

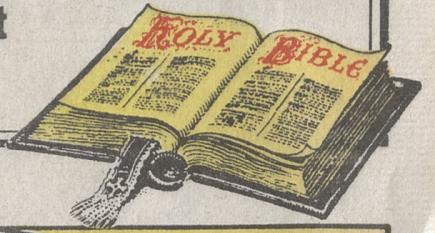


**Kings Mountain still winning in Area IV playoffs**

6-A

**Readers write about prayer in schools**

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# Kings Mountain Herald

VOL. 104 NO. 28

Thursday, July 9, 1992

Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086 •35¢

## Knocking at KM's power Squirrels play a shocking game

Squirrels playing in the city's power lines have blown fuses in at least a dozen incidents of reported blinks and outages recently.

"This is the worst season we've ever had with animals," says Utilities Director Jimmy Maney who asks electric customers to "bear with us" while plastic cones are installed over the tops of transformers to keep the animals out.

The tree-lined Linwood Section of East Kings Mountain has been the hardest hit, according to Maney, who blames the mild winters for the influx of squirrels who climb up the stinger wires, get grounded, and are electrocuted when the fuse blows and blinks the circuit.

Maney said three incidents of blinks this week came from trees falling into lines. Blinks occurring during a storm are the direct result of trees in the lines. When the wind blows, he says the tree limbs get in the line and cause one line to touch the other. There have been several outages, the most recent on June 30, from trees falling in lines during a storm.

Power was out for two hours in the Linwood section, on First and Second Streets, at Northwoods, and on North Piedmont Avenue when a broken tree limb wrapped around the lines. The power

blinked eight times before it went out or caused what electricians call an "instantaneous fault."

Maney said that once the new SCATA system is installed on the lines that city crews will be adding more equipment and will be able to pinpoint immediately what areas of town are affected during outages and get to the problems quicker.

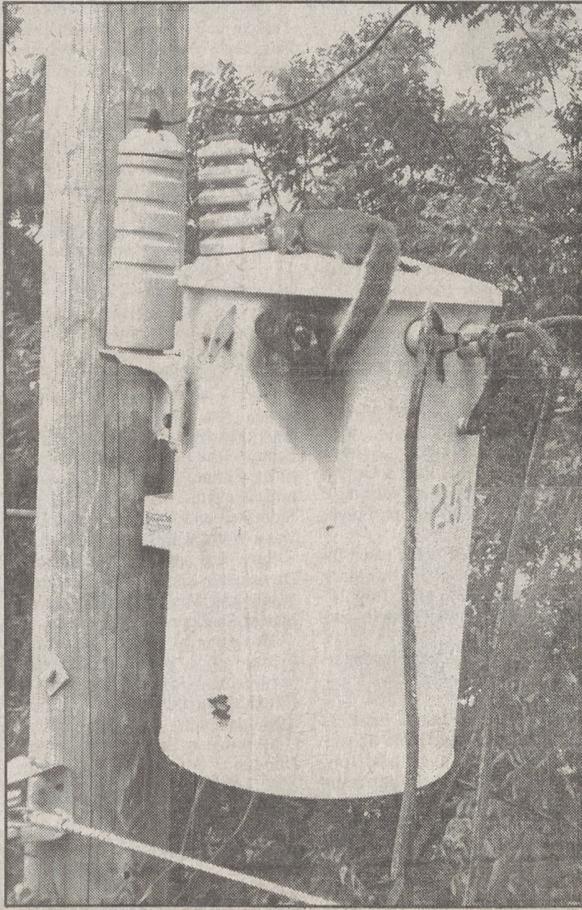
The city is also installing fiberglass insulator plates designed to remedy the serious problem of squirrels blinking the electrical circuits. "Ride on any street in town and you can see squirrels playing in the street and in the trees," says Maney.

The squirrel problem is not new to city electrical systems. At a recent meeting in Rock Hill, SC, Maney said he talked with other electrical superintendents who are having their worst scenario with squirrels in 25 years.

"We understand the community's concern and are working to correct the problems," said Maney.

Maney said that the recent bonds voted and approved by citizens won't take care of all the city's electrical problems. "About 75 percent of our electrical system is 30 to 50 years old and there is on-going maintenance all the time," he said.

See Squirrels, 5-A



Squirrels are playing havoc with the city power lines, causing problems for citizens and resulting in shocking death for the small animals.

## Citizens have say on prayer

Five concerned citizens made their views heard on the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on prayer during graduation ceremonies at the July meeting of the Kings Mountain Board of Education Monday night.

All five were against the court's ruling that prayer is prohibited at graduation. One person urged the board to submit a resolution to the proper officials indicating their displeasure with the decision. Supt. Dr. Bob McRae said if the board would like to do so, he would place the item on the agenda for next month.

In the continuing revision of the policy manual, the board heard first reading on several sections including: the time and place of board meetings; teacher performance evaluations; drugs in the workplace; building and grounds management; and facility expansion. Action will be taken on these items during next month's meeting.

The board approved the policy dealing with transfers and withdrawals.

Jean Thrift presented the results of 1992 California Achievement Testing and end-of-course testing to the board. One of the board's goals for this year was to raise testing scores to the state level or above state level. Gains were made

in the third grade where total battery scores came up three percentile points from 60 to 63 over last year's scores. The state level was 66.

In the end-of-course results, eight out of 10 courses made positive gains this year, whereas last year only four out of 10 courses made positive gains. State scores are not available as yet to compare with local results.

"While we're pleased with some progress, we know that there is substantial amount of work to be done," said McRae.

A report of the drop-out rate in the system was presented showing a 23.1 percent decrease over last year's amount of drop-outs system-wide.

"We're still higher than we should be, but I think it's the right step in the right direction," said McRae.

In other action, the board approved an interim budget of \$14,826,756 and several budget amendments.

The board also approved the recommendation of Cummings LeBrand out of Shelby to again provide student accident insurance in the system. The rates have gone up. They will be \$12 for school time coverage, \$74 for 24-hour See School, 5-A

## Marijuana destroyed

A marijuana crop with a street value of \$104,000 was destroyed by Cleveland County drug task force officers Monday afternoon off Rollingbrook Road in Kings Mountain.

The 87 plants, ranging in size from three to six feet tall, were spotted from the air by a National Guard helicopter flying to the Shelby Airport to refuel.

Vice Officer J.A. Norman said no arrests have been made but the investigation is continuing by the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department. Norman said the plants were destroyed Monday afternoon. Norman would not disclose the name of the owner of the property.

Marijuana plants the size of the local cache have a street value of \$1200 each when they grow to full maturity, said Norman.

## Habitat home dedication set

Habitat for Humanity will dedicate its first Kings Mountain home Saturday morning at 11 a.m. on North Tracy Street.

Mayor Scott Neisler said the public is invited to attend and to enjoy barbecue for a \$5 donation.

"This is a very exciting time for Habitat, which has built three houses in Cleveland County," said Neisler. Volunteers built and donated the equipment for the house at cost of \$19,000. The three-bedroom house is valued at \$28,000 and will be occupied by Brian and Nancy Curry and their two children.

Ministers from the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association and members of the board of Habitat for Humanity will lead the service. Rev. John Wyatt, chairman of the board, will present the keys to their new house to the Currys.

"Thanks to the strong support of many Christian people we were able to build this house at half the cost. The construction crew didn't have to purchase a single two by four. We had volunteers to build the house. We are so appreciative of Kings Mountain area people," said Neisler, who has headed up the project in Kings Mountain.



A big cache of marijuana plants was destroyed by drug officers Monday afternoon off Rollingbrook Road.

## Kings Mountain People



Louise Roberts feels close to God in her flower gardens.

## Nurse program to continue at KMHS

By RENEE WALSER  
of the Herald Staff

Officials say the nurse practitioner program at Kings Mountain High School got off to a good start its first year.

"We have definite plans to continue it next year," said health coordinator Cindy Borders. "And we've had several requests from parents to expand it to the Middle School. We've had a busy year."

Statistics compiled at the end of the year show that the program averaged visits from 350 students every three months, said Borders. The majority, 40 percent, of those students seen by Diane Sanders, the nurse practitioner, were for minor illnesses or injuries or first aid, she said.

Ten to 15 percent of students who visited the clinic complained of respiratory or muscular-skeletal prob-

lems. And seven percent sought aid for reproductive matters.

Borders said about half of the student body had parental consent forms on file with the nurse practitioner.

"Everything we've heard from parents has been very positive," said Borders.

Supt. Dr. Bob McRae commented, "I think we had a successful first year. There were certainly a number of times at the high school where situations arose where it (the clinic) was a significant benefit . . ."

McRae said that he felt the statistics bore out officials' previous beliefs that the clinic would not primarily focus on reproductive issues such as pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

He said that the school system would continue to promote abstinence as the primary option.

See Nurse, 5-A

## Grover to light Municipal Park

**GROVER** - The town will spend its \$7740 recreation grant from the county for lights for Grover Municipal Park.

Mayor Ronald Queen was authorized by Town Board Monday to take bids for lights for the Park and look at cost of lumber for bleachers. The mayor said Grover Rescue Squad members have volunteered to put up the seats if the town buys the lumber.

The board will spend matching funds to make more improvements to the park where a 1,750 walking track has been graded and is open daily from 6 a.m. until 10:30 p.m. The park was aerated, reseeded, and fertilized this year and an infield and fence constructed. Since 1983-84 when the board bought the property for the park, the town has spent thousands of dollars in improvements. Still to be completed are two bathrooms for the brick building which houses concessions.

"This is a real nice facility that we are proud of.

We hope to put lights in soon so that ball games can be played at night," said Queen.

Commissioner Don Rich said he would like to see the addition of a supervised swimming pool and arcade rooms at the park but no one else was enthusiastic about such a project. Commissioner Jim Howell said the location would not be good for a swimming pool. "We don't want any drownings in Grover," said Howell.

The board authorized the mayor to look for bins for recycling plastic and investigate the possibility of building a 5x16 feet trailer to hold a growing volume of plastic milk jugs, bottles, etc. "The landfill isn't free and we need to get our people to recycle," said the mayor.

See Grover, 5-A

## Gardening good therapy for Roberts

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
of The Herald Staff

Louise Roberts feels close to God in her garden on North Piedmont Avenue.

The homemaker, who prefers being called that because she said it is a role that she has perfected all her life, recommends gardening as good therapy "for whatever ails you."

Louise's beautiful garden blooms year-round.

Every morning for 56 years Roberts has picked flowers from her garden and placed them on her breakfast room table. She and her husband, the late Gene Roberts, Kings Mountain grocer, started the

tradition when they started house-keeping across the street from their present residence. Since his death in January, Louise and the family continued that tradition.

"I've lived on this street 56 years and in this house 36 years," says Louise, who moved to Kings Mountain as a bride in a house across the street from her present residence. She had finished Blacksburg, SC High School and completed a commercial course before she started being a homemaker. "And, I'm proud to be a homemaker," she said.

God, country, and home, the three-prong program of the Daughters of the American Revolution, is important to Louise

Hambright Roberts, whose roots are deep in the Antioch Community where she learned these attributes at an early age from her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Hambright and her grandparents, the late Mr. and Mrs. S.S. Weir.

She also inherited her green thumb from her mother and grandmother. Their homes were also decorated with hand-picked and homegrown flowers.

The Hambright two-story Southern mansion still stands in the Antioch Community and at least four brides in the family have said their I do's before the stately arch. Visitors to the home have often

See Roberts, 5-A