



## MOUNTAINEERS

host South Point Friday  
See Page 6-A

## Candidate forum

planned Tuesday  
See Page 5-A

## WIN \$100

Herald Football Contest  
See Page 11-B



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# Kings Mountain Herald

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Kings Mountain, N.C.

## Makeup of school board may change

### 'Advance' highly successful for KM

Program updates and goal-setting highlighted a recent marathon 16-hour retreat in Boone by the KM Board of Education and the school system's executive staff. "Advance was highly successful," said Board Chairman Ronnie Hawkins and Supt. Dr. Bob McRae. McRae said some notable changes in the health education program were reviewed by Cindy Borders following a revision of the

family life education curriculum by the Health Council. The system is returning to the process of segregating the boys and girls in 7th and 8th grade health classes that deal with the human anatomy. "The curriculum promotes as a first choice abstinence before marriage," said Borders. Drug testing of all employees who transport students gets underway in the next few weeks. Personnel Director Ronnie Wilson

said an an-out-of-town company will monitor the program and the testing will be done through random selection. Computers will soon be moved into the 6th grade at KM Middle School. Principal John Goforth and computer company representatives reviewed the next phase of expansion of the computer assisted learning program and board members took a look at the computers. See Advance, 5-A

Kings Mountain Board of Education is looking at a new makeup of the board to fairly represent the population. Supt. Dr. Bob McRae said the board will probably call for a public hearing at its Monday night meeting on a proposal to seek legislation to make one of the current inside-city seats on the board an at-large position effective with the next board election in November 1993. If local people approve the plan at a public hearing probably in November, McRae said a local legislator will be asked to introduce a bill in the next session of

the N.C. General Assembly to make the change. McRae said this would mean that voters in 1993 would be filling three seats—two outside and one at-large. Terms of board chairman Ronnie Hawkins and Rev. Billy Houze, representing outside district patrons, and Priscilla Mauney, representing inside district patrons, are up in 1993. Mrs. Mauney could run for reelection to the at-large position on the board. "As the population has shifted more people live outside the city limits than inside but if the city annexes in the future the reverse

could be true," said McRae, explaining the board's thinking which surfaced again at the recent retreat of board members in Boone. "We believe the new makeup would best fairly represent the population over a long range of time," he said. At Monday night's meeting at 7:30 the board will also formalize goals it discussed at the Advance and consider formal approval of the new state mandated performance based accountability program in which each school must develop goals and the system itself develop goals.



Garrett Neisler, son of Mayor and Mrs. Scott Neisler, and Virginia Neisler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andy Neisler, lead off the children's parade during Mountaineer Day Saturday.

### Small crowds attend Mountaineer Day celebration

Mountaineer Day Saturday drew one of its smallest crowds in recent years. A police spokesman estimated that 500-600 people attended the day-long events topped off by fireworks and a street dance. One of the most popular events was a car show which drew a variety of makes and models. A handful of exhibitors showed off Christmas yard decorations, decorated shirts, crafts, and jewelry. Clowns painted faces of children. Barbecued chicken cooked

on the street drew the lunch and supper crowd but a church concession booth featuring homemade hot dogs also drew hungry families as well as several other concession booths set up in the downtown area. The newly-remodeled Plonk's General Store drew visitors as well as the newly-opened Angie's Etceteras in the old KM Farm Center building. Several merchants offered street sales, including Sagesport and McGinnis Department Store.

"Merchants reported a brisk business," said Recreation Director David Hancock. Shriners Thursday called off the jail-a-thon because of scheduling conflicts. The sponsoring Parks & Recreation Department had originally scheduled Mountaineer Day for September 26 so it would not conflict with the big Cleveland County Fair. Kings Mountain people apparently joined the crowds at the fair Saturday. Traffic was

lined up for miles at entrances to the fairground. Hancock said he was pleased with the turnout Saturday. Food vendors sold out, he said, and entertainment provided a variety of crowd-pleasers. The Ecceetra Band from Kings Mountain High School was a hit with the crowd and other popular groups were gospel, country and The Ordinaries. "We felt good about it," said Hancock.

### Petition drive underway for beer, wine in Grover

GROVER - A petition seeking a referendum on the package sale of beer and wine surfaced as a hot issue at Monday night's board meeting. Former commissioner Juanita Pruette, who led the unsuccessful effort 12 years ago said she and others in the community will start the petition effort again in an effort to draw a major food chain to the Grover area. "Since beer and wine can be

bought just outside the town limits we want to tell those looking at opening a food store in town that they can sell malt beverages," said Pruette. Bill Lail, a developer who owns property in town, said the idea surfaced during talks with promoters of a grocery store in the area. "If you go out and get 60 percent of the registered voters on a petition and come back with them to Council we will look it as a red

flag that means that people want beer and wine," said Mayor Ronald Queen. The mayor said the board has the responsibility of calling an election on the issue but he reminded that all signatures must be verified by the county election board. Some 350-plus voters live within the city limits but only about 200 vote in a general election, said Queen, who said that voter turnout is usually light.

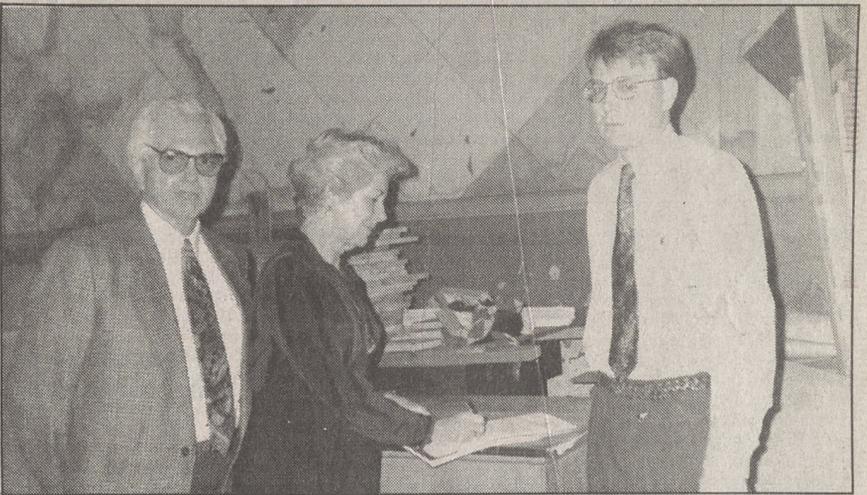
A town ordinance passed in 1975 does not permit the sale of malt beverages in the corporate limits. "I don't know if this proposal will get off the ground. The last time around many of the signatures on the petition were invalid because they came from people living outside the corporate limits," said Queen, who sat on the board at that

## Old 'Dixie' gift to KMLT launches theater project

The old Dixie Theater property was given to the Kings Mountain Little Theatre Inc. Thursday and heralded by owner John O. Plonk Jr. as the beginning of the restoration of uptown Kings Mountain. "This is the most significant moment in the history of the Kings Mountain Little Theatre," said President Jeff Grigg, accepting the property from Mr. and Mrs. John Plonk Jr. which had belonged to the Plonk family since the turn of the century. The Railroad Avenue building, formerly used by Foust Textiles as a warehouse, was given as a matching grant to the Kings Mountain Little Theatre. Plonk envisions that the historical area of the city will again be a center of business, culture and a variety of services and believes

that property values and business uptown will be enhanced as plans and projections become a reality. Grigg sees the gift as a lifetime dream of the 50-year-old theater group which was reorganized in 1969. "We were given the building and now must show that the citizens of Kings Mountain will support this endeavor by matching the gift," said Grigg. Fund raising for the first phase to match the \$40,400 grant will begin shortly. The second phase could cost between \$100,000-\$150,000 and will be undertaken, said Grigg, after exact figures for the renovation can be obtained following architectural design and estimates of cost. Grigg says the Little Theatre wants to restore the building as close to its original form as possi-

ble but to make it as comfortable and up-to-date as possible. The building will be handicapped accessible and seat between 200-250 people. The Dixie was built as a motion picture house and opened by the Cash brothers, David and Charlie, at a cost of \$35,000 in November 1935. Four years before opening the New Dixie, David Cash had operated the Imperial Theatre, then located across from Griffin Drug Store. Pat Neisler Plonk and David Cash's daughter, Betty Cash Mitchell, were school mates and as children attended the New Dixie. The 591 leather seats were upholstered in maroon leather and as comfortable as a parlor chair. The



Jeff Grigg, right, president of Kings Mountain Little Theatre, accepts the gift of a building for the new home of the Little Theatre from John and Pat Plonk, owners of the old Dixie property on Railroad Avenue.

See Theater, 10-A

### Cable customers will see little change

Local cable customers can expect little change from the new federal law passed this week to regulate rates for cable TV subscribers. Margaret Wilkins, marketing manager for Jones Intercable which serves 8,000 subscribers in the Kings Mountain and Cherryville area, said the new law may slow down rate increases in the industry. "It's business as usual," said Manager Rob Bridges. President Bush's veto of the bill to regulate rates was overridden by the Congress Monday night. "It just happened and we foresee little change at this point," said Wilkins. "Bills will probably stay the same."

## Kings Mountain People



CHARLIE HARRY

## Positive thinking, life's philosophy for Harry

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
of The Herald Staff  
Charlie Harry doesn't dwell on bad times. He thinks positively and credits God's direction for his attitude. He calls minor problems "hiccups" and has never considered something he could not do. Grover Industries' chief executive and Cleveland County commissioner is the epitome of courage. Many of his employees tell stories of how he helped them overcome obstacles. His sister, Jean Harry Francis, says her brother is modest about how he helps others but that he has

always been generous, not only providing a helping hand in the form of money for a needy situation but also as a listening friend. "We never know for a couple of years when someone writes and thanks Charlie for helping them get through a bad time," said Francis. "He always does things like that and keeps quiet about it." It was June 1952 and Harry, 15 1/2, had just finished the 9th grade at Blacksburg High School. He was a strapping six feet one inches tall and weighed 195 pounds. Four years before, he followed his father, C.F. Harry Jr. and his grandfather, C. F. Harry Sr., in the family

owned Minette Mill and got his first job in the dye house. Big and tall for his age, the teenager could run errands and load and empty dye carriers as well and as fast as the adults. Cap Harry had founded the only mill in Grover in 1919 and many of the residents of the small town worked in the mill. Charlie was on a first name basis with them and today it's the same at the much larger Grover Industries which was founded by the Harrys in 1963 after the parent company was sold. Charlie's life was put on hold when polio hit Cleveland County that summer of '52. He was diag-

nosed with the disease by Dr. Tom Campbell at Kings Mountain Hospital after he was rushed there in an ambulance on June 22, 1952. From June until the next January the teenager lost 100 pounds and was in and out of hospitals, at Asheville Orthopedic Hospital, Warm Springs, GA, and at Duke Hospital where he was diagnosed with an unusual kidney related problem and doctors sent him home with little hope for survival. As it turned out, Harry's problem was two huge stones in the bladder and after surgery he went back to Warm Springs, again in a Cadillac

See Harry, 9-A