



**KM Schools  
present awards**

5A-8A

**Diana and Larry Allen**

A Handy Couple

1-B



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## KMG fire costs at \$1 million

By RENEE WALSER  
Of The Herald Staff

Fire caused more than a million dollars in damage to the Patterson plant of KMG Minerals, Inc., on North Cansler Street Tuesday morning.

Kings Mountain Fire Department Chief Frank Burns said the fire was reported at 4:52 a.m. and the arrival time at of fire fighters at the scene was 4:58 a.m.

The fire was in the Oak Grove district, however, Burns said seven area fire departments responded with about 150 men.

Herbert Bierman, manager of the company's legal department, said the main portion of the production facilities was destroyed. KMG produces mica and the Patterson facility is responsible for grinding and drying.

Bierman said the start and cause of the fire were still under investigation late Tuesday. The State Bureau of Investigation was on the scene.

"There have been no determinations," Bierman said. "Arson is not a major concern at this point."

Burns and Bierman said that the presence of the SBI was routine in a fire of this size.

Bierman said there was some speculation that the cause was related to a failure of a compressor.

Four employees were present at the time the fire broke out but there were no injuries. Bierman said KMG employs 200 workers and 16 work at the Patterson plant.

"We do extensive safety instruction and it paid off," said Bierman. "We can replace a plant as long as no one was hurt."



A fireman hoses down what is left of the processing portion of the KMG Mineral Inc. Patterson Plant on North Cansler Street Tuesday after a fire swept through the plant causing over one million dollars in damage. Four workers were present when the fire broke out but there were no injuries.

## City cost-savings brightens budget

Cost-saving measures brighten the city budget picture.

A new garbage transfer station under construction on North Piedmont Avenue will save the city thousands of dollars, said City Manager George Wood during a budget presentation Tuesday night.

For city sanitation workers, a round trip to the county landfill is about 35 miles. Multiply that by four city garbage trucks, each taking one trip a day, five days a week. Fully loaded, those garbage trucks get less than five miles per gallon of gasoline. Gas costs alone are tremendous, said Wood.

Once the transfer station is on line the first week in July, a contractor will be hired to haul large loads of garbage to the landfill, cutting trips to the landfill from 20 to three. The city will also be consolidating routes, resulting in two less employees who won't lose their jobs, he said. Savings on gasoline and truck maintenance should amount to \$50,000 in the coming fiscal year after construction costs are paid.

With the new plan, none of the city's trucks will leave the city limits.

Another plus in the new budget is an increase in the water and sewer fund, result of a rate hike to Kings Mountain customers in April to pay for use of the new Crowders Creek Waste Treatment Plant. The increase represents 5.01 percent, from \$3,752,560 to \$3,942,132, or \$189,572.00. The electric fund should also increase 5.3 percent, from \$5,643,432.00 last year to a proposed

See Budget, 9-A

## Hearing brightens budget picture

Tuesday night's budget presentation by City Council was sparse. Only one private citizen, Clayvon Kelly, posed a question. Why is the city spending \$19,000 to redo ordinances in a recession year when there are no funds to give raises to employees?

Kelly's question came after a budget presentation by City Manager George Wood who said that the proposed \$18.2 million budget includes no tax increase, no utility increases, and no cost-of-living raises but does include merit raises for eligible employees. Wood said the priorities set by council at a spring planning meeting are all budgeted for 1992-93.

"We put off redoing ordinances for three years. There are serious deficiencies in the outdated ordinances that could result in legal problems for the city," said Wood.

Defending the council's priorities, Mayor Scott Neisler said employees will receive a 2-1/2 percent merit raise. Raising the property tax one cent would only contribute about \$25,000 of the \$37,000 needed for raises, he said.

"The Council has correctly identified problem areas," said Wood. He said that the city's policy on raises is not in line with what other municipalities have

See Hearing, 9-A



It's Moving Day for West School staff this week as teachers vacate classrooms at the old Central School and move into the new school on West Mountain Street. Jodi McDaniel, left, second grade teacher, and Sylvia Neisler, kindergarten teacher, put up supplies in one spacious classroom almost ready for arrival of students in the fall.

## West School on the move

Asst. Supt. of Kings Mountain Schools Larry Allen said, "Everything's moving nicely," in the move of West School from Central, its temporary home for the last year, back to its original campus.

Teachers boxed up their equipment and paraphernalia before school was out, and movers are now transporting the boxes to each

room at West.

Some teachers have already put things in place at the new building, Allen said.

"We think we'll be moving the office this week," said Allen. "We allocated three to four weeks to completely transpose the sites."

Allen said things should be ready well in advance for the return of students on August 17.

West Principal Sherrill Toney said the new building provided 14 classrooms, a media center, a cafeteria with stage, kitchen area and offices.

"We can put all K through 5, resource and Chapter 1 in the new building," he said.

Art, music, Spanish, P.E. and

See West, 13-A

## 100 students to attend summer school

Officials estimate about 100 students will participate in the state-funded summer school for students in grades 3, 6 and 8.

These are students who scored below the 25th percentile on the California Achievement Test and who failed the Minimym Skills Diagnostic Test.

The state-funded summer school will be held at East Elementary

School and will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. Transportation and lunch will be provided.

Starting date for state-funded summer school is June 17 and will last through July 16. July 2 and 3 will be holidays. Testing will be held on July 15.

Students have a maximum limit of four absences in order to get credit for class.

Kings Mountain Middle School will offer a tuition summer school for students in grades 6, 7 and 8 who failed math, English or Academic Skills. The cost is \$150. No transportation or lunch will be provided. Classes begin at 8 a.m. and end at 1 p.m.

Subjects that will be offered are language arts, math and reading.

See School, 2-A

## Philip's CD plant sold to Polygram

Global record and entertainment group, PolyGram, has acquired the Philips compact disc (CD) plant located near Kings Mountain.

Previously known as Philips and Dupont Optical Co. (PDO), then Philips Optical Media Corp., the plant produced approximately 50 million CD's during 1991. The new company will be known as PolyGram Manufacturing and Distribution Centers Inc.

Commenting on the acquisition, PolyGram's executive vice-president and chief financial officer, Jim Cook said, "We have established a significant and successful record business in the United States for which it is vital that we have a guaranteed, fast, and economical supply of product.

Acquisition of the Kings Mountain plant achieves these objectives and will satisfy PolyGram's demand for CD output in the USA."

Cook said that in addition to fulfilling all of PolyGram's CD needs in the United States the King Mountain plant will continue to supply discs to third parties.

Local plant manager Jim Crawley said, "PolyGram has been a key customer for our plant since we began operations in 1986. Becoming a part of PolyGram's world-wide manufacturing operations will strengthen our position in the CD business. This added strength will mean much to our third party customers, our employees, and the community."

See Philips, 3-A

## Kings Mountain People

### Davis shakes hands with tomorrow

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
of The Herald Staff

Harriet Davis' philosophy is that a mind is a terrible thing to waste and in her classroom she promotes a spirit of inquiry.

The Kings Mountain woman, Gaston County's Teacher of the Year, tells her Holbrook Junior High students that she wants them to "cut holes to see through, sing in your own key, build sand castles, and shake hands with tomorrow."

Holbrook, who has taught school for 25 years and is head of the Holbrook English Department and teaches journalism, was lauded for her reading and writing programs which soon will be available to schools throughout the state.

In her 18th year at Holbrook, Davis, wife of Rev. Bob Davis and mother of three grown sons and also a grandmother, is known on the campus for making sure her students use correct spelling and grammar in

whatever they write—even in other teacher's classes. Holbrook students had the highest passing rate—97 percent—of all Gaston junior highs on the state writing tests last year, and this year Holbrook's ninth grade of over 200 students scored 100 percent on both reading and writing competency tests. Holbrook students have been tops in Gaston County for the past five years but Davis won't take credit alone for the feat. She says all the teachers work together and peer tutoring is a factor in the success of the program. "We concentrate on what subjects the student is low in and work from there," she said.

On the 8th grade state writing test her students scored high for two straight years and last year scored 94.6. Last year she went to four Junior Highs and 11 elementary schools and led workshops on how to score on the 8th grade state writing test. Students demonstrated a significantly higher passing rate on the North Carolina writing test after the work-

See Davis, 13-A



HARRIET DAVIS