

**Charlie Ballard, KM Hall Of Famer 1-B**



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# Kings Mountain Herald

35¢

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KINGS MOUNTAIN

## Ready For A Walk?



**NEW WALKING TRACK**-Workmen are putting the finishing touches on a half-mile-long walking track adjacent to Jake Early Memorial Park which should be ready for walkers by end of the month.

## Finishing Touches Being Put On Track

City crews are spreading straw and seeding and doing curb work at the new walking track this week which is expected to be put in use by citizens by the end of the month, weather permitting.

"We're just real excited about the progress at the track this week," said City Commissioner Norma Bridges, who heads the Parks & Recreation Commission.

"I've been at that track every day this week and can't wait until we can finally begin to see it in use. It's been about eight years since we started dreaming about one and now it's going to be a reality," she said.

The nearly half mile track was built by Carl Champion and his crew from Champion Landscaping this week. The 10 feet wide by 2,000 linear feet track runs adjacent to Jake Early Memorial Park.

Mrs. Bridges said the city council will be asked to budget lights for the track in next fiscal year's budget and in future years to put aside funds for playground equipment and picnic tables. "It will all

come," she said, noting that city council has given the walking track improvements a priority in its list of city improvements for this year.

"We're doing a lot of work to channel water off the upper parking lot area and will also be doing curbing on Chestnut Street to channel water and relocating a manhole on the northeast corner of the walking track area," said City Engineer Tom Howard. City officials have said that drainage problems are the biggest hurdle to success of the walking track.

The city is putting in catch basins to tie into existing culvert pipes that run underneath the park to control the drainage from Jake Early Ballfield.

The \$34,000 track is constructed of granite dust screenings which will pack down and compare in wearability to a paved track. A graveled parking lot to accommodate 20 vehicles is being built on the northeast side directly behind The Pantry on Cleveland Avenue.

See Track, 2-A

## School Decision Draws Nearer

The special committee studying reorganization of Kings Mountain elementary schools will present its report to the Board of Education Monday, chairman John Goforth told the board at Monday night's regular monthly meeting at the Superintendent's Office.

Citizens packed the small meeting room to listen to Goforth's report and then to give their opinions on whether or not East and West elementary schools should be closed.

After a lengthy executive session to discuss personnel matters, the board scheduled a work session for May 28 to discuss the issue.

Many teachers are asking the board to make a decision by June 4 so students, teachers and staff members at East School will know whether or not they'll be attending school at East next year or at Central. Central is being closed as a middle school and East is due for major renovation if it is not closed.

But other citizens urged the board not to make a hasty decision, noting that the board should consider the long-range effects.

The issue of whether or not to close schools and either build another new elementary school to accommodate East and West students,

or add onto North School and redraw attendance lines, has been discussed, along with many other scenarios, for over two years. The issue began after it was pointed out that East School has a high number of minority students and also has declining enrollment.

Last year the board voted unanimously not to close East after over 100 East Kings Mountain residents attended a public hearing at the school. However, the board asked Supt. Bob McRae to continue to monitor the enrollment figures at East. The enrollment has dropped to just over 200 and the percentage of

minority students has risen from 56 to 60 percent since the board voted to keep East open.

The special committee was appointed four months ago after parents from West Kings Mountain approached the board and stated that they did not feel the board had given proper public notice that elementary attendance lines may be redrawn and some West students may be involved.

The committee has been meeting several times a month since then. The board had told the committee at

See Meeting, 11-A

## School Bids In

Kings Mountain District Schools officials opened bids on the new construction project at Grover School Tuesday afternoon and may have to have a special board meeting to discuss them.

Supt. Bob McRae said the project came in over \$50,000 over estimated costs. The schools had anticipated bidding the project at \$1.1 million but bids were about \$1.175 million.

"I don't know what the board will want to do," McRae said. "We're preparing some information for them now. There are some things that could be easily left off the project that would not effect the integrity of the building at all."

The schools plan to construct a new building at the current site of the old FFA-Home Economics building which now houses the principal's office and library. The building would include five classrooms, a new principal's office, cafeteria-multi-purpose room and library.

"What we have is not a bad price," McRae said, "but it's just a little more than what we were hoping for. What we do needs to be done quickly because we're sitting on go and want to try to do some demolition as soon as school is out."

The next scheduled meeting of the board is June 11 but McRae said a special meeting may be called to act on the Grover project.

See Schools, 2-A



DICK KELLY



Photo by Gary Stewart

**PACKED BOARD ROOM**-Shara Miller, standing, speaks during a meeting of the school board Monday.

## Hall Of Fame Banquet May 24

The third annual Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame banquet will be held Thursday night, May 24, at 7 p.m. at the Kings Mountain Community Center.

Tickets may be purchased at McGinnis Department Store, C&S Mart, Plonk Brothers, Sagesport, Western Auto, Kings Mountain Herald and the Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce; and from John McGinnis, Carl Champion, Perry Champion, Mearl Valentine, Denny Hicks, Dr. John McGill and Gary Stewart.

Don Parker, who coached basketball at Kings Mountain High School from 1943-67; Charlie Ballard, who pitched on Kings Mountain's championship 1941 baseball team; and George Harris, former quarterback star at KMHS and Duke University, will be the inductees.

Also to be honored is the 1989 state championship KMHS baseball team, which will receive the Special Achievement Award.

Ken Pettus, assistant football coach at N.C. State, and Buzz

Peterson, assistant basketball coach at N.C. State, will be the guest speakers.

Also taking part on the program will be former KMHS coaches Shu Carlton and Bill Bates, who will induct George Harris and Don Parker, respectively, and former Kings Mountain Mayor John Moss, who will induct Charlie Ballard who played professional ball in Moss's Western Carolinas League.

Among the special guests will be former KMHS athletes who are now playing in the collegiate ranks.

## Dick Kelly Calls For Run-Off

Dick Kelly, Democratic candidate for Cleveland County Commissioner, Monday called for a run-off with Ralph Gilbert on June 5.

A virtual newcomer to the political scene, Kelly ran a strong race in last Tuesday's primary, capturing third place in a field of nine candidates for two seats on the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners. Joyce Falls Cashion of Kings Mountain was the only clear winner among the nine.

Kelly said an outpouring of personal requests and telephone calls had convinced him to continue his bid for county commissioner.

"I have been very encouraged," Kelly said. "There is obviously strong support for me throughout the county. I felt I owed it to those who have worked so hard for me and to myself to continue to seek a seat on the county commissioner board. "I believe I bring some unique strengths to the board that will benefit our county today and tomorrow," Kelly said. "Those strengths include a understanding of and a commitment to long-range planning and appreciation for the needs of all our citizens, particularly those who are concerned with improving educational opportunities and the quality of life in our county."

"My background in industry gives me the experience to make the practical, good sense business decisions that will help Cleveland County deal with important issues like waste management and access to excellent transportation networks," said Kelly who is the retired general manager of Container Corporation of America.

"My knowledge of the county gained from working with people at Container Corporation who came from all parts of the county has given me an appreciation for the unique needs of each part of our county. If I am elected, I pledge to be a county commissioner."

See Kelly, 2-A

## 'Wellness' Kickoff Set Thursday At High School

Sixteen exhibits, health screenings, fitness stations, and athletic events, including public demonstrations of soccer, volleyball, horseshoes, walking, running, line dancing, tennis, and swimming will be featured in Kings Mountain's first Wellness kickoff Thursday at 6 p.m. at John Gamble Stadium.

Allan Propst, chairman of the wellness committee for the KM Schools Health Committee, said the welcome mat is out to all families in the community to come out in casual wear and tennis from 6 until 9 p.m. and enjoy a fun evening by participating in the var-

ious health-oriented, free activities available in the community to people interested in obtaining useful health information, including dietary suggestions and blood pressure and cholesterol screenings, all free to the interested public.

The program will begin with a physical fitness address by Gordon Edwards, KMHS swim coach, on the home side of John Gamble Football Stadium. Propst will welcome the group and Dr. Scott Mayse, local doctor, will give a Wellness overview. Following the 45-minute opening, active partici-

See Wellness, 10-A

## Kings Mountain People



BILL STONE

## Bill Solid As A 'Stone' At H-T

Bill Stone, 55, doesn't run the cash registers at Harris-Teeter Super Market but he's proficient in every other department.

With 37 years in the grocery business, Stone has done it all: helped customers, stocked groceries, bagged groceries, and loaded cars. Many of his customers he knows on a first-name basis.

Bill started delivering groceries for John Mauney at the old Mauney Store at Burlington Mill after school and on weekends in the 50's. After graduation from Kings Mountain High School in 1952, he went to work for Floyd Payne at Phenix Mill, then worked for T. J. Ellison at Ellison Grocery on Cleveland Avenue and for Pete Barkley downtown. He went to work for Dixie Home (now Winn Dixie) when the store was lo-

cated where McGinnis Furniture Store is located today and stocked and bagged groceries for several years. Harris Teeter came to town in 1958 and opened on York Road at the old Center Service location and Bill joined the company on Jan. 9, 1962 at its second location, the present Family Dollar building on King Street. When Harris Teeter outgrew the building, he helped in the moving operation in June 1977 into a bigger building where the firm expanded its service line in the present mini-mall on King Street.

Bill calls himself "a general flunkie" but his co-workers and friends agree that the personable Kings Mountain native has been a top employee for the com-

See Stone, 3-A