



**Angela Strickland**  
Auction Saturday at KMHS

**Herald to publish day early**  
Next week

**Paige Brown**  
KMHS Carrousel Princess



# Kings Mountain Herald

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## Reep: KM Hospital not at risk

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Of The Herald Staff

Kings Mountain Hospital Administrator Huit Reep says a report released Tuesday by the N. C. Center for Public Policy Research "unjustifiably singles out rural hospitals."

"I certainly don't subscribe to their report and I hope that Kings Mountain citizens won't be alarmed by their opinion of what is at risk or moderately at risk hospitals."

The research team of graduate students identified

eight hospitals, including Kings Mountain Hospital, as "moderately at risk," and eight rural hospitals, including Crawley Memorial at Boiling Springs, as "substantially at risk."

"Rural hospitals are not getting enough patients, enough local support, or enough income to be strong, secure providers of health care in rural areas," says Jack Betts, editor of the Center's quarterly magazine, *North Carolina Insight*. "While our research data does not predict the 'at risk' hospitals will close, it is clear that these hospitals may need to re-evaluate

their mission, services and financial conditions if they are to continue as vital links in the health care chain in rural areas."

Performed in conjunction with the Rural Health Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the research was featured in one of the articles in a theme issue of *Insight* on rural health care in North Carolina. It also was featured as part of an hour long documentary on rural health, entitled, "Prescription for Change," aired statewide Tuesday night on North Carolina Public Television, a seventh

joint production for the two centers since 1987.

The N. C. Center examined five key areas of rural hospital utilization for the article and for the documentary. The Center also looked at the most recent net income figures publicly available for rural hospitals. The report identified Kings Mountain Hospital rating abnormal on at least two of the five utilization criteria. The report identified Crawley Memorial Hospital rating abnormal on at least three of the five utilization criteria. The average occupancy rate for

See Hospital, 11-A

## He's all boy!

Adopted son Bennetts' best blessing

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Of The Herald Staff

Every day is Thanksgiving at the home of Rick and Ann Bennett since Alex, 6, a bundle of energy and "all boy" became their son, the joy of their lives.

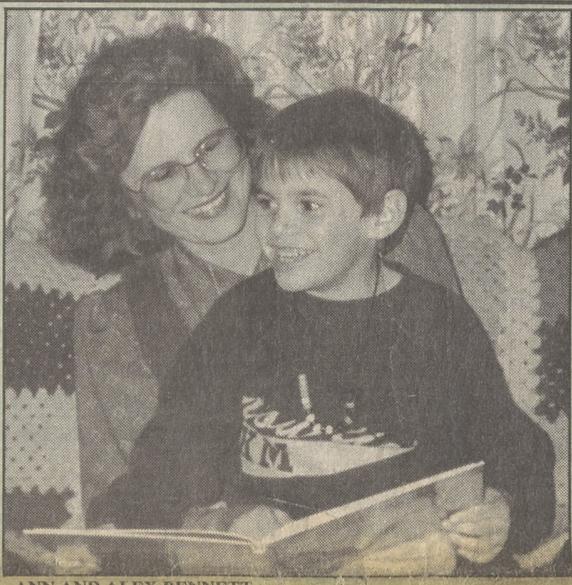
Alex was adopted when he was 4 1/2 months old. Rick and Ann won't ever forget that first Thanksgiving together nearly seven years ago. They had waited 14 years after applying first with Children's Home Society and turned down because they were too young. Then they applied with the Cleveland County Social Services Department and four years ago they got their first glimpse of a

healthy 15 pound boy they named Alex Maxwell, who soon became the apple of his dotting grandfather Alex Owens' eye.

When Alex started asking questions when he started kindergarten the parents sat down with him and explained that his biological mother loved him so much that she gave him up so that he would have the very best life and so he came to be their son. "My other mom just couldn't handle me," said Alex, laughing and climbing up on his mother's lap.

Both now 42 and married 20 years, Ann and Rick Bennett call

See Bennett, 3-A



ANN AND ALEX BENNETT

## Couple fighting wreck injuries

Eddie Herndon calls his parents "fighters."

The Kings Mountain couple, seriously injured last Wednesday night in a wreck with a logging truck on U. S. 74 as they were en route to David Baptist Church, were showing some improvement this week.

Harold Herndon, 72, has been moved into room 5927 at Carolinas Medical Center. Recuperating from a broken neck, he was running some fever and his son says "he's not out of the woods yet."

Aileen Herndon, 70, remains in critical but stable condition in the Trauma Unit, also at Carolinas Medical Center, where she is to undergo seven-hour facial surgery this week. Mrs. Herndon remains on a ventilator but has been able to write notes to her son, Eddie, and her daughter, Linda Hammil and their families waiting with them at the hospital.

Herndon says the family can't say enough about the support from friends in the Kings Mountain area and from the medical and emergency staffs that worked with their parents after the accident occurred at 6:50 p.m. Wednesday when a logging truck driven by Timothy

Barnes, 28, of 303 Putnam St., Shelby, pulled out in front of the Herndons from a private driveway near Overcash's Antiques between Kings Mountain and Shelby, Trooper J. L. Brower said in the accident report filed by the N. C. Highway Patrol. Harold Herndon was driving his 1988 Dodge Dynasty east on U. S. 74 when his vehicle was hit by the truck, which was hauling a load of timber. "Apparently his vehicle ran under the trailer and they are lucky to be alive," said his son.

Both Herndons were wearing seat belts and had to be extricated from the wreckage with the Jaws of Life by several rescue squad teams and airlifted from Charlotte Memorial Hospital to Charlotte. The truck driver was not injured.

Eddie Herndon said the family wanted to thank the Kings Mountain and Shelby Rescue Squads, Cleveland Memorial Hospital, Robert and Beverly Harry of Kings Mountain, helicopter pilot and nurse, and the ICU Unit at Carolinas Medical Center. "Mom and Dad have been getting so many cards and calls from friends and they will tell you themselves they appreciate you."

## Residents oppose dump closing

Oak Grove resident Tom Brooks says his neighborhood will fight the closing of the Stony Point/Mary's Grove Church Road unattended trash container site.

Monday, after a petition with over 1300 names was presented to county commissioners, Brooks said the group faces "a tough battle" but they won't stop.

"I don't think they realized when they closed the trash site October 28 how many people live here and

use that site," he said.

Brooks and former House Rep. John Weatherly presented the petition through Shelby attorney Tom Martin Monday morning during a meeting of commissioners who asked the county's Solid Waste Advisory Board to review it.

Brooks says the nearest dump sites are not close enough to the homes of residents in the area. The county landfill is about 8 miles away and the new manned site in

Kings Mountain is nine miles away, he said.

Brooks said he is concerned that illegal dumping may result by people who don't want to drive the distance to manned sites. "We find ourselves paying more taxes for less service. We realize the cost of another manned site but we want our area to be upgraded or next on the list."

At the meeting Martin urged the commissioners to take a serious

look at this problem and recognize the petition for what it is. "We would welcome a manned site like the Margrace site in Kings Mountain," Brooks said.

The Mary's Grove site has been open 20 years. Upgrading it would suit residents, said Brooks, since county officials say no funds are available for another manned site. County officials said they had

See Trash, 3-A

## Dr. Kenneth McGill dies

Dr. Kenneth Harwood McGill, 65, former Kings Mountain medical doctor and medical missionary, died of cancer November 18, 1991 in Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta, Ga.

McGill had served for 24 years in Zaire and Malawi, Africa, under the Presbyterian Church U. S. A. Board of Missions. He retired at age 65, PCUSA's retirement age for medical missionaries, and returned to Bent Tree, Ga. on August 12. Cancer was diagnosed at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta.

He came to Kings Mountain in 1954 to join his brother, Dr. John C. McGill, in family practice in offices at that time over Kings Mountain Drug Store. The brothers opened McGill Clinic on Wattersen Street in 1961. Altogether, Kenneth McGill was in Kings Mountain for 10 years. After several years on the mission field, he returned to Kings Mountain in 1979 and spent one year as a surgeon at Kings Mountain Hospital and then went back on the mission field.

A native of Clover, S.C., he was

son of the late Dr. Waldo Knox McGill and Mrs. Elsie Sullivan McGill. He was educated at Erskine College in Due West, S.C., Vanderbilt Medical School in Nashville, TN, and completed his surgical residency at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, TN. He served in the U. S. Army from 1944-46.

He was Chief of the Medical Staff of Kings Mountain Hospital in 1959 and secretary to the staff in 1956-57. In Kings Mountain the

See McGill, 2-A



DR. KENNETH H. MCGILL

## Thanksgiving service set at Boyce Memorial

The Kings Mountain Ministerial Association's Community Thanksgiving service will be held Wed., Nov. 27 at 7 p.m. at Boyce Memorial A.R.P. Church.

The service involves many of the churches in the Kings Mountain area. An offering will be taken for the Kings Mountain Helping Hands Crisis Ministries.

"This service has traditionally been a time when churches of all denominations gather together to recount their blessing and to offer

thanksgiving to God the Father for His bountiful care," said Morris Jordan, Minister of Music at First Baptist Church.

This year, the Thanksgiving message will be presented by a community choir which will sing the cantata "Give Thanks" by Keith Ferguson and Ken Barker. This work involves the choir, soloists, worship leader and the congregation in meaningful and joyful praise and thanksgiving.

The public is invited.

## Christmas parade set

The annual Kings Mountain Christmas parade will be held Sun., Dec. 8 at 2:30 p.m. in the downtown area.

This year's grand marshal will be Mike McKay of WBTB.

Any groups, organizations, or persons who would like to enter the parade may go by the Community Center and fill out an application or call 734-0449 and request an application by mail. Deadline for entering is December 2. There is no fee.

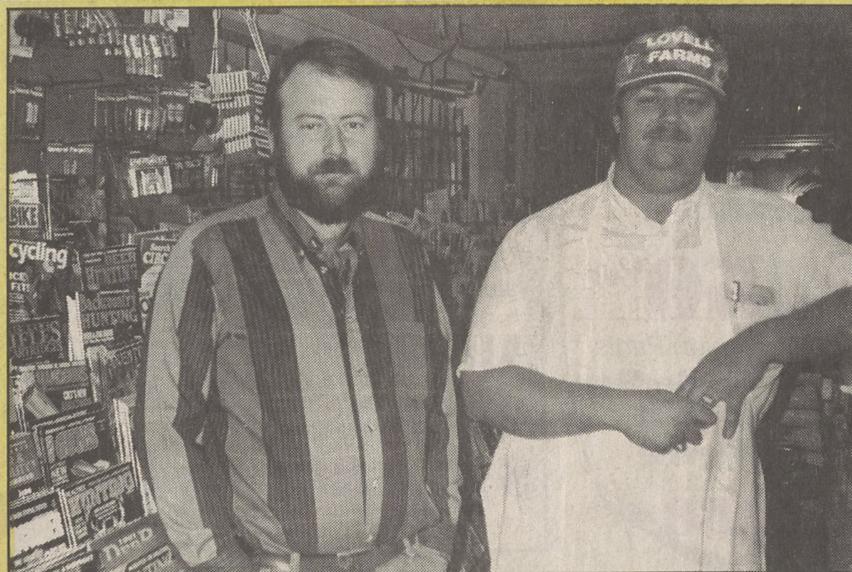
## Tree lighting set

The city of Kings Mountain and Mauney Memorial Library will host the second annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony December 3 at 7 p.m. at the library.

The program will include seasonal music by Foursquare Gospel Church Choir, the Swinging Mountaineers, Kings Mountain Baptist Church Choir, and an audience sing along.

The Christmas tree will be lighted and Santa Claus will make an appearance. Friends of the Library will provide refreshments.

## Kings Mountain People



KIRK AND KEITH FALLS

## Never a dull moment for Keith, Kirk Falls

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Of The Herald Staff

Keith and Kirk Falls, brothers in business together all their lives, enjoy serving the public.

"It's never dull and no day is ever the same," says Kirk, 36, whose domain is Linwood Produce while his brother, Keith, 31, is chief chef in Linwood Restaurant. Both businesses are under the same roof on Bessemer City Road and were started by their father, the late Paul Falls, the store opening in the late 1960's and the restaurant opening in 1973.

At one time the Falls family operated Linwood Washette nearby but a big fire five years ago put the 30 washers out of business and happened one week before the senior Falls died on April 1, 1986.

Last year the Falls brothers and their mother, Jewel Falls, added a greenhouse which has proved to be a popular attraction for those with a green thumb. Pansies, oriental cabbage, and pumpkins are just a few of the popular items. In addition to the basic grocery line, Linwood Produce probably has the biggest collection of magazines in this area, from sports of all kinds to Farmer's Almanacs including the Blum's Farmer and Planters Almanac which farmers in this area live by.

Since Keith is an avid American Legion sports fan and attends most games, he added baseball magazines to the display racks along with the 1992 ACC basketball pro and high school publications.

See Falls, Page 12-A