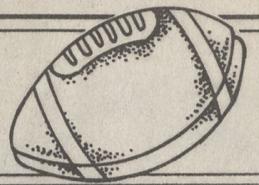




**Cloverfest planned
Saturday**
8-A & 9-A

**KMHS Band to give away
new Chevrolet truck**
7-A

Win \$100
Herald Football Contest
9-B



Kings Mountain Herald

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Kings Mountain, N.C.

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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NC 28086

Candidate forum Tuesday night

The 21 candidates for city and school board offices in the fall elections will meet the voters in a public forum Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. at Barnes Auditorium.

All candidates have received letters from the sponsoring Kings Mountain Herald inviting participation in the forum.

The welcome mat is out for the public to attend and to submit questions to the candidates between 6 p.m. and 6:20 p.m. to Herald Editor Gary Stewart or Herald News Editor Lib Stewart in the lobby of the auditorium.

Realtor Jerry King will serve as moderator for the forum and will introduce first the five people running for school board for questions addressed to all of them. After school board candidates meet the public, the next group to be presented will be the three people running for the office of mayor and followed by

the 13 people running for Wards One and Two and the two at-large seats open on the council.

Questions for each group of candidates must be neatly typed or written or may be presented orally to the newspaper representative. The questions should be addressed to all of the candidates. Under no circumstances will questions be allowed to be directed to any one candidate, and under no circumstances will questions be allowed from the floor. At the beginning of the forum, King will explain the format of the program, and, at the end, each candidate will be given the opportunity to make a brief statement.

Candidates are encouraged to be in the lobby of the auditorium at 6 p.m. to greet the public.

The Board of Education race features five people running for two inside city seats. The election is slated November 5 with the top two vote-getters winning the seats. There are no runoffs in school board elec-

tions. Members serve without pay.

Chairman Billy King currently holds one of the two seats and he is running for a second four year term. The other seat that is to be filled is being vacated by Doyle Campbell.

Also seeking a seat are Shearra Miller, B.S. "Sonny" Peeler, David Lynn and Mark George.

In the mayor's race, three men are vying for the job now held by Mayor Kyle Smith, who decided not to seek reelection after a four year term. Former commissioners Jim Childers and Scott Neisler and Gilbert Hamrick seek the office. All registered voters in the city's five wards may vote for one candidate. The Mayor is paid \$6,000 per year.

In the new minority/majority Ward One, Fortee Gamble, Philip Hager and Roosevelt Ingram seek to be the first black elected to serve on the city council.

Voters from Ward One only will elect the representative.

In Ward Two, incumbent Jackie Barrett is challenged by Jim Guyton, Roy Pearson and Jeff Gregory. Only Ward Two voters will elect the representative.

For the two at-large seats on the board incumbents Al Moretz and Norma Bridges are challenged by Jerry Mullinax, Shirley Brutko, Luther Bennett and Joe King. All registered voters may vote for two. Other city council members whose terms do not expire this year are Elvin Green, Ward 3, mayor pro tem; Jerry White, Ward 4 who succeeded Scott Neisler when Neisler filed for mayor; and Ward 5 commissioner Fred Finger. Commissioners are paid \$3600 per year.

The city primary is Tuesday, October 8. If runoffs are necessary, they will be held on November 5.

White sworn in Tuesday

New Ward 4 commissioner Jerry White was seated by Kings Mountain city council Tuesday night.

He took the oath of office from James W. Morgan, Judge of the 27-B Judicial District Court, of North Carolina, at city hall.

Chuck Gordon, the new member of the city board of elections, also was sworn by Judge Morgan.

White will serve the two-year term on the board being vacated by Scott Neisler, who resigned to run for mayor.

See White, 7-A



SWEARING-IN - New Ward 4 Commissioner Jerry White, center, takes the oath of office as the new councilman from Ward 4 from District Judge James W. Morgan at swearing-in ceremonies Tuesday night at city hall. At right is White's wife Becky.

McRae: We can improve

Kings Mountain Schools Superintendent Bob McRae made his first "Report of the System" at Monday night's board meeting at the Kings Mountain High library.

McRae presented an in-depth report on instruction, drop-outs, attendance, technology, discipline, budget, facilities, and students. He pointed with pride to some of the accomplishments but, in every area he said there is room for improvement.

A synopsis of his comments:

***Instruction** - He said results of tests over the years should "make us pleased but not satisfied." Results of the CAT in grades 3, 6 and 8 over a five year period showed growth but not a steady growth. "Our aim has to be consistent performance above the national, state and regional averages," he said.

He pointed out that the results of the first state report card showed KM at the "low end" of the "at par" range. "This is no cause for celebration," he said. "We must do better."

He said KM's recent improvement in SAT scores showed that it takes determination and direction to achieve. "I have confidence in our potential to raise our results to a higher level than ever and to keep them there."

He said program expansion due in part to the Basic Education Program has made it difficult to place everything into the school day and suggested adding 30 minutes to the school day which would provide an additional 15 days of instruction per year.

***Drop-outs** - KM's drop-out rate is 5.85 percent compared to a state average of 4.57 percent. For each

of the last three years over 100 students dropped out. About one-third of the students who begin the ninth grade drop out before their class graduates.

He said several programs, such as the high school's new attendance policy, should help improve the numbers. He hopes to reduce last year's number of 113 drop-outs by 25 percent.

***Attendance** - Student attendance in 1990-92 was 94.24 percent. The high school attendance lagged over three percentage points behind any other school in the system. East led the system with a 96.31 percent attendance rate.

While accepting some of the blame for the system, McRae said blame also has to lie with the community. He said parents must urge children to attend school regularly, and not "condone" or "cover up" skip days and other absences. "Let's put school attendance at the level of importance it deserves," he said. "We will do our part. The community must do the same."

McRae said employee attendance must also improve. Last year over 3,000 employee work days were missed. "Think of the potential impact on instruction if that number were cut by one-third," he said. "To that end, I believe the system ought to explore ways to reward high employee attendance."

Technology - Effective Schools research says that all children can learn, he said. He called for "tools" to help teachers teach all children. Over time, McRae would like to see one computer for every five children in elementary classrooms "and more could be legitimately used." He said it will take a mini-

See McRae, 5-A

Schools still not racially balanced

Despite a two-year battle with redistricting plans and transfer policies, the racial percentage at two of Kings Mountain's five elementary schools are still not within the suggest range adopted last year by the Board of Education.

Supt. Bob McRae pointed out at Monday night's meeting that the enrollment on the 10th day of school at Bethware and North

Schools do not fall within the plus or minus five percent range of the system-wide minority percentage of 25.1 percent.

Bethware's enrollment was 459 students and its minority percentage was 18.95 percent, or 6.1 percent below the system average. North's enrollment was 400 students and its minority percentage 35.25 percent, or 10.2 percent

above the system average.

McRae advised the board not to over-react and wait until the end of the school year to try to bring the figures in line with the system average. He said allowing students to get settled into class and then move them would be too disruptive.

"We would not want North School to stay at that 35 percent figure over the long haul," he said.

"But all things looked at in perspective, that's not bad for the first year (of the redistricting plan)."

"We all knew North School would have the largest percentage. We just didn't think it would be this large," he said. "We would like to be closer but it's not terrible."

McRae pointed to several factors that could have been responsible

See Enrollment, 2-A

1991-92 school budget \$16,460,809

Kings Mountain's Board of Education officially approved its 1991-92 operating budgets at Monday night's meeting. The total from all sources is \$16,460,809.

County appropriations—which include allocations from county commissioners, numerous taxes, tuition, contributions, fines, etc., will be \$3,384,040; state appropriations, \$11,204,803; federal grants, \$815,034; child nutrition funds, \$977,961; and capital outlay, \$281,551.

Supt. Bob McRae said, even in the tight budget year, Kings Mountain's appropriations from the state increased. That was possible because of a gain of students and new positions.

"But that doesn't mean we didn't get hurt," he said. "We took a cut in energy cost and we have to make that up in local funds. Total dollars are comparable (to last year) but in some places we had to do with our local budget."

McRae said the system was giv-

en 17.75 teaching positions from the state, but overall KM gained back two positions it had sent back to the state during last year's budget crunch.

McRae said the budget includes a five percent supplement increase for teachers, a goal the board has kept alive for several years. It also includes \$6,000 for staff development for the Effective Schools Program.

Despite a cut in state funds, the budget includes \$23,496 (\$6 per

child) for instructional supplies and \$5,000 for textbooks, both made possible through local funds.

"In a lot of areas we're not gaining but we're not cutting back," McRae said. "The appropriation for textbooks will probably get worse over time. Textbook costs are horrendous and it's very difficult to keep our heads above water in that area."

McRae said the system had to

See Budget, 5-A

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE



SARA SIMPSON

Sara makes learning fun

Veteran Kings Mountain teacher Sara Simpson has taught at all five elementary schools in the system.

Simpson loves to read and her enthusiasm for reading is contagious. The many boys and girls who have come to her classes in 32 years find excitement in books. Simpson says there wasn't one who wanted to read who didn't learn.

Not only does the Kings Mountain native love to read at school but she tutors and was one of the first reading tutor when Friends of the Library started the literacy program at Mauney Memorial Library. Sara has a 39-year-old student now who is learning to read after dropping out of school. "He likes to read everything and I am so pleased at his progress," said Simpson.

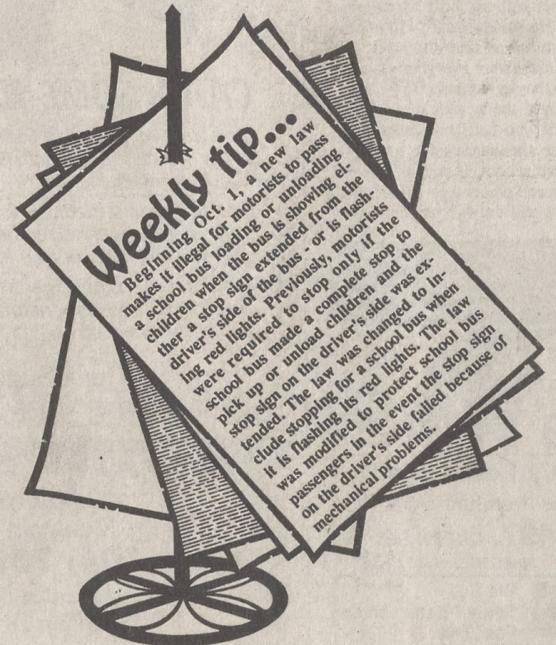
Teaching is a challenge for the former Sara Herndon, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. P. D.

Herndon. She works to make her classroom fun, exciting, interesting and a learning experience by planning special days, trips and programs. This month the boys and girls in her second grade class held Grandparents Day, Watermelon Day and Worm Day transforming some subjects which could be dull into an adventure. The youngsters wrote stories about their grandparents who visited the classroom, had lunch with the students, and read to them. Watermelon Day included measuring and counting seeds before eating the melon and was a highlight of the arithmetic lesson for the day. In Science, the seven and eight year old children were fascinated with worms, drew worms, wrote stories and poems about them and made worms of real bananas and peanut butter. They also keep a weather calendar and thermometer, study the globe and

continents, keep a birthday graph and are "smart cookies," a homework incentive in which they receive cookies after lunch if they have their homework assignments. A "Bee A Helper" graph on the bulletin board is designed as a bee with the names of the students around the bee hive with their various assignments for the day.

Sara starts each school day at 7 a.m. and welcomes each student on arrival. She encourages 100% attendance in school and also in church and finds transportation for any student who needs a ride to Sunday School. It isn't unusual for Sara to use her own car to transport parents to monthly PTO meetings and it isn't any wonder that her class is a frequent winner of the attendance prize and a free ice cream social.

See Sara, 7-A



Weekly tip...
Beginning Oct. 1, a new law makes it illegal for motorists to pass a school bus loading or unloading children when the bus is showing either a stop sign extended from the driver's side of the bus - or is flashing red lights. Previously, motorists were required to stop only if the school bus made a complete stop to pick up or unload children and extended. The law was changed to include stopping for a school bus when it is flashing its red lights. The law was modified to prevent school bus passengers in the event the stop sign on the driver's side failed because of mechanical problems.