



Happy
Saint Patrick's Day,
March 17th

The Kings Mountain
Rescue Squad Needs Your
HELP!
See Page 10-A

This Is
Girl Scout Week
See Page 4-A



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Kings Mountain Herald

Member Of
North Caroli-
na Press Assoc.

VOL. 108 NO. 10

Thursday, March 14, 1991

Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086

Reassignment plan approved

After several months of serious discussions on an elementary school reassignment plan, the Kings Mountain Board of Education unanimously adopted its plan Monday night and then immediately began working on a new transfer policy which it hopes will keep schools racially and capacity-balanced in the future.

Supt. Bob McRae reviewed the final plan and the board adopted it without comment.

The plan varies only slightly from the original computer-generated map which the school board received from YSAC, Inc. in December. The plan moves some 331 of the system's 1,800 elementary students to new schools next fall. Only Grover School is unaffected.

Prior to the board's approval of the plan, Steve Boheler addressed the group and said he was "still concerned with the socio-economic situation at East School," noting that the plan was not much different from the YSAC map and that many parents and East School

teachers are concerned about the matter.

"You didn't make the situation worse, but you didn't do anything to help it," he told the board.

Rev. M.L. Campbell commended the board for "doing the best it can under the situation. I realize you had a problem," he said.

Supt. Bob McRae said the plan accomplishes the board's goal to bring every elementary school to within plus or minus five percent of the system's minority percentage of 26 percent while also keeping

the schools within their suggested minimum and maximum enrollment.

"The plan does not leave us with five schools that are the same socio-economically but we have impacted that issue in a positive way," he said. "The staff is comfortable with this plan and we feel like we've made some real progress over where we've been in the past several years."

The board discussed several areas of a possible transfer policy and set a special meeting for

March 25 at 7 p.m. At that time the board will hear from the public, discuss the matter further and could possibly take action. If action is not taken, it probably will be taken at the regular monthly meeting on April 8.

Several board members said they favor allowing rising fifth graders to stay at their present school if that is the desire of their parents. Ronnie Hawkins, chairman Billy King and Doyle Campbell all said they favored that idea.

Rev. Billy Houze said there has been some talk about allowing rising fifth graders "and their siblings" to stay at their present school. Hawkins said he didn't feel like the courtesy could be extended to siblings "if we want this (reassignment) plan to work."

The board discussed several reasons which could be considered for transfers and instructed Dr. McRae and his staff to "draft" a possible transfer policy listing how transfer requests would be "prioritized."

See Transfers, 8-A

See Transfers, 8-A

Fleetwood, smartest pig in the county

Fleetwood is a five-week-old Vietnam pot belly pig but he thinks he's human. Not only is he the only pig in town who has gone to school but he gets royal treatment from his masters. And, don't dare call him a hog.

Becky Cashion Bumgardner bought Fleetwood as the perfect Valentine gift for her husband, Mike. Since his arrival, the whole family has fallen in love with the unusual house pet and Mike, 11, a 6th grader at KM Middle School, and Beth, 7, a second grader at Bethware School, delight in showing him off at every opportunity.

Recently, Fleetwood toured the elementary classes at Grover School and at Bethware as guest of Mrs. Elmores' and Tamara Willis' classes. When the other students heard that a friendly little porker was on the campus they ran to see him.

Fleetwood is a charmer. He nips at your heels and your shoes and runs in the yard and in the house just like a pet dog or cat. Becky Cashion finds Fleetwood to be less trouble than a dog or cat, feeds him a half-cup of pig chow every morning and a half cup every

night to keep his weight off. Unlike other pigs, Fleetwood gets a bath every day, his snout is wiped clean after he eats from his own plate from the kitchen floor, and he sleeps at night on a hay bed in a dollsize house in the living room. He's house-broken and the perfect pet, says Mike and Becky. The family also has two Shelties, a Siamese cat, a ferret, a rabbit, and saltwater fish in a big aquarium. Fleetwood, the newest addition to the pet family, is unique and quite special. What happens if Fleetwood gets fat? His prospects are slim now although the little porker has stiff hairs on his back just like his big brothers and sisters who live in pig pens. He's definitely in hog heaven-on earth.

Fleetwood has quickly become a member of the family.

Becky and Mike Bumgardner have been married 13 1/2 years and 6 1/2 years ago they built a new country home on Countryside Drive. Both are certified to teach, but Becky stayed home with the children and later decided to get into BeautyControl

See Pig, 8-A



FLEETWOOD
'Don't call me a hog'

KM Schools consider \$3.5 million budget

Kings Mountain District Schools is considering a \$3.5 million "hold the line" budget for fiscal year 1991-92.

Supt. Bob McRae presented the preliminary budget to the board of education at Monday night's meeting at the Central Office. A public hearing will be held at the next scheduled board meeting on April 8 and the proposed budget will be available for the public to see two weeks prior to the meeting at the Superintendent's office.

The budget reflects a 9.3 percent overall increase and 7.5 percent increase from funds requested from the County Commissioners. McRae said the board's county request is \$1,650,000 for current expense.

"We have tried very hard to prepare a lean, hold-the-line budget," he said. "We feel the economy is such that it is appropriate. The increases will only allow us to continue what we're presently doing." He said 6.8 percent of the requested increase is for "continuation items" and only 2.5 percent is for "improvement."

See Budget, 5-A

Redistrict committee begins job

A newly appointed city redistricting committee will take the first look at block-level census data Thursday night at City Hall as they start tackling the job of shifting the population to even up the six voter wards based on the 1990 census.

Elections Board Chairman Becky Cook said the meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the second floor conference room. In addition to members of the elections board, Mayor Kyle Smith has appointed all city council members, Jim Childers, a former city commissioner, and Annie Thombs from the community at-large. Other members of the elections board are Philip Hager and James Carroll.

Kings Mountain is one of 55 cities in the state that comes under the Civil Rights Voting Act which requires redistricting after each U. S. census. No district in the city can be more than 10 percent larger. In one case there is one district that is almost twice as large as another. If the committee finds that current districts contain inequalities that are legally impermissible, then it must shift the population of the districts to adjust the inequalities.

See Committee, 12-A



CRISIS TEAM AT WORK-Cindy Borders, School Health Coordinator, Jean Thrift, Director of Pupil Support Services, and Elementary Counselor Paula Goforth, right, chairman, lead support personnel in initiating a school district-wide plan for crisis intervention and are training the three-member teams from each of the system's seven schools to implement it this year.

Schools develop crisis plan

Kings Mountain school officials hope they won't have to use a crisis plan now in the works.

In the planning stages for the last three months, "Crisis Intervention Plan" outlines a district-wide crisis plan with each individual school crisis team developing a plan for each of the seven schools in the system. Training is ongoing by a nine-member group composed of support personnel and counselors from the seven schools and led by elementary counselor

Paula L. Goforth. Other members are Health Coordinator Cynthia Borders, support personnel and counselors Chuck D. Gordon, Florrie P. Hamrick, Anita L. Izzi, David Owens, Kevin J. Plonk, Amy C. Ross and Support Services coordinator Jean Thrift.

"KM schools have been lucky that no major crisis has occurred this year," said Thrift, Support Services coordinator.

Some 100 students had relatives serving in the War in the Gulf and

that meant a sudden change that disrupted the normal operation of the schools, said Goforth, who said counselors worked with students at all the schools to help them get through that crisis. Identifying types of crisis as bus accidents, bomb threats, acts of violence, medical emergencies, suicide, fire, tornado, hurricane, terrorist activities, gang conflicts, and war. Team members put scenarios on papers being distributed to parents of stu-

See Crisis, 11-A

Grover approves recycling plan

GROVER-Town Board voted Tuesday night to get in the recycling business, approving the purchase of five Igloo bins for glass and newspapers.

The bins cost \$3812.55 and will be placed on city property on Cherry Street where a 7 feet x48 feet wooden fence will serve as a "blinder" for the collection area.

"Our taxes are going to be more if we don't start recycling ourselves," said Mayor Pro Tem Ronald Queen, who presided in the absence of Mayor Bill McCarter, an employee of FEMA called to Mississippi due to flooding. A driveway will be graveled between the fence at Grover car lot and the igloos placed in the area for clear glass, aluminum cans, newspaper, green glass and brown glass.

The decrease in state-shared revenues due to the census will probably cut the town budget by \$60,000. An aggressive recycling program could keep citizens from paying tipping fees when the town starts paying \$20 per ton to Cleveland County for garbage dumped at the Cleveland County Landfill.

Commissioner Sandra Ellis ob-

jected to the higher fees for the bins, purchased from Cleveland Container Co. "These aren't the bins we voted on," she told the board. Clerk Debra Philbeck said the extra charges are for self closing flaps, fire retardant inside coatings and reinforced metal containers for newspapers. Ellis said the original cost was \$645 per unit.

Members also discussed but took no action on plans for a new walking track and picnic area at Brice Harry Memorial Park. Queen said he planned to call KM Recreation Director David Hancock and get his suggestions for improvements at the park. Board members indicated they would like to see a walking track patterned after Kings Mountain's new track.

The town will participate in a Christmas parade sponsored by Grover Fire Department. Lynn Rowland is chairman of the Sat., July 6 Independence Day parade.

In other business, the board voted to hire on Chief Paul Cash's recommendation a part-time policeman. Attorney Bill Lamb was authorized to update the dog ordinances.

County to check concerns

A Cleveland County environmentalist says that it could be four months before the state could soil test the Midpines dump.

Worried residents of the Margrace and Midpines areas have flooded Marty Allen's office with calls since they took a petition with over 600 names and asked and got the Kings Mountain board of commissioners to ask the county for testing. Midpines is located in the city's one-mile perimeter area. The county owns the land on which the old dump and the proposed mounded site are located.

Allen said no decision has been made by the county. He said the state doesn't require testing of a greenbox such as the one at Midpines which has been a dumping site for over 15 years. "We

don't know if testing is necessary but we are looking into their concerns and have been in touch with Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste officials," he said.

Allen was meeting with County Manager Lane Alexander Wednesday and said a decision on testing would be forthcoming.

Meantime, workers with Dedmon Concrete Co. were unable to continue pouring the foundation at the new proposed mounded/recycling site at Midpines due to rainy weather. About one-third of the foundation pouring was done before the rain.

Allen said testing of soil won't hold up work on the new project. "We will have stormwater control over every bit of the new site. You

See Midpines, 11-A

KM People



WILLIS KING

War saddens Willis King

The War in the Gulf has brought bitter-sweet memories to Willis King, 73.

King, who was wounded during World War II and received the purple heart while stationed with the history-making 'tropical lightning' 25th Infantry Division on the beachheads of Guadacanal, fears the fighting won't be over as long as Saddam Hussein is alive.

"I remember just like it was yesterday when the Japs threw a hand grenade in my foxhole and my buddy and I were hurt. An officer waded waist-high through a creek to bring us more ammunition and the Lord helped us get out of there," said King. War, then as now, interrupted many plans for young people.

"My best girl and I were courting and thinking about getting married. The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941 and our plans went on hold," said King, recalling that he was drafted

February 1, 1941 and went directly to Pearl Harbor without training. Discharged October 2, 1945, King came home and married his sweetheart, Frances Mills, on October 7, 1945.

Technician 5 King got to come home early because of a rotation system that allowed the first group drafted to be discharged early. He spent his 25th birthday in Honolulu and served 3 1/2 years.

Coming home to Kings Mountain was the happiest day of his life, he recalled, and returning to work at the Old Cora Mill was heaven. King, who went to work at age 14, followed his father and many of his 10 brothers and sisters in the textile business. A former electrician for a number of years for Neisler Mills, he also worked at Burlington Mills in Cherryville as a supervisor for a while and at Carolina Throwing and Lithium Corporation. On December 1, 1975 he applied for work at the City of

See King, 8-A