



Coming Next Week.....
**A Complete History of
 Mountaineer Football
 1922-1992**

ERIC SPICER.....6A
 Cleveland County
 Amateur Golf Champion



MAJNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY
 100 S. PIEDMONT AVE.
 KINGS MOUNTAIN NC 28086

Kings Mountain Herald

VOL. 104 NO. 34

Thursday, August 20, 1992

Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086

School Days

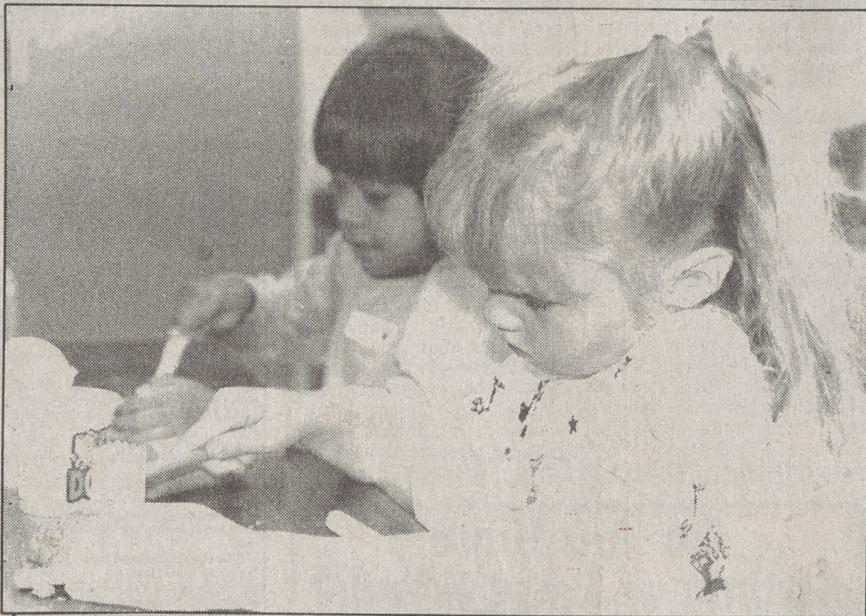
Enrollment up, problems at minimum

What better fare for lunch on the first day of school than pizza?
 Brad Bridges, a fifth-grader at West Elementary School, would agree with that. And that's what he had Monday as 3,793 Kings Mountain students got back in the classroom for the start of the 1992-93 school year.

Supt. Dr. Bob McRae said that the number of students this year rose by about 30 over last year's first day of classes. Enrollment will turn out to be comparable to last year, he said.

As five-year-old Stephanie Echols sat and pounded her blue Play-dough into something recognizable, her teachers evaluated the kindergartners at West in order to place them in classes for the remainder of the year. The more advanced students would be distributed evenly in the classrooms to help out the less developed children, said West Principal Sherrill Toney.

Asked what she liked about the new school facilities at West, Shakara Young said, with a grin,



SECOND DAY OF SCHOOL AT WEST -- On her second day of kindergarten, five-year-old Stephanie Echols pounds out whatever her imagination calls for.

"No bugs." West was business as usual and all settled in Tuesday after undergoing a year-long reconstruction.

"I think it went very well," said

McRae Tuesday about the first day of school.

The only glitch he saw was in the bus routes, which were computerized this year because of a

state mandate that they be done that way. Some breakdowns occurred and some of the timing was off, but McRae said those problems should be worked out soon.

McMillan campaigns in KM

Instead of traveling to Houston, Texas this week for the Republican National Convention U.S. Congressman Alex McMillan chose to come to Kings Mountain.

Spiraling medical care costs make insurance beyond the reach of many people and McMillan was in Gaston and Cleveland Counties to form a task force in this region and to meet his new constituents, if he's reelected in November.

With redistricting, the four-term 9th District Congressman from Charlotte would represent Kings Mountain, Grover, Earl, Patterson Springs, and Boiling Springs as well as all of Gaston County and Mecklenburg County.

In the new redistricting, Cleveland County would have two Congressmen.

Congressman Taulor, if re-elected, would represent Shelby and other areas west.

McMillan says he would also gain another national military park, Kings Mountain, in the battlefield task force of which he is chairman.

The Sun Belt caucus, he said, is focusing on finding ways to get private sector support to protect the nation's Civil War and Revolutionary War battlefields.

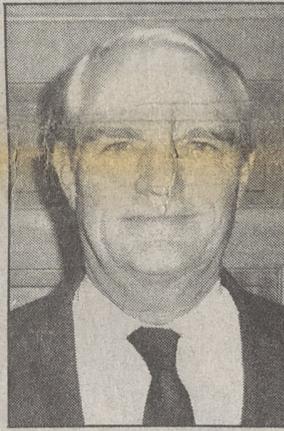
The health task force will be made up of people involved in health care delivery and is designed to offer suggestions to

Congress and the White House on how to come to grips with the problem. In the 102nd Congress it addresses fundamental problems facing the health industry, such as excessive cost and lack of accessibility.

"The \$330 billion deficit is a major drag on the economy," he said. "Basically, we're putting too much money in federal expenditures."

McMillan's support of the 1990 Budget Summit proposals to reduce inordinate spending led to an appointment in 1991 to the Republican leader's position on the

See McMillan, 10-A



REP. ALEX McMILLAN

Employees not to be discipline

Some isolated infractions of city personnel policies will result in disciplinary action in the city electric department following an investigation into allegations by a former city electric lineman that some employees loafed on the job and with permission from supervisors.

In a statement released Wednesday morning by City Manager George Wood, he said that he and Personnel Director Charles Webber have completed an investigation into the allegations of former electric department employee Todd Hambricht and they have given the details of that review to City Council.

"The majority of his allegations either could not be substantiated, or were proven to be incorrect," said Wood.

"However, Wood said, "there were some isolated infractions of city personnel policies which dated back some nine months. The employees involved have been made aware that disciplinary action will be taken for these infractions."

See Infractions, 9-A

Ordinance to get ax?

A trailer park ordinance adopted by the city January 29, 1991 which would phase out mobile home parks in 1996 will probably be rescinded by City Council Tuesday night.

The public hearing is the major item on the agenda for the 7:30 p.m. meeting at Governmental Facilities Center.

Thursday night, the item is also on the agenda for the 7 p.m. Planning and Zoning Board meeting, also at City Hall.

City Manager George Wood said he will attend the P&Z meeting and that representatives of the two parks who protested the ordinance -- West Gate and Deal Street Parks -- have indicated they will attend both meetings.

"The state legislature is probably coming out with a bill in a year or two that would overturn the city's ordinance," Wood said.

See Ordinance, 10-A

Chemical leak closes bypass

Traffic on the east bound lane of the U.S. 74 Bypass at Patterson Grove Road near Kings Mountain was rerouted for two hours Tuesday while 40 firemen and rescue workers were on the scene of a chemical oil spill.

Chief Frank Burns of the Kings Mountain Fire Department, a member of the county's hazardous materials squad which answered the call at 12:15 p.m. said that a highway patrolman noticed a leaking tanker truck and pulled him over at the Patterson Grove Road bridge.

"It was a minor leak, luckily, and the HAZMAT team contained the product which had leaked very little on the ground," said Burns. He described the leak as very minor in a field hose. "The most that could have leaked out would have been 2 1/2 gallons. There wasn't enough to be running on the ground."

Firemen from both Oak Grove and Bethlehem Fire Departments

responded to the call as well as Cleveland County Emergency Services and Medical teams and the American Red Cross.

Neal Scism, chief of the Oak Grove Fire Department, said the tanker belonged to Ashland Chemicals of Charlotte. He said there were no injuries and wrecks. Traffic was blocked on the by-pass. Scism the leak came from a broken seal.

Local firemen responded to several fires during the week.

Kings Mountain fireman put out a living room fire at 303 West Gold Street. A lamp shorted out and there were minor damages, said Chief Burns.

Bethlehem firemen responded to a trailer fire on Stewart Road. A mobile home was gutted, said Harold Farris, who said wiring was blamed for the blaze which totaled the residence.

Volunteering helps Hammett cope

If you have a couple hours a week to spare, you could make a big difference for a terminally-ill person and his or her family, says Pearl Hammett about the Hospice program.

Mrs. Hammett can't praise enough Hospice and its special touch during her husband's illness. Leroy "Booty" Hammett died January 27 of cancer at age 69.

Hospice volunteers were as near as her telephone. "We knew that if we needed someone that a phone call would bring help in a few minutes," she said.

In a few months Pearl plans to volunteer with Hospice and encourages others to become active

in the program to help the terminally-ill remain at home and die peacefully in familiar surroundings.

"I don't know what we would have done without Hospice and volunteers like Betty Howell, Rhonda Spearman, and Fred Bridges and my pastor and friends of First Baptist Church," said Pearl, who has just completed special grief and bereavement classes offered by Cleveland County Hospice. She highly recommends the classes to families who have lost loved ones.

Six weeks before her husband died of lung cancer he required around-the-clock attention.

"Because of Hospice we were able to keep Booty comfortable in his own home and I shall always be grateful," she said.

Hospice volunteers helped by running errands, sitting with the patient, providing transportation and often just being a good, cheerful listener. When Hospice volunteers weren't on the scene, they called. The Hammett home on Maner Road was always full of friends.

Pearl found it difficult to return to work at the Christian book store at Cleveland Mall where she and her husband worked together for

See Hammett, 9-A



PEARL HAMMETT

Bonjour, Kings Mountain

Visiting teens from France having a ball in North Carolina

Visiting teenagers from France are participating in a cultural exchange here which the three host families are enjoying as much as the kids. The French language has come alive for them, according to the hosts.

"We've found that even if they don't speak English fluently that the love of music and sports is a universal language," said Beth Hughes McDaniel.

"We've learned some French and they've picked up some slang words," said host mother, Jean Moore.

Alexander Fernando, 16, of Castries, guest of Jean and Pete Moore; Nick Bouisset, of Montpellier, guest of Jean and Lane Yarbro, and Xavier Casal, 13, of Andorra, guest of Beth and Randy McDaniel, pronounced their three weeks on holiday as highly successful, fun and educational. They return to France on Thursday with presents for their families and with snapshots, records and mementos.

Jean Moore said that when she volunteered to be a host mother she didn't know that two of the students would come from an area she visited recently in the south of France with the French Club and students from Kings Mountain High School.

Although this is their first trip to North Carolina and to Kings Mountain, the students had visited in

the United States previously. Their host families took them to Six Flags in Georgia, water rafting on the Nantahala River, old Salem in Winston-Salem, Celebration Station at Pineville, Carowinds and to watch the Gastonia Rangers and Charlotte Knights play baseball.

Wednesday the Frenchmen spoke in their own language with French students in Carole Peeler's class at Kings Mountain High School. "They had a ball," said Jean Moore.

Southern-style cooking is what Xavier likes at the McDaniel home. Country-style steak, chicken and hot biscuits are his favorite foods besides McDonald's hamburgers and hotdogs.

All three students like baseball and basketball, Michael Jordan, the USA Dream Team and the Chicago Bulls. They have shopped in local stores for Michael Jordan T-shirts and found the prices much better than in their hometown stores. They have bought video tapes featuring rap music stars, including the heavy metal group, Guns and Roses and have all attended Baptist Churches. Xavier was impressed with a baptismal service at Bethlehem Baptist Church but wanted to know if the pastor "ever lost

See Visitors, 8-A



Three Frenchmen who participated in a cultural exchange program in Kings Mountain are pictured with their hosts. Left to right, Jean Moore, Alexander Fernando, Nick Bouisset, Xavier Casal and Beth McDaniel.