



**Collegiate Invitational  
Women's Golf Tournament**  
6-A 1-B

**Mounties down  
Warriors 2-0**  
7-A

**KM schools  
present awards**  
8-A 9-A



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# Kings Mountain Herald

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Kings Mountain

6 • 35¢

## Houze resigns school board post

Rev. Billy Houze, the first minority member of the Kings Mountain Board of Education, resigned Wednesday morning.

His resignation was accepted "with regret" by the board at a 7:30 a.m. called meeting in which Chairman Ronnie Hawkins said state law forces Houze out because he no longer lives in the outside city area he was elected to represent.

Houze and his family have moved into a new home in Country Creek, a new subdivision annexed by Kings Mountain.

Houze, elected in November 1989 to

represent outside district citizens, had lived in Grover.

"It was a personal and difficult decision for me and my family," said Houze. Other members of the family are his wife, Karen Cole Houze, teacher's assistant at Grover Elementary School for 17 years; Kenya, a Kings Mountain High School student; Brian, Grover elementary fifth grader; and Brandon, Grover elementary second grader. The Houze family is also adopting a 14-months-old baby girl.

For 13 years Houze has served as the

pastor of First Baptist Church of Lawndale. The 550-member congregation recently completed a big building program to build a new sanctuary and renovate Central Cleveland elementary school for an educational/recreation unit.

"I don't desire to step down from the board, it's necessary," said Houze. "I hope that I have made a difference."

Houze said he would not rule out running again for the school board and may decide to offer for an at-large seat in the November elections if the U. S. Justice Department

approves the board's plans to make one inside city seat an at-large position, an effort to distribute equally the population ratio of outside/inside city seats. Three seats are up for grabs in November. Four-year terms of board chairman Ronnie Hawkins and members Houze, both of whom were elected from the outside district, and Priscilla Mauney, who represents the inside city citizens, are expiring.

"Just seeing the whole expanse of change in education has been a great opportunity for

See Houze, 10-A



REV. BILLY HOUZE

## Symphony in KM Tuesday

Under the baton of Mark Cedel, the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra will present the annual spring Kings Mountain concert Tuesday night at 8 p.m. in B.N. Barnes Auditorium.

On Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. the audience at Barnes will be composed of elementary students who will be bussed to the Auditorium for a special Symphony concert.

In preparation for the morning concert, elementary music teachers Judy Whisnant and Lynn Echols have been teaching the various instruments of the orchestra and students have been playing instruments and working up special musical programs.

At intermission of the night concert the Southern Arts Society and other local artists will display their works in the lobby of Barnes Auditorium. The Kings Mountain Woman's Club will also serve refreshments.

The program for the first half of the evening concert will include "Semiramide Overture" by Rossini; and Mozart's "Symphony No. 29, A Major, 186a." After the intermission, the numbers will include "Hooray for Hollywood" by Mays; "Miss Saigon" by Custer; the popular "Stardust" by Ploynar and "Big Band Blast" arranged by Mays.

Cedel, born into a musical family in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, attended the renowned Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where he worked with the prominent violist, Joseph dePasquale.

See Symphony, 10-A



Ptl. Rena Rikard is greeted by Kings Mountain Middle School students Lynn Quiram, left, Ronni Caulder, Addie Moschler and Nikki Ingram, all seventh graders, during her visit to the campus Friday for lunch with the students.

## KMMS students know 'police on their side'

Kings Mountain Middle School students like having police on campus during lunch hours.

"The cops are our side," says Nikki Ingram. "Police at school give a positive impression of the campus."

"I think it's fun to have lunch with police," says Addie Moschler, 13.

"It's neat and cool," says Ronni Caulder, seventh grader.

"They encourage us to tell our friends that it isn't cool to bring weapons and drugs to school and unsafe for everyone," said Moschler.

"I like to eat lunch with a police officer. They are friendly and not out to get us," said Lynn Quiram, seventh grader.

Ptl. Rena Rikard was the Kings Mountain Police

Department officer assigned to lunch duty Friday. For Rikard, it was her second lunch hour assignment and she was greeted with hugs and smiles from students who had met her previously and talked with her about her job as a K-9 handler.

"The kids want to know all about Tank, our drug dog, and he's usually the main topic of conversation at the table," said Rikard. She encourages young people to talk to police officers and share their concerns.

Rikard table hops in the cafeteria, talking with various groups of students who are courteous and curious about her role as a woman police officer and a dog handler. She tells them that dogs sniff out drugs and are valuable in searches for drugs and weapons.

"I really enjoy this assignment," said Rikard.

See Police, 3-A

## New plant begins operation May 17

Production machinery was being moved in this week at the new Firestone Fibers & Textiles Plant in Kings Mountain Business Park.

Some production will begin about May 17 but it will probably be the end of the year before all the equipment is in place.

Bill Linquist, project manager, said that rain has slowed work on the parking area and roads leading to the plant but site work, hopefully, will get underway in a day or two, weather permitting.

Linquist said that areas such as the administrative offices won't be finished in the next month. As soon as weather permits, road crews with the N.C. Department of Transportation will start building a connecting road from Canterbury Road to the site and once that road is completed the present access road off N.C. 161 will be closed.

Roe Henderson is plant manager. The plant will employ 450-500 people.

Firestone's Kings Mountain op-

eration will convert synthetic fibers into tire cord which will be shipped to the old Bridgestone/Firestone plant in Gastonia for warehousing, treatment and shipping to tire plants all over the country. The outdated Gastonia plant will be closed for production.

The new multi-million-dollar plant is situated on 417,000 square feet in the center of 78 acres a short distance from Kings Mountain.

President of Firestone is Jaggy

Anand.

Officials of the company from Japan and from the United States have set no firm date for open house but it could be held as early as late June or early July.

Linquist has been with Firestone for 23 years and was formerly plant engineering manager in Gastonia before he started work on the big construction project in Kings Mountain in September 1992.

See Firestone, 10-A



Firestone plant nearing completion

## Kings Mountain People



NELSON CONNER

## Conner means business in class

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
of The Herald Staff

Be willing to work and change your attitude.

That's the secret of success that Nelson Conner shares with his Exceptional Children's Class at Kings Mountain High School.

The first year teacher was honored recently as Teacher of the Month, a much-deserved recognition, says the 12 students in his classes.

"He means business in class,"

said Mark, (not his real name.) "He expects more for us than we expect for ourselves."

Conner changed his career at age 44. Now, instead of producing food, he feeds hungry minds. He teaches English, American History, and Biology to as few as five students in a class who require one on one attention.

I don't label kids. I think they are all exceptional, meaning special," says Conner.

Ten of his students are ninth and

10th graders. Two are 11th graders. All are boys. One of the group is an A student. Some of the group may repeat their classes next year. Some have behavior/discipline problems and some have learning disabilities.

A recent class session focused on the reading of a novel, "The Outsiders." They also watched the movie and discussed the book in literature class. There are no homework assignments but time is given during class periods for special as-

signments.

Conner is realistic about his success but he also almost admits there have been some failures. However, he believes that with effort and cooperation grades will take care of themselves.

Conner feels good about his students and says where there is parental involvement there is student success.

He initiates people skills and verbal communication and listens

See Conner, 3-A

## Give blood today at ARP

Roll up your sleeves and give blood Thursday.

That's the appeal of members of Boyce Memorial ARP Church, sponsor for a blood give-in.

The Red Cross bloodmobile will process donors from 1-6 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.

"Blood is urgently needed at this time of the year due to the incidence of holiday wrecks," says Sandi Bollick, of the Cleveland County Chapter.

Bollick encourages donors to come out and support the blood bank.