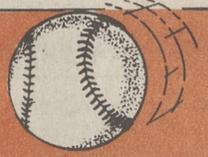




Woman in the pulpit
3-A

KM team to play
in State Tournament
9-A



Your Hometown
Newspaper
• Since 1889 •

Kings Mountain Herald

Mem
Nor
Press

MAINEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY
100 S. PIEDMONT AVE
KINGS MTN NC 28086

VOL. 103 NO. 29

Thursday, July 25, 1991

Kings Mountain, N.C.

They're off and running

Childers for Mayor

Former city commissioner James A. (Jim) Childers made it official this week that he is running for mayor and paid his \$60 filing fee to Elections Board Chairman Becky Cook.

Childers, who served on city council from 1975-83, has attended virtually all board meetings since leaving the office and has maintained an interest in city government. "After the present utility projects are completed the city utilities will be in good shape for the foreseeable future and I think it's time to move on to improving other needs of the city," he said.



CHILDERS

He is the only candidate to file for the top office since filing opened Monday. Mayor Kyle Smith, who is completing his first four-year term, has said he will not seek reelection. Filing period ends August 9 at noon.

Except for five years when he served in the U. S. Army during the Korean conflict, Childers has been a life-long resident of Kings Mountain. President of Childers Roofing, he and his wife, Pat, reside at 407 W. Gold Street and are the parents of five children and have six grandchildren.

See Mayor, 2-A

Gamble in Ward One

Fortee Gamble, of 201 N. Cansler St., filed Monday for the Ward I minority/majority seat on city council.

"I've been working toward district representation for several years and want to represent everyone in the new Ward I," said Gamble, who said his service on the KM Zoning Board of Adjustments, Cleveland County Voters Registration Association and his prior work in the 24th Ward of Philadelphia, Pa. as a committeeman brings experience to the job.

Gamble, a Kings Mountain native, is son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gamble and attended Davidson High School and Keystone Electronic Institute. He has worked as an inspector for the N. C. Department of Transportation for 21 years, 13 of which have been in North Carolina. In the 1950's he operated a restaurant in San Francisco after his discharge from the U. S. Navy after six years service. He served aboard the U. S. S. Missouri during World War II and on the Destroyer New Jersey in the Korean Conflict. He was active in the Boy Scout organization in Philadelphia and also worked there in the clerk of court's office before joining the Department of Transportation.



GAMBLE

See Gamble, 2-A

Gregory in Ward Two

Jeff Gregory, 33, of 214 Fairview St., filed Monday for Ward 2 city councilman.

"I think I ran well for a first-timer in the last city election and still want to serve. I like very much the idea of voting in the wards," said Gregory, who filed Monday as candidate filing opened for the October municipal election.



GREGORY

"I have an overall concern for all the people of Kings Mountain," said Gregory, a city carrier with Gastonia Post Office 8 1/2 years. He is married to Sonya McAbee Gregory and they have two children, Stephanie and Jeffrey Michael, and are active in Second Baptist Church.

A 1976 graduate of Kings Mountain High School, Gregory served in the U. S. Air Force from 1978-82 discharged with the rank of Sergeant. He formerly worked for Piedmont Airlines. A Kings Mountain native, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Gregory.

Only registered voters living in Ward 2 will elect the Ward 2 commissioner at the polls October 8. Filing deadline is August 9 at noon with Elections Board Chairman Becky Cook. Filing fee is \$36.

Trio running At-Large



BENNETT

KING

MORETZ

A race developed for the two at-large seats on Kings Mountain city council Tuesday when a third candidate announced.

Incumbent city councilman Al Moretz filed Monday, former commissioner Luther Bennett filed early Tuesday and former policeman Joe King made it a three-way race when he filed late Tuesday.

Bennett was chairman of the KM Elections Board 12 years and was a city commissioner representing Ward 3 from 1957-61.

Moretz, former city engineer, is completing his first four-year term as District 1 councilman.

King needed 35 votes to beat the incumbent Ward 4 commissioner in a run-off four years ago.

Filing deadline is August 9. Voters will elect a mayor and two commissioners at large, the top vote-getter to a four-year term and the other commissioner See At-Large, 2-A

King wants mayor's seat, Rich board job in Grover

W. Norman King resigned Wednesday from the Grover town board and threw his hat in the ring for mayor. Former commissioner Donald Lee Rich Sr. filed Tuesday for one of the two seats open on the board.

Former 22-year District 4 city commissioner in Kings Mountain, King has served nearly two years of his first four-year term as Grover councilman. He and his wife, Ruth Ware King, moved to Grover nearly three years ago and reside in Spring Acres.



RICH



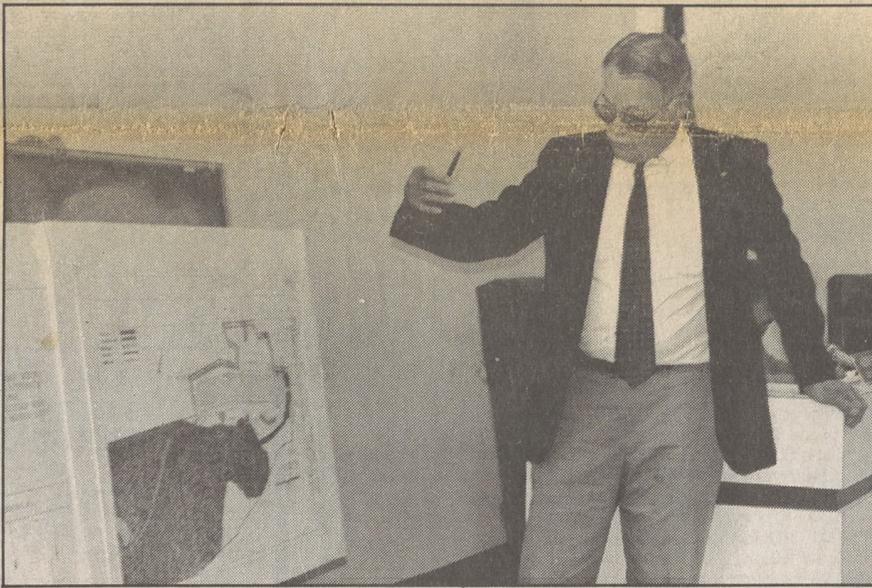
KING

King's entry into the mayor's race brings to three the number of candidates. Four-term Mayor Bill McCarter and Mayor Pro Tem Ronald Queen announced this week. Terms of both McCarter and Commissioner King are up in December. Incumbent Sandra S. Ellis filed for reelection last week.

King retired 10 years ago after 33 years with Southern Bell Telephone Company with service in engineering and public relations. He and his wife are active in Grover First Baptist Church. He is a member of Grover Masonic Lodge and past president of Grover Lions Club. The Kings have four children: Norma Pettus of Kings Mountain, Jack Pettus of Charlotte and Bruce King and Joyce Ann Allen, both of Grover, and five grandchildren.

"I believe that Grover is in a unique position for increased

See Grover, 2-A



PROPOSED MINE- B. K. Barringer, engineer for Rednour Mining Corporation of Kings Mountain, shows a map of a proposed Grover Road site for a mica mine. Adjoining industries and Kilgore community residents are opposing the permit application which the state will decide on in 60 days.

Miller seeks school seat

Mrs. Shearra Miller, 33, of 403 W. Mountain St., filed Tuesday for one of the two inside-city seats up for grabs this fall on the Kings Mountain Board of Education.

Miller is the wife of Tim Miller, co-manager of Bridges Hardware, and mother of two daughters, Rebekah, 6, a first grader at West School, and Kathlene, 3. The family is active in First Baptist Church. Mrs. Miller writes a weekly cooking column for The Kings Mountain Herald.

"Children, not just our daughters but all children, are my reason for filing for the school board," said Miller. "I feel we should not have to settle for mediocrity in public education. Possibility of high quality education is there and we just have to work for it," she said.

"I have no axes to grind," said Miller, who is seeking public office for the first time. A graduate of Meredith College, Miller says her occupation is full-time homemaker. She says she wants to give input into decision-making from a parent's point of view. "I know the board can't accomplish everything that needs to be done in Kings Mountain District

See Miller, 2-A

Citizens protest mine on Highway 29

A proposed mine on Highway 29 near Grover drew opposition by two nearby manufacturers and a resident from Kilgore Community at a public meeting conducted by the North Carolina Division of Land Resources on Rednour Mining Corporation's application for a mining permit Tuesday night before a packed house at Kings Mountain city hall.

Cleveland County Economic Development Commission also op-

poses the application made by Twin Mountain Mine of Kings Mountain, siding with both Eaton Corporation and high tech Phillips & Du Pont about strong concerns about vibration and dust from the adjacent 9-acre Rednour mine, owned by Larry Rednour, who has option to buy 300 additional acres near the site he wants to mine "high quality" mica east of Grover on Highway 216 between Highway 29 and I-85 at Exit 2.

"We can only tolerate about four ten-thousandths of an inch of vibration coming through the ground and this mine will be next door to us," said Jim Gilchrist, engineering manager with Phillips & DuPont, which makes four million compact discs per month. Streams of information are packed so tightly together that the slightest movement will cause skipping and the product won't sell, he said. Gilchrist and Plant Manager Jim Crawley also

are concerned, they said, about dust in the air. "We do quite a job of filtering our air at the plant here and one of the reasons we came to the Kings Mountain area was to insure we would have clean air," said Crawley.

Jim Rennirt, Plant Manager of Eaton Corporation, said vibration will directly affect Eaton's ability to produce heavy-duty transmissions and air contaminants and equipment at the proposed mine

will directly affect high tech precision equipment. Rennirt said Eaton has invested \$160 million in its 290,000 square foot facility and plans to expand 50% above the current production levels and now employs 470 people. He said Eaton would be secured on three sides by the proposed mine.

"We are very much against the digging of another mine in the place we live," said Rev. Kenneth

See Mine, 2-A

Budget back on agenda for city board meeting

The city budget for 1991-92 is the major item on the agenda for Tuesday night's city council meeting.

City Manager George Wood said he will present the \$17,392,639 budget which includes merit raises but no cost-of-living raises for the 160-plus city employees, higher water and sewer rates and new garbage collection fees.

The proposed budget reflects a 1.1 percent increase over last year and a decrease in property tax rate--due to Cleveland County's property revaluation this year--from 37 to 36 cents per \$100.

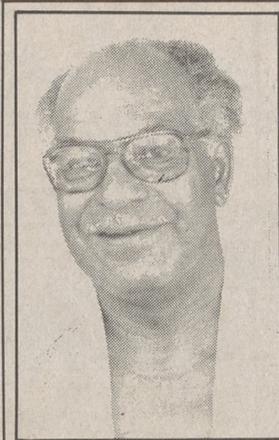
In addition, Kings Mountain residents started paying \$1.40 per month or \$16.80 annually in sani-

tation and garbage fees effective June 30 and will soon be paying an increase of 12 percent in water and sewer rates with the average residential customer finding an increase of \$1.47 on his utility bill effective July 31.

Faced with the state budget crunch, the council had adopted a tentative working budget to tide them over until the General Assembly finished with the state budget.

Wood said the city won't be receiving less money than expected from the state and the budget is unchanged from the budget he presented last month at a public hearing at which only one private citizen, Jim Childers, spoke up.

Kings Mountain People



THEODORE BYERS

Byers just likes to help out

Every Saturday Theodore Byers, 67, volunteers at Kings Mountain Convalescent Center.

He started visiting patients when his mother became ill in 1966 and died there in 1980 and hasn't stopped.

"I just like to help out with the guys," said Byers, who shaves the male patients and often shampoos and cuts their hair. "It really does me more good than it does the patients, I love it."

Byers retired two years ago after 20 years as a shear operator at Ryerson Steel in Charlotte.

A widower, Byers says the retirement years have been busy but enjoyable. He cooks, cuts grass,

and is enjoying the company this summer of his 11-year-old granddaughter, Latoya, of New Jersey. The father of five children, Byers has 10 grandchildren who range in age from 4 to 21. His children are Beverly Byers of Kings Mountain, Michael Byers of Charlotte, and Bradley, Timothy and Theodore Byers, all of New Jersey.

Both Byers' mother, Ola Byers, and his sister, Surdelle Hunter, were patients at Kings Mountain Convalescent Center before their death. "That's a good place and the nursing staff takes good care of the residents," said Byers who visited almost daily when his mother and sister were residents. He claims

many good friends over the years.

A 1942 graduate of Davidson High School, Byers is son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Byers. He graduated from high school in June 1942 and reported for duty with Uncle Sam in July and served three years and four months with the Army Corps of Engineers during World War II in the European Theater of Operations. He returned home and went to work at Burlington Mills Phenix Plant and then moved to New Jersey where he was a metallurgist for N. J. Steel Service for 15 years. He moved back to Kings Mountain in 1969 due to poor health of his parents.

See Byers, 2-A