



## Band concert Thursday

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Mounties win conference championship.....6A

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# Kings Mountain Herald

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Kings Mountain

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## Schools to use metal detectors, cameras

Starting next school year, random checks will be made with hand-held metal detectors of students suspected of carrying weapons to Kings Mountain Middle School and Kings Mountain High School and video cameras will record activities on the school bus.

Modern computers will also be installed in all elementary classrooms and in a lab at Kings Mountain Middle School.

The two safety and security measures and the big ticket item for computers were approved unanimously by Kings Mountain Board of Education Monday night. Officials said they hope the hand-held metal detectors will discourage students from taking weapons to school and the new video cameras

will cut down on discipline problems.

"We don't have a terrible problem in our schools but our community deserves and expects that we everything we can do to ensure the safety of our students," said Supt. Dr. Bob McRae in making the recommendation that the school spend \$4,000 for the hand-held metal detectors and \$8,485 to buy four video cameras and 38 small metal boxes for each bus.

Associate Supt. Dr. Larry Allen said the principals will circulate the VHS Panasonic cameras among the buses. The little green box is equipped with a two-way mirror and a red light that stays lit all the time. It is designed so that students don't know which bus contains the camera. One camera each will go to the

middle school and high school and two will be available for the five elementary schools. Monitors will also be available for principals.

Responding to question of Shearra Miller, Allen said he saw no potential for lawsuits in using the camera.

Guidelines for use of the metal detectors are to be developed this summer. The plan is for searches to only be conducted away from other students when a weapon is suspected.

McRae said that two students took guns to Kings Mountain Middle School last fall. After the incidents, he said parents and local police held several meetings about gun control and Kings Mountain Police applied for a grant to target school

violence. McRae said that grant state but a second grant is in school violence task force is McRae said that the presence grounds had been instrumental program.

McRae said that the metal device could be used at ball games in suspicious circumstances but he does not see the system doing a random search of students. "We're not at that point that we need to walk our kids through a metal detector at school and we hope we never get to that point."

See Detectors, 10-A

## Information network will be big boost

Plugging into a statewide information network would pay off for Kings Mountain residents, says Kings Mountain resident Billy King, long an education proponent who has been associated with Southern Bell in the Regulatory and External Affairs Department 24 years.

King said the announcement by Governor Hunt Monday that the state will build the world's most advanced phone system is good news for education.

Kings Mountain students would be able, for instance, to take advantage of distance learning through advance courses that they might not otherwise be able to take and teachers could take inservice training without traveling long distances to Charlotte and Chapel Hill, all over a sophisticated network.

Telemedicine applications could also be transmitted over the network to Kings Mountain Hospital and high tech industry and economic development are prospective big applications.

"The new fiber operated system will mean as much to the nation as the interstate highway system did for this country in the 1940's after World War II," said King.

"The system will bring things closer to us and will, in fact, be an informational highway to bring equity to education," he said.

King said this new network distance learning will bring equity to the school systems and smaller districts in the state will share in the same opportunities as the larger systems who can afford to have teachers of advanced courses.

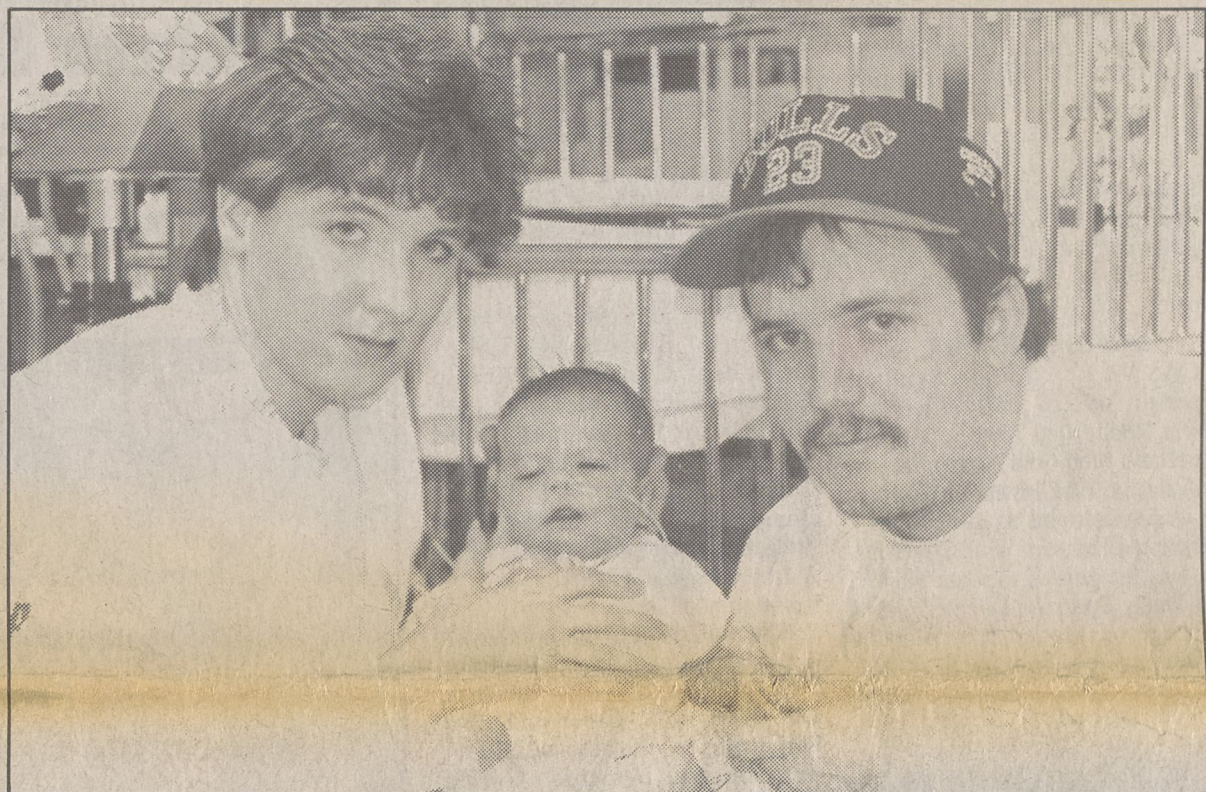
It will be up to companies and individuals to learn how to use the system to their advantage, King said. He said many roads were started in past generations without dreaming how people would use them in coming decades.

Southern Bell operates a pilot project in Charlotte called Vision Carolina. Area schools and Gaston College have used special phone lines for video and audio links between schools.

Government will be able to cut down on paperwork and travel by using the system and the advanced phone system can be used by doctors to consult on treatment of patients, by law enforcement and court officials to check on records and by government to cut down on

See Network, 10-A

## KAYLA BATTLES FOR LIFE



Leigh Anne, Kayla and Steve Newton

## Young couple's first child fights three rare diseases

By Jim Heffner

The first thing you notice about Steve and Leigh Anne Newton is how they tend to sit close together when they are in the same room, and how they hold hands frequently.

Steve has a habit of slipping his arm around Leigh Anne's shoulder and pulling her a little closer to him.

Leigh Anne gazes at Steve a lot, and that look is filled with tenderness.

The Newtons met at a church function in Kings Mountain three years ago, when she was 17 and he 19. Two years later they were married.

Both will tell you it was love at first sight.

Leigh Anne's parents are Gary and Mary Jo Stewart. Gary is the long-time editor of the Kings Mountain Herald, and Mary Jo is a nurse at Cleveland Home Health in Shelby.

Steve is the son of John and Faye Newton of Shelby. Mr. Newton is employed by PPG.

After the marriage, the Newtons settled into a normal pattern for newlyweds. They moved into a mobile home, provided by a relative, and went about the everyday routine of building a life together.

Their baby, Kayla Leanne Newton, was born January 26, at Cleveland Memorial Hospital, at 4:28 p.m. An hour later, Leigh Anne came out of the birthing room and was told she'd had a girl.

Shortly after the birth, Kayla was presented to her father, and, for Steve, the first little chunk of his world crumbled.

"When the nurse brought the baby to me, I could see the left eye and the left side of its little mouth were slightly drawn. I began to suspect there might be something wrong," said Steve.

He was right. Less than an hour after birth, Kayla began having trouble breathing. Four hours later, her

condition was deemed serious enough to warrant transfer to the Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. Life support systems were attached and the doctors began conducting tests.

Before long they discovered that Kayla was afflicted with a rare disease called Ondine's Curse. Further tests indicated the presence of two other diseases; Moebius Syndrome and Hirschsprung's Disease, both at least as rare as Ondine's Curse.

The principle symptom of Ondine's Curse is hypoventilation, that is oxygen doesn't flow easily to the area of the lungs because of shallow breathing. The result is low oxygen and high carbon dioxide and acids in the blood. The body's apparatus simply doesn't get the proper signal to breathe. These symptoms occur more severely during periods of sleep. The cause of Ondine's is unknown.

Moebius Syndrome is a hereditary disorder characterized by paralysis of the face. Facial nerve development is absent or diminished resulting in difficulty in feeding and may spawn further problems in the area of speech. Defective jaw and tongue development are related symptoms.

The medical community describes Moebius Syndrome as a very rare birth defect.

Hirschsprung's Disease is a malfunction of the colon. The malady may result from a defect in early fetal development as a result of high fever or it may be inherited. Major symptoms include constipation, distention of the bowel and vomiting. Bacterial toxins and obstructions in the bowel can be fatal if not monitored closely and corrected.

There is no cure for either of the diseases. The Charlotte doctors are convinced that there has never been another case of these three disorders occurring in a single individual. Less than 30 cases of Ondine's

See Kayla, 11-A

## School Board adds penny tax

Your taxes will go up a penny if county commissioners approve the Kings Mountain Board of Education's plan to stop student sales of school projects next year in grades K-8.

After several months of discussion, the board Monday night voted unanimously to hike the tax rate from 17 cents to 18 cents per \$100 property valuation.

Supt. Dr. Bob McRae said the additional tax will bring in \$75,000. McRae said that public opinion runs 4-1 in favor of the proposal.

The additional money will be divided among the schools as follows: \$12,500, Kings Mountain High School; \$12,500, Kings Mountain Middle School; Bethware, \$11,458; East, \$8,830; Grover, \$10,850; North, \$10,047; and West, \$8,817. The monies to the elementary schools includes a \$5,000 base plus a per pupil allotment.

The money could be used by the schools as early as the start of next school year. The plan is that funds be distributed from the administrative offices and individual schools would have access to the funds via purchase orders and signatures of principals.

Kim Franks, president of East School PTO, told the board that she and all PTO officers at the various schools support the plan. "This keeps kids off the streets and gets the PTO out of the fundraising business so that we can do more productive things like volunteering in the classroom."

Chairman Ronnie Hawkins said he favors ending all solicitation by all school pupils. McRae said that principals at Kings Mountain High and Middle Schools will be encouraged to reduce fundraising next year but that some events at elementary schools like PTO barbecues and hot dog suppers could be held but with parents conducting the events.

"The PTO's have taken much burden off the schools in handling these fundraising efforts and we appreciate all they have done," said McRae, praising the board for giving a Special Friends award recently to the PTO organizations in town. He said that a plan will be drafted for next month's meeting

See Tax, 10-A

## \$500,000 needed for Central move

Kings Mountain School Board got the bad news first and then the good news Monday night.

The bad news from Associate Supt. Dr. Larry Allen is that it will take up to \$500,000 to move the present administrative offices into the old Central School.

The good news from the board was that they plan to earmark funds to do the required codes improvements and will ask architect Roger Holland to give a timetable for completion of the first phase of the renovation project at the June meeting.

The discussion of plans for Central came during a lengthy discussion on where to prioritize funds for next year. Vice Chairman Priscilla Mauney asked McRae to look at possible alternative historical preservation grants to help pay for the extensive renovation but leaned toward moving full speed ahead on the project.

"We've talked this project for three years now and it's time to do it," said Chairman Ronnie Hawkins.

McRae agreed that it is best to move ahead on the project if the board wants to move the administrative offices to the Central building but he said it will take \$100,000 to bring the building up to accessibility before a certificate of occupancy can be issued. The building will require an elevator, a \$100,000 sprinkler system to comply with codes, and a new roof, and partitions but McRae said the system has the money to move ahead with the project this summer and to do some first priority improvements at several of the other plants.

Shearra Miller asked if any consideration had been given to building a new administrative building. McRae said that the Central site is perfect for administrative offices and that Kings Mountain people want the building to be used for school purposes. McRae said he doubted that the system will get a good price for the present administration office building on Parker Street.

See Central, 10-A

## Pharmacist Wiesener retires

Carl Vernon Wiesener filled his last prescription at Mountaineer Pharmacy this week, retiring from a profession in which five members of his family served for over 100 years.

The Kings Mountain man is the last living pharmacist in his family. Wiesener, 74, is retiring after a quarter of a century in pharmacy to travel and enjoy his grandchildren.

Wiesener has filled more than 200,000 prescriptions since he and Dennis Beatty of Shelby opened the local pharmacy on July 16, 1969. Before that he helped open the first Eckerd Drug in Gastonia's

Akers Center and at Dixie Village. He moved to Kings Mountain from Tennessee in the early 1940's as a medical service representative for Abbott Laboratories. He decided to stay after he met and married Nancy "Pete" Suber. He left Abbott after about 10 years. He acquired the full stock in Mountaineer in January 1974.

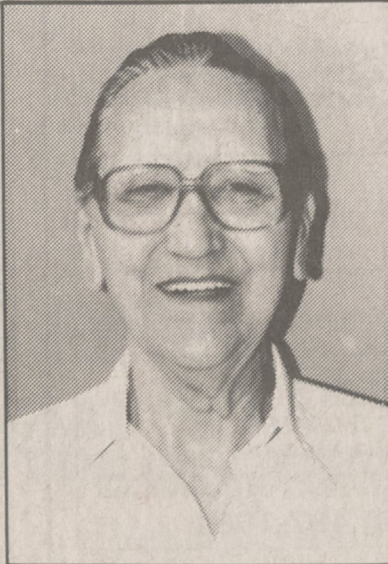
"Debbie" Suber died suddenly of a brain hemorrhage in 1978. They had three children; Carl Jr., an electrical engineer; Reb, manager of the new Denny's Restaurant in Shelby; and Nancy Henley of Mount Holly, who has taught chil-

dren's special education at Webb School in Gastonia for 16 years. There are two grandsons, Matthew, 12, and Ben, 4.

Carl may do some relief work on occasion for druggist friends in the area and he plans to visit old school mates in the Tennessee area. A graduate of the Class of 1942 of the University of Tennessee in Memphis, he hopes to attend his 51st anniversary reunion.

Wiesener served in the Navy during World War II, as a lieutenant 18 months in the Pacific and

See Wiesener, 10-A



CARL WIESENER

## Woman missing near KM

Thirty searchers combed the woods Monday on Farris Road but found no trace of a former Dixon Community resident reportedly missing since Friday, according to Cleveland County Fire Marshal Bo Lovelace.

Lovelace and Cleveland County Det. Bobby Steen led an initial search party which turned up no new information about the disappearance of Linda Black. The investigation is continuing.

Lovelace said trained tracking dogs aided the searchers Monday and other searchers were expected to continue combing rugged terrain

in a wide area of Farris Road and east of Grover on Tuesday.

Steen said that Black and her boyfriend, Keith Raymond Whitworth, also of Gastonia, went into the woods on Farris Road Friday about 2 p.m. Authorities believe that is the last time the woman was seen. Relatives of Mrs. Black reported her missing Friday. Officers say foul play has not been ruled out.

Officers said Whitworth said the pair was searching for marijuana plants allegedly planted in the area and saw someone and were separated as they fled.