



FAIR WINNERS - Bethware Fair won first place with its education booth at the Cleveland County Fair. Shown with part of the exhibit and the blue ribbon are, right to left, Judy Bowen, Richa Clark, Susan Elmore, Martha Sloan and Sherry Bingham, who planned and coordinated the booth.

Much Interest In Assignment Plan

Not surprisingly, we are currently seeing a great deal of interest in the development of our student assignment plan for K-5 children. This is appropriate, and our Board of Education wants us to do everything possible to keep the community informed as this process develops.

In today's column I want to share with you information as to how the assignment plan is being developed. A more detailed presentation reviewing this process will be presented at public meetings to be held in November at each of our five elementary schools. The schedule for those meetings, all of which will begin at 7 p.m., is as follows: Thurs., Nov. 8 - East Elementary School, Grover Elementary School; Mon., Nov. 19 - North Elementary School, West Elementary School; Tues., Nov. 20, Bethware Elementary School. Again, these meetings will be to describe the process being used to create the plan. There will not be at that time any draft of the plan itself, however, there will be opportunities for parents to see and respond to the actual proposal for assignments at a later date.

We have contracted with YSACC, Inc. of Raleigh to help us develop the plan. They specialize in the application of objective methods for development of school attendance zones. They have been in operation for a number of years and have worked with several other school systems including Johnston County and Wilson County. The Lexington City School System is a system with which YSACC has recently worked which is similar in size and racial composition to us.

YSACC used computer procedures to develop school attendance zones which minimize student miles on buses within school size and racial balance constraints. Essentially the process is as follows:

1) - The school system is divided into sub areas (called nodes) for the purpose of defining the distribution of students within the system. The nodes may vary in size depending on how heavily populated they are. All children in a certain node will be assigned to the same school. In our system 113 nodes have been established by YSACC.

2) - The number of students within each grade level and race of these students is determined for each node.

3) - Maximum and minimum capacities for each school are determined by the system.

4) - Limits are established by the system for the racial ratio range. In other words, if the system's mi-

BOB McRAE

Superintendent
Kings Mountain Schools

nority average is 26 percent and the range is plus or minus 5 percent, no school could have below 21 percent minority students or above 31 percent minority students.

5) - Computer software is then used to develop student assignment plans which minimize the distance which students must travel.

6) - The Board of Education then reviews the first draft of the student assignment plan. Additional considerations which lead to the "humanization" of the final plan will be developed, and parents will be notified of their children's schools for the next year. This should take place in the spring. After that the Board will consider any transfer requests in keep with its revised transfer policy which is currently being developed.

The Board of Education is committed to develop a student assignment plan which is objective, based on some logical, fairly assigned principle. In this case the overriding philosophy is to, within appropriate racial percentages, have students attend school as close to their home as possible. I think you would be interested to know that the gentlemen who formed YSACC, Inc. did so as a result of their involvement as parents in a student reassignment plan. They saw the need for the changes which would affect their own children but felt there was a much more objective way to develop the plan than the one being used. Since that time they have helped many systems develop fair, objective plans when changes in student assignment were necessary.

As this process develops we will try to keep you well informed. If, during that time, you feel the need for information beyond what we have provided, please feel free to contact our office. Let's all work together to make these changes as smoothly as possible.

School Special Place

(STORY by JOHN BRYSON, SARAH TIGNOR AND HEATHER E. BAKER)

This past Sunday dedication services were held for both the KM High School and KM Middle School. Both services started at KMHS, where Robert Wingo did the accepting on behalf of the students and Van Canipe accepted the new Middle School on behalf of the faculty and staff. Jerry Hoyle, co-principal of KMMS, said, "A school building is a special place for the students as well as the teachers." He also said that the people of Kings Mountain did a great job of providing better facilities for its young people. Bob Etheridge, State Superintendent was guest speaker.

KMMS also held three pep rallies this week to boost school spirit. The Patriot cheerleaders Kim Rhodes, Amber Jordan, Natalie Townsend, Brandy Eudy, Erin Lovelace, Kenya Howze, Annie Robbins, Jaime Mullinax, Kristie Small, Haley Bridges, and Amanda Keen, along with coach Beth Sellers, led the 6th grade, 7th grade and 8th grade through the routines. Congratulations to each grade level team that showed the school spirit and won the right to the

"Spirit Stick" for their team until next pep rally. Good luck to all the teams next time.

KIRK D. WILLIAMS, MD

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LET'S RE-ELECT OUR SHERIFF
Paid For By Russell For Sheriff Committee

CC Head Start Reception Set

Cleveland County Head Start will host a get-acquainted reception in honor of Head Start Parents Fri., Oct. 19 from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Kings Mountain Baptist Association office in Shelby. For more information call Patti Norman, director, at 734-5660.

Kings Mountain Weather Report

(Compiled By Kenneth Kitzmiller)

	Oct. 17-23	Last Year
Total precipitation	8.00	Trace
Maximum one day	5.11 (12th)	Trace (16th)
Year to date	46.62	47.11
Minimum temperature	51 (14th)	42 (10th)
Maximum temperature	78 (15th)	84 (13th)
Average temperature	65.9	65.4

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