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*Special Insert*  
Inside today's Herald



# Kings Mountain Herald

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## Bush's message gets mixed reviews

The burning question that seemed to be on the minds of breakfast diners at McDonald's and Hardees Wednesday morning after the President's speech was, "Why did the President wait so long to do something about the economy?"

Talking to several people around Kings Mountain after the State of the Union Address showed that most felt the speech was well written and presented.

Some said they realized that the President was only one man and needed the help of Congress and each citizen to correct the country's ills.

"The only thing the President can do is what the Democratic Congress lets him do," said Sonny Jackson. "One thing about it, there's not many people trying to get out of the U.S.A. God bless America."

"I liked his speech," said city personnel director Charles Webber. "He seemed to be upbeat and very positive."

Webber, who has served in the reserves, was pleased that the President will not allow the defense budget to be cut more than 30 percent.

"He said the world was not completely safe," Webber said, and agreed with Bush.

"I think he's on the right track. No one person can solve it," Webber said. "He didn't talk like a candidate. He talked like a president. I believe in giving him a chance."

Mayor Scott Neisler said he felt like the plan was not a quick fix that might cause repercussions later, such as higher taxes.

"I think it will probably be very helpful for people," Neisler said.

"I don't see why he didn't recognize the economic problems before now," said Earl Wiggins over coffee at Hardees.

"If he does something about the economy, I'll be satisfied. . . . He ought to think about the situation at home," said Espy Cook.

Carol Wiggins felt Bush should have said more about the working man.

"I'd like to ask that Japanese man one question: If we, the American people, are so lazy, how did we get to the moon so quickly? And why has God blessed this land so much?"

"We need action now," said Wiggins.

## Bethware addition dedicated

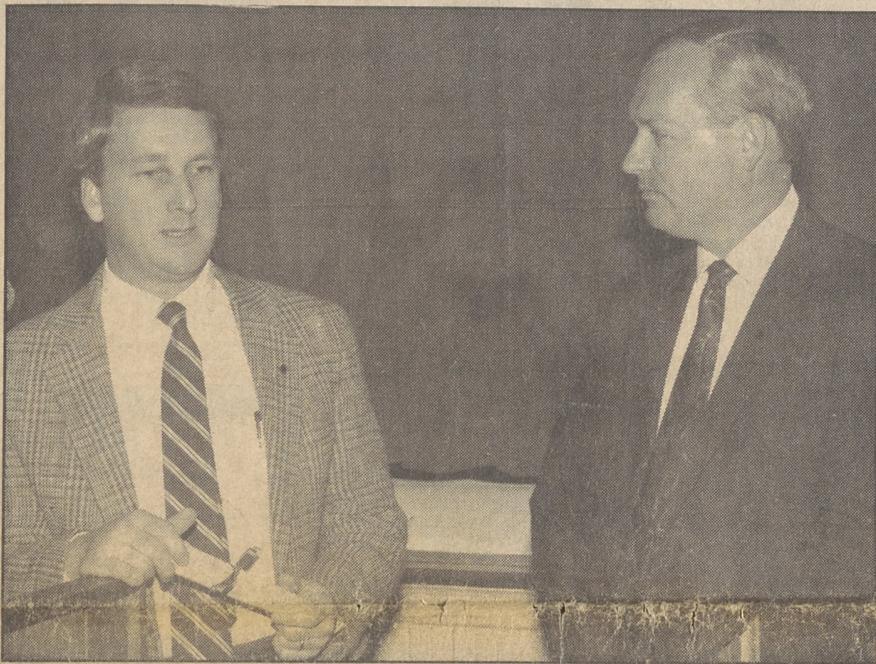
Kings Mountain Schools dedicated the new \$1.25 million classroom addition to Bethware School at a public ceremony Tuesday night in the school auditorium.

Following a 30-minute program, guests were invited to tour the new building, which houses 14 classrooms, and see a video on the construction process.

Bethware is the fifth Kings Mountain District school to complete a building project under a special \$35 million bond referendum approved by Cleveland County voters. Kings Mountain received some \$10.5 million of the funds.

Supt. Bob McRae, Dr. Bill McMillan, Director of the Technical Assistance Center for the N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction, Cleveland County Commissioner Joe Cabaniss, and local school officials took part in the program.

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Roger Holland, left, of Holland and Hamrick Architects officials hands over the new classroom building to School Board chairman Ronnie Hawkins at Tuesday night's dedication ceremony at Bethware.

## KM Schools get bad grade

Kings Mountain Schools received a "below par" grade on the second annual State Report Card which was released to school systems this week. The full report will be released later by the State Board of Education.

Supt. Bob McRae expressed disappointment in Kings Mountain's grade, which slipped from a "par" grade last year. McRae said Kings Mountain's test results were about the same as last year but the state's expectations were higher.

"What is expected, or what would be par, is based on an index of advancement which includes factors that affect the ability of kids to learn in Kings Mountain," McRae explained. "This year's achievement ratings do now show any drop or substantial gain, but the criteria for determining the index of advancement changed and also our performance on some of that criteria changed."

McRae said Kings Mountain wasn't satisfied with last year's par score, so it cannot be happy with this year's grade.

"The community doesn't expect that kind of performance and our children are capable of doing better," McRae said. "We have to be more concerned with where our achievement is. If we can get the achievement up, then par will take care of itself."

"Our children are capable of doing better and we are capable of giving them what they need to get better," he added. "We've already implemented programs to address this situation and will be totally dedicated to moving achievement upward."

Kings Mountain successfully met 27 of the 28 guidelines for state accreditation, failing only on its drop-out rate.

"We don't want to over-react to the below par rating," McRae said. "It's cause for concern and it certainly indicates a need to improve. But at the same time I do think that the state accreditation status report also shows that we are getting some positive things done in the school system. We just need to continue to try to work to get ev-

"Our children are capable of doing better..."

-Bob McRae

everything up as best as we can.

"I believe our employees are dedicated to doing that. One thing we need to remember is that when you see something that comes in on a report card that's not as high as it needs to be the tendency is to say we'll make changes next year. But next year is now. Next year's report card is based on what we do in the year we're in."

McRae said the Effective Schools program, which was implemented this year, will go a long way toward improving Kings Mountain's scores.

"We will be looking at each school's situation and determine what that individual school needs to work on the most," he said. "We'll look at what subject area, what category of students, if any particular groupings of children seem to be doing worse than others, and come up with ways to improve those areas."

"We're also working hard to align our curriculum with tests," he added. "Sometimes the CAT doesn't completely accurately reflect the total degree of what the curriculum calls on us to teach. We need to do a better job of teaching what's going to be tested. The whole CAT structure is going to be leaving North Carolina and we're going to a different kind of test which should help us in the future. But that's not going to make a major difference this year."

McRae said each individual school in the King Mountain District has a committee working on programs that need to be added to improve the achievement of students and that the Board of Education will continue to look to each school for leadership in determining specifics that need to be done in their own situation.

"The needs of one school may be quite different than another school," he said.

## Your city electrical bills are going up

Your April 1 power bills will reflect a 3.4% increase—about \$3.59 per month for the average user—but the bite isn't as bad as city officials figured.

City council passed on the rate hike to its 4,000 plus electric customers Tuesday night.

City Manager George Wood said the city's past practice has been to "track" the retail rates of Duke Power Company, its wholesale supplier of electricity, so that the city's electric rates remain

competitive with Duke's retail rate.

Wood said Duke was granted a 4.15% increase in its retail electric rates, effective November 1991, and Kings Mountain customers got a break then when the city agreed to forego the full retail rate increase to adequately cover the increased costs at a lower rate of 3.4% and foregoing any increase in the SSI rate categories. Duke's overall increase is 4.4%, the city 1% under the Duke increase.

Finance officer Jeff Rosencrans said 223 customers fall in the supplementary security income bracket who don't reach the minimum of 1,000 kilowatts per month. That group, one of eight different power classifications, will see the same rates with no increase.

For an ell-electric user, a family of three would see an increase of about \$3.59 per month.

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## KMCC neighbors oppose 60-bed addition

Neighbors of Kings Mountain Convalescent Center say if the city approves rezoning of adjacent property for a 60-bed addition near the hospital that it will mean increased traffic in an area in the western section of the city they call a traffic hazard.

The Kings Mountain Planning & Zoning Board unanimously denied the zoning request from White Oak Manor Thursday night but reminded petitioners that they don't have the last word. City Council will make the final decision February 25 at a 7:30 p.m. public hearing at city hall.

Kemp Cecil, president of White

Oak Manor, Otto Cecil, vice president, both of Spartanburg, S.C. and Karen Radford, administrator of the local facility on Sipe Street, have applied for a certificate of need from the state.

"Sixty beds are being allocated for Cleveland County and Kings Mountain badly needs those beds," said Radford, noting the long waiting list at the local skilled and intermediate nursing home built here 18 years ago and expanded several years ago from 60 to 124 beds.

Allen Fuller presented the petition signed by 75 property owners opposing the rezoning. He cited excessive noise and traffic.

Dr. Scott Mayse, whose medical office is located on Sims Street, said Sims Street is a major avenue for by-pass traffic. He noted the increase in traffic since doctor's offices opened in Professional Park, the ambulance entrance at the hospital and the new Home Federal building went up. Traffic is a real concern now, he said.

Joe R. Smith, a member of the board, questioned what additional parking would be required if the expansion is built, noting that visitors at the nursing home now park on the grass and islands and the traffic at the nearby hospital leaves no ingress and egress on Sipe

Street. Cecil said employees sometimes double park on Sipe Street during shift changes.

Radford said the facility has a good reputation in the community with a waiting list of 140-150 patients. She said the facility gives priority to those people living and working in Kings Mountain.

Lou Ballew, a member of the board who lives on Edgemont Avenue and is one of the facility's closest neighbors, abstained from voting. M. C. Pruette made the motion to deny, seconded by Gene Coxen. David Faunce presided in

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## Lucille Williams honored for service to Chamber

Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce honored one of its own Monday night at the annual banquet attended by 75 people at Holiday Inn.

New President Ruby M. Alexander took the occasion to present veteran secretary and office manager Lucille Williams with an engraved plaque recognizing 29 years of service.

"How many of you in the audience wouldn't like to have an employee as valuable as Lucille who has been with the same firm almost 30 years?" she asked.

Mrs. Williams joined the Kings Mountain Merchants Association/Credit Bureau as assistant to Ida Joy in 1963 when the office was located in a second floor building on Cherokee Street. When

the office merged with the Chamber in later years she continued as the "girl Friday" for both organizations, running the offices and handling credit reports.

Past president Dr. Grady Howard Jr. was master of ceremonies. Incoming Vice President Wade Tyner introduced the speaker, Jim Taylor, of Shelby, executive for Royster Oil and a popular after-dinner speaker in the county.

Taylor delighted the audience with anecdotes about Kings Mountain and Shelby athletic rivalry over the years and interspersed his entertainment program with serious philosophy: Don't take your self seriously all the time, relax and laugh, have faith in yourself and your goals and be optimistic.

See Lucille, 10-A



Lucille Williams, center, was honored for long service to the Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce Monday night. Dr. Grady Howard Jr., left, master of ceremonies for the banquet, and new president Ruby Alexander make the plaque presentation.

## New Chamber president sees positive year ahead

The first woman president of the Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce sees building a positive image for Kings Mountain as her top priority in 1992.

Ruby M. Alexander, a general contractor and president of Alexander Inc., said a grant from Jones Intercable for video commercials will inaugurate the new look for the Chamber in March.

Alexander said the commercials, to be shot by the Jones staff and aired on CNN, ESPN, Nashville Network, USA Network, TNT and Lifestyles, will focus on Kings Mountain as a desirable alternative to living in a large city. Jones, said Alexander, is donating the time and expertise as a community service. "I'm excited about this project," says Alexander.

Second priority for 1992-93 will be increased membership. Alexander said the current membership is 125 and the goal for 1992-93 is 175. She pointed to reasonable dues for small and large businesses and benefits too numerous to list.

Alexander, who has served in all offices in the Chamber with the exception of secretary, has been active in the Chamber's growth from the 1950's when it began as an arm of the Kings Mountain Merchants Association and Credit Bureau.

She sees the Chamber as the glue that binds small businesses and large industry in a common effort to make Greater Kings Mountain a better place to work and live. As a lifelong resident and

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