



# STILL THE KING

After 33 Years,  
Ken Baity's Record Still Standing  
See Page 1-B

REV. GORDON WEEKLEY  
Has Seen The Top and Bottom..... 11-A

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Thursday, April 11, 1991

Kings Mountain, N.C.

## Budget cuts could kill KM School

Kings Mountain school officials say the proposed state budget cuts are "very serious" and are asking local citizens to contact their state legislators and urge them to raise taxes, if necessary, to continue funding of necessary educational programs at their present level.

Supt. Bob McRae told the board of education at Monday night's meeting that his "guess-timation" is that Kings Mountain Schools will receive \$364,091 less next year from state funds if legislators go through with the cuts. House and Senate appropriations sub-committees are now considering. In addition, he said, the system may have to return up to \$113,760 of current fiscal year funds to help make up for the state's budget shortfall.

School Board Chairman Billy King read two letters which he recently received from Gene Causby, executive director of the State School Boards Association, and the State Coalition for Education. Both letters said the cuts are "devastating" and could set education in



"I think it's ironic that these cuts come when there have been some real advances made in education..."

**BILLY KING**

North Carolina back 10 years. Causby's letter said that legislators are aware of school officials' concerns but are not hearing from the public.

"We need to let the public know our feelings," King told the board. "These proposed cuts are very serious. There's a possibility that many programs will be

severely cut. I think it's ironic that these cuts come when there have been some real advances made in education in North Carolina in the past 3 1/2 years."

King pointed to the new Tech Prep program, which better prepares students for job market skills, and other programs that would suffer because of the proposed cuts.

"We are really identifying things that we can do better," he said, "and it's a shame that cuts are coming at this time."

Other board members also expressed concern.

"Right now is the time to act," said Doyle Campbell. "If we don't act now we'll have to live with the consequences."

Billy Houze said it is "imperative that citizens know that this is a dangerous time for education. The long-range effect is that it will be hard to attract new industries in North Carolina if we don't properly prepare our students for the work force."

Ronnie Hawkins said school officials and citizens should make a strong statement to their legislators that, when they plan new educational programs that they also plan where the funds will come from to finance them.

"Our General Assembly should increase taxes with the thought in mind that when they plan programs that they also budget money before hand, rather than letting our teachers and administrators work toward a program only to find out there's no money to fund it," he said.

McRae provided the board with a list of 17 possible areas which could be cut, including \$107,634 in state money allocated for energy costs; \$29,468 (30%) in Associate/Assistant Superintendent salaries, and some \$175,000 reduction in salaries for teacher assistants, clerical assistants, finance officers, assistant principals, maintenance, custodians, drop-out prevention, support

See Budget, 14-A



**NEW CAROLINA STATE BANK CUTS RIBBON**-City and county officials joined local and area bankers in cutting the ribbon for Kings Mountain's new Carolina State Bank Monday. From left, Donna and John Godbold, Charles F. Mauney, Larry Hamrick Sr.,

Charlie Harry, chairman of the new bank's board of directors, Bob Jurek, county commission chairman Joe Cabaniss, Mayor Kyle Smith, and chief operating officer of the new bank Jay Rhodes.

## May result in merger

The possibility of a merger of Kings Mountain, Cleveland County and Shelby schools is becoming "very real," Supt. Bob McRae told the board of education at its monthly meeting Monday night at the Superintendent's Office.

Talk of merger has surfaced from time to time for many years; however, it has never passed the talking stage for Kings Mountain, Cleveland County and Shelby Schools did participate in a merger study in the early 1980's.

Talk began to surface again recently when Governor Martin proposed eliminating state funding of multiple systems in one county. His suggestion seemed to be brushed over until the past couple of weeks when both the State Senate and House sub-committees on education appropriations also proposed eliminating funding of multiple systems. Currently there are 134 school systems in the state's 100 counties.

McRae said Gene Causby, executive director of the State School Boards Association, has called a meeting in Raleigh on April 22 for officials of city school systems and all other interested parties to talk about the matter.

Kings Mountain's School Board passed a resolution after Governor Martin's state of the state address requesting the General Assembly to continue funding multiple systems and leave the decision of merger to the local citizenry. While Governor Martin stated that his remarks did not call for a merger, local officials say if the state stops funding a Central Administration Office in Kings Mountain, it would force a merger.

McRae said it would cost over a quarter of a million dollars to fund the local unit. That amount of money, added to the \$364,000 which he estimates Kings Mountain will not receive next year because of bud-

"I'd say it's getting very serious attention and the possibility of it happening is very real."

**BOB M'RAE**

get cuts, would mean Kings Mountain citizens would have to come up with about \$600,000 from local funds to operate its own school system.

"Until just recently I don't think anyone felt like Governor Martin's proposal had a significant chance of being approved," McRae said. "But now that both Houses' education appropriations sub-committees have included it for study by the full Appropriations Committee, I'd say it's getting very serious attention and the possibility of it happening is very real."

In the past when mergers were agreed upon, the state continued funding each unit for two years as the merger was phased in. "I've heard that the committees have said if systems would agree to merge by a certain date the funding would continue for a two-year phase-in period, but if systems refuse to merge they would go ahead and cut the funds now. That's certainly not a final decision but it was discussed," McRae said.

McRae urges local citizens to contact their legislators and let their feelings be known. John Carter of Lincolnton is on the sub-committee on appropriations in the Senate and Jonathan Rhyne of Lincolnton is on the House sub-committee. A list of all the local delegates is on the editorial page on page 4-A.

"We're trying to make people

See Merger, 14-A

## New bank opens in town

Despite a sluggish economy, Carolina State Bank's 1,085 stockholders-70% of them from Cleveland County-invested \$6.9 million over the last 22 months and opened Monday the city's fourth and the first locally owned bank in Cleveland County in 68 years.

"We're excited," said Charlie Harry, chairman of the bank's organizing committee and president of Grover Industries. "We look forward to participating in the future growth of our county and are proud to open banks in Kings Mountain and Shelby. We have assembled an excellent staff and they are very

excited about our opening."

John J. Godbold Jr., president and chief executive officer, Larry Hamrick Sr. and Charles F. Mauney, local members of the six-member board of directors, and Jay Rhodes Jr., senior vice president and chief operating officer, echoed Harry's remarks. Harry, chairman of the board of directors, and Mayor Kyle Smith cut the ribbon officially opening the new facility built at cost of \$600,000 to a crowd of well-wishers who applauded enthusiastically to music by the KMHS Pep Band and to visiting speakers, including Joe

Cabaniss, chairman of the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners.

"There were no banks in the early history of the county founded in 1841," said Cabaniss, who congratulated the bank leaders who made their dreams come true for a new community bank. Cabaniss said some of the relatives of the founders of the Bank of Kings Mountain chartered June 25, 1900 as First National Bank are stockholders and directors of the new bank. Other employees have strong ties to the early banks of the community.

See Bank, 14-A

## Redistricting hearing set

Public hearing on redistricting of Kings Mountain City Council will be conducted by the newly-appointed Redistricting committee Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Elections Board Chairman Becky Cook will conduct the hearing designed to get input from the public.

The committee at recent meetings looked at seven options.

They are:

Five council members elected by wards; two council members elect-

ed at large; mayor elected at large.

Five council members elected by wards; one council member elected at large; mayor elected at large.

Four council members elected by wards; two council members elected at large; mayor elected at large.

Six council members elected by wards; mayor elected at large.

Five council members elected by wards; mayor elected at large.

Four council members elected by wards; mayor elected at large.

Four council members elected

by wards; one council member elected at large; mayor elected at large.

Cook said a major change in the voting procedure will face Kings Mountain citizens when they go to the polls, probably this fall, for the city municipal election. Forming of a minority district, under guidelines by the U. S. Department of Justice, is also an important part of the plan which must be approved by the Justice Department before the next election.

See Hearing, 2-A

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## Woman survives lightning

Keiko Nishiyama, 38, of 302 Scotland Drive, feels she is a lucky woman.

Nishiyama was jolted by a lightning bolt Monday afternoon during a sudden thunderstorm as she tried to bring her dry clothes in from a clothesline.

Hiorki Nishiyama, 12, frightened by the lightning, looked out the window and saw his mother ly-

ing on the ground and ran to his neighbor Pat Boyd, who called 911. Boyd comforted the three children while an ambulance took the mother to Kings Mountain Hospital, where she remained until 6 p.m. Tuesday.

"It was just lucky that I was off from work Monday and could be of help," said Boyd, who operates

See Woman, 10-A

## Get your Hall of Fame tickets now

Time is running out to purchase tickets for the fourth annual Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame Banquet, which will be held Monday night, April 22 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center.

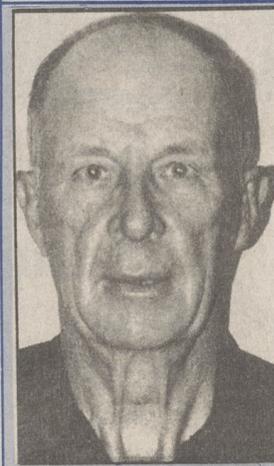
Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased at the Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce, McGinnis Department Store, Champion

Contracting and the Kings Mountain Herald; or from any member of the Hall of Fame Committee.

The Hall of Fame committee needs to have an idea of how many people will be in attendance by next Thursday night in order to make plans with the caterer. The

See Hall, 13-A

### KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE



**RANDOLPH YARBRO**

## God first, everything second, for Yarbro

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Of The Herald Staff

Being a Christian is the most important thing in Randolph Yarbro's life. Everything else is secondary.

That's the advice the 77-year-old Kings Mountain man gives to people he meets every day and the wise counsel he says he has followed since youth.

A carpenter, mechanic, brick mason, and farmer, Yarbro doesn't plan to quit work. He's happiest when he's plowing a garden for a friend and he estimates that he breaks ground for about 200 vegetable gardens every spring. He has a waiting list now of about 40 friends who want their gardens plowed, and although rain slows him down he finds plenty to do around the house. He and his wife built their home on Gold Street, Extension 44 years ago and he does all the maintenance work. In addition, they are co-custodians for Westover Baptist Church where they never miss a Sunday.

Yarbro, who stands 6 feet 6 inches tall, missed the

Army by two inches because of his height. "Back then they were going to put me on the farming list to build barracks because they were drafting boys no taller than 6 feet four," laughed Yarbro, who built his first house at age 22 in the Elizabeth Church Community. In 1939, two years after he married Mary West, they started housekeeping with his father on the family farm in the Elizabeth Community. Mary West was 17 and Yarbro was 24 when they were married in York, S.C. Yarbro joined C. T. Bennett brickyard in Kings Mountain and retired there after 22 years in the construction and brick business. He retired again from Gastonia Industrial Park and then retired twice more from area industry, traveling for several years. He is in much demand as a carpenter and loves to see buildings go up. It isn't unusual to see him climbing on a roof but his love is helping his neighbor's gardens grow.

See Yarbro, 14-A