

Lynn Ellis, Gail Baber, and Terry Briggs, left to right, will be at the helm when the new multi-age classroom opens this fall at Grover School.

Grover to have multi-age classroom

Grover Elementary is getting ready to start its new multi-age classroom program this fall.

The building to be used for the program is being renovated with bathrooms, an office area and carpeting. There will be three areas partitioned by bookcases in the one room. There will be no desks for students.

The program's teachers, Lynn Ellis, Gail Baber and Terry Briggs, sat down to talk about their project, which is based on a program they visited six times in China Grove.

They found that the students in a non-graded classroom benefited by allowing the them to get added instruction in the areas they excel in and in the areas they may fall behind.

Children, for example, in the second grade may do well in math, perhaps on a third-grade level. While in other areas, English or Social Studies, they are on a first-grade level.

With three grades in one classroom, the students will have a chance to achieve on different levels and get more individual instruction.

Another benefit to the system is the fact that the children will not have to be pulled out of traditional classes for special instruction in most cases, the teachers said.

Baber said that the new classroom was balanced well between academically gifted and average students. And the traditional classes were reduced in size, which makes it easier for those teachers to handle.

All three teachers will teach all subjects, except for Spanish, which will be taught by Briggs.

There will be workshops for exceptional children, enrichment and enhancement and Chapter 1, to name a few.

"The whole purpose is to fit the child's needs," said Baber.

Students will receive traditional report cards and also a skills check list that will indicate what levels they are performing on.

The teachers said they were excited about working as a team. They each brought different strengths to the program that will benefit the students, they said. And now they will know what is going on in all the different levels.

Grade levels will not be referred to in the classroom, they said.

"We want to mix the ages," said Baber. "No high, middle or low groups. No stigma."

"We want to encourage a family

type of atmosphere among the children," she said.

The students leaving the multi-age classroom and going on to the traditional fourth-grade classes will definitely have a transition period, the teachers said. According to the China Grove model, the transition usually lasts the first two weeks of school. But the teachers have plans to integrate desks back into the class during the last weeks of school for those moving up, hoping to get them used to a traditional setting.

The teachers said that if all goes well this year, they may expand the program in the future. But they felt that there would always be an option of a traditional class situation.

Deal Street pool hours extended through September 6

In response to requests from the public, the Kings Mountain Parks & Recreation Department announces a continuation of Deal Street Pool hours.

Regular summer hours end Sunday at 6 p.m. but Recreation Director David Hancock said the modified schedule for the rest of the summer will be as follows: Monday-Friday, evening swim hours from 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday, 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

This schedule will be in effect from Monday, August 17, through Sunday, September 6.

Moss Lake Beach schedule through Labor Day weekend will be as follows: Saturday and Sunday only beginning August 22; Saturdays, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Sundays, 1 - 6 p.m.

The Swim beach will also be open for the final day of swimming on Labor Day Monday from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

For more information call the pool at 739-9251, Moss Lake Beach at 482-5119, or Parks and Recreation Department at 734-0449 during regular business hours.

Sponsors needed for bowling benefit

Cleveland County Jaycees will bowl against dystrophy August 25 at 6:30 p.m. and are inviting sponsors.

All proceeds go to provide direct patient and community services to

MD families in the Southern Piedmont area.

To make a pledge for MD contact David Dellinger, 130 Dillon Road, Kings Mountain, or call 739-8684.

City officials check out Hambright's claim

Kings Mountain city officials are investigating a former city employee's claim that he and other employees were allowed to play basketball while on the job.

Mayor Pro Tem Norma Bridges said this week that the findings are to be made public once the investigation is completed. Bridges, utility committee chairman Al Moretz, and Jim Guyton, three of the city's seven city council members, met privately with Todd Hambright, 30, last week in Cherryville.

"We went over all the allegations during a two hour and 15 minute meeting and reported them to City Manager George Wood who is scheduling meetings this week with the eight employees of the electric department," said Bridges.

Hambright worked for three years as a lineman until he was fired June 26 for failure to observe proper safety procedures.

"I'll take a lie detector test if they want me to," said Hambright.

Hambright said he has signed up for unemployment compensation and has drawn three checks. He said he was notified the city filed

notice of appeal on June 27.

City officials said last week that Hambright was responsible for tying a transformer on a city truck. The transformer fell from the truck, resulting in \$1,000 damages. Hambright says he lost his job but neither of the two other employees on the job were disciplined.

"City Council isn't responsible for hiring and firing and we try to stay out of personnel business as much as possible," said Bridges. "However, we felt we wanted to hear Todd's side of the story."

Mayor Scott Neisler said he expects the investigation to be completed in several days. "We have a really good electrical department. These guys saved the city a lot of money on bond work," he said.

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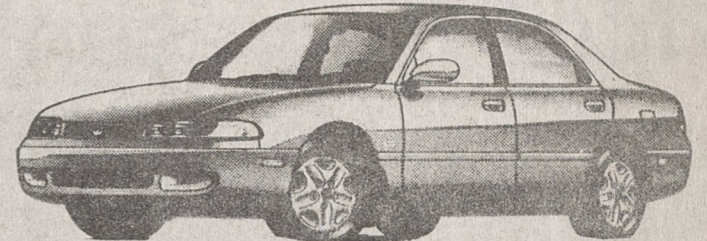
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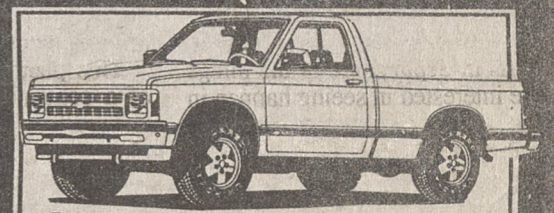
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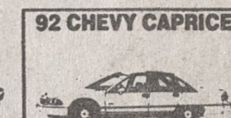
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