State Board has now appealed that decision and is also taking the proper procedures to officially ban the programs.

Meanwhile, Kings Mountain Schools decided to put the issue back into the hands of teachers, who originally endorsed the program. Because of all the hassle and

See Channel 1, 9-A

Kings Mountain District Schools will ask the Cleveland County commissioners for \$1,633,945--a 12 percent increase over last year's allocation--for its share of the school system's current expense budget for 1990-91.

Supt. Bob McRae told the Board of Education Monday night at the Junior High School that the total proposed current expense budget for next year is \$3,079,491.

About two-thirds of the budget is for "continuation" items that will allow the system to only do "exactly the same thing" it's doing this year, he said.

The proposed budget will be open for public inspection for two weeks prior to the next school board meeting (April 9), at which time a public hearing will be held. McRae said should the county commissioners not grant KM's requests some items may have to be cut back.

The proposed budget includes one additional teach-

er which would help end combination

a five percent increase in the local system. Many areas of the budget will be cut, McRae said, because the school system is moving to a middle school concept and employees will have to be used in other ways to move the middle school to a high building.

McRae noted a 16 percent increase in the outlay budget. The proposed budget will allow the system only to maintain what it currently operates, McRae said. No new construction in that amount because funding for construction came through the passage of the state constitution.

"We have \$167,000 of urgent needs" that are mentioned in the budget.

See Budget, 9-A

MAUNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY
100 S. PIEDMONT AVE.
KINGS MOUNTAIN, NC 28086

School Calendar Approved

The Kings Mountain Board of Education approved its calendar for the 1990-91 school year at Monday night's regular monthly meeting held at Kings Mountain Junior High.

The school year for teachers will begin August 13 with four mandatory workdays. August 17 will be a discretionary workday.

The school year for students will begin on August 20 and the first holiday will be Labor Day (September 3).

Other workdays through the year, which are vacation days for students, are October 25-26, November 12 and 21, January 2 and 18, February 22, March 28-29, May 10 and June 6, 7 and 10.

Holidays are Thanksgiving (Nov. 22-23; Christmas Dec. 24-Jan. 2; Martin Luther King birthday Jan. 21; and Easter April 1-5. The last day for students is June 5.

Seven inclement weather days are built into the calendar, most of them scheduled either on workdays or at the end of school. The bad weather dates, in order, are November 21, March 28, June 6, June 7, May 10, February 22 and March 29.

Assistant Supt. Larry Allen, who served on the calendar committee, said the calendar was overwhelmingly approved over several other potential calendars.

In other action Monday, the board: *Recognized the Teacher of the Year from each of the system's schools. They are Kaye

See Calendar, 9-A



Photo by Dieter Melhorn

DONKEY RIDE—The balmy temperatures Wednesday provided great fun for students at Bethware School who were treated to donkey rides, compliments of Thurston Hamrick, who watches Kathryn Champion enjoy a ride on the donkey's back. Kings Mountain area people can enjoy watching members of the White Plains Shrine Club play donkey basketball Saturday night at 7 p. m. at the KM Community Center. Proceeds from the fun game will benefit Shrine projects.

KM People

Bennett's Retired But Still Working

By LIB STEWART
Of The Herald Staff

Popular former Ward 3 Commissioner Luther Bennett has retired several times during his lifetime but he hasn't stopped working.

When the Phenix Mill closed in 1982, "Luke", as he is affectionately called by kin and friends, retired after 34 years with Burlington Industries. He retired again several years ago after 12 years as chairman of the Kings Mountain Board of Elections and he retired from politics in the 1960's after serving two terms as Ward 3 commissioner during the Glee Bridges Administration 1957-61.

Bennett and daughter, Linda Burgess, own and operate Linwood Auto Sales on Linwood Road. When he isn't manning the office and helping customers, he is busy in his yard and garden, active in Grace United Methodist Church and the Kings Mountain Lions Club and spending his lunch hours at Griffin Drug Store chatting with good friend and barber Al Crawford.

Burning the midnight oil was not uncommon for Bennett when he chaired the Board of Elections, particularly during the years the city had five polling places, compared to two today. Running the city elections smoothly was his job but the polling places were at East School, North School, The Armory, Community Center, and the Old Mill Store and counting ballots was tedious-by hand-and it was late in the night before voters could obtain the election results.

The first time he ran for the Ward 3 seat on the board he was beat by his friend, the late T. J. Ellison, who served for many years in that position. Bennett came back two years later and defeated two challengers and was reelected for another term. Commissioners were paid \$24 a month at City Hall and five members were on the board. Bennett recalled that he served with Ross Alexander, Boyce Gault, Ben Bridges and Coleman Stroupe. There were five wards. In recent years, the wards

See Bennett, 3-A



LUTHER BENNETT

Harris: Raising Prison Cap Worth The Money

The cost to the taxpayers was \$20,000 for the March 6 two-hour extra session of the North Carolina General Assembly in Raleigh but Kings Mountain Senator J. Ollie Harris says their action in raising the cap on prisoners was worth it.

An 18-year veteran of the Senate representing Cleveland, Gaston, Rutherford and Lincoln Counties, Harris, a Democrat, said he had been called to only four extra sessions during his tenure. Of the 13 extra sessions called over the past 50 years, 12 were called by the Governor and one by the members of the General Assembly. Most have dealt with redistricting, reapportionment of the budget, speaker ban law, criminal discovery and insurance. The special session last week was the first one to deal with the state's prisons but Harris said the rising crime rate in North Carolina dictated the need for it and that Governor Jim Martin should not be criticized for calling it.

"The parole board was turning

away felons instead of prisoners with misdemeanors because of lack of beds for them. We still need at least 5,000 more beds in the next 10 years in the state's prisons. The new legislation put a stop to turning out repeaters," said Harris.

The cap of 18,000 inmates was placed in response to overcrowded prison conditions and lawsuits brought by North Carolina state prisoners in federal court.

Harris said the General Assembly passed legislation raising in three phases the total number of prisoners allowed within the state prison system by 715. As part of the new law, the Legislature prohibited the parole of first and second degree murderers in order to meet the cap. The Parole Commission is already prohibited from paroling persons who have committed sex offenses, kidnaping, abduction or drug trafficking in order to reach the cap. Under the just-ratified legislation, the cap on prisoners will rise to 18,525 on

See Harris, 2-A



MARCH OF DIMES KICKOFF—Rita Lawing, left, of Cleveport Mills, WalkAmerica steering chairman for the Kings Mountain area and Mayor Kyle Smith, honorary chairman of the walk-a-thon set for April 7, kickoff plans for the goal for Cleveland County of \$15,000 and the five-mile walk-a-thon which will start at 9 a.m. from Cleveport Mills on York Road. "We're Steppin'!" for healthier babies" is the theme for the first March of Dimes fundraiser here since mothers marched on birth defects and polio many years ago.

WalkAmerica April 7 For March Of Dimes

Fifteen teams of walkers had signed up this week to participate in WalkAmerica for the March of Dimes April 7 to fight birth defects.

Rita Lawing, chairman of the steering committee for Kings Mountain and Shelby which seeks a goal of \$15,000 and Mayor Kyle Smith, honorary chairman, kicked off the local effort Thursday at a luncheon meeting of volunteers at Battleground Restaurant. Terry Putnam, chairman of the Team Walk committee, will sign up other walkers at a team captain's luncheon Friday at noon at Holiday Inn.

Industry will be challenging other industries, banks will be challenging other banks and other businesses, churches, and civic groups are getting in on the fun, according to Lawing. A VCR donated by K-Mart of Shelby will go to the person raising the most money. Four Carowind tickets will go to the person raising the second highest amount of money and various

smaller prizes will be presented by merchants plus awards in the form of plaques to businesses for top donations.

The five-mile walk will begin on April 7 at 9 a. m. at Cleveport Mill on York Road. Walkers may walk the entire route or walk as long as they wish. Sign-up sheets are available for walkers to obtain pledges from sponsors in the form of cash to further research into the cause of birth defects and a program targeted at the high infant mortality rate and premature births.

Suzanne Stevens and Mike Terry, WSOC personalities, will fly to Kings Mountain April 7 in the Channel 9 helicopter to promote the Kings Mountain WalkAmerica sponsored by WSOC Radio-TV.

Lawing said the committee has a goal of 250 walkers.

Jennie Burton, coordinator for the Greater Piedmont March of Dimes Chapter, and Rebecca Belk, Cleveland County Chapter Director, were present to help kick-

See March, 2-A