



**Mountaineers defeat South Point for Western 3-A championship**  
8-A

Hunt only area legislator in favor of open meetings bill  
11-A

**GIVE BLOOD THURSDAY**  
1-6 p.m.  
Central United Methodist Ch.



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# Kings Mountain Herald

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Kings Mountain

86 • 35¢

## KM to host state championship

### STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FACTS

**Game 1 - Friday, 7 p.m.**

**Game 2 - Saturday, 4 p.m.**

**Game 3 - Saturday (If Necessary)**

1 hour after completion of Game 2

**Admission - \$5 per game.**

All games at Lancaster Field,  
Kings Mountain High School

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers hope to win their second state baseball championship in five years Friday and Saturday when they host Eastern champion Asheboro in a best-of-three series at Lancaster Field.

The Mountaineers defeated South Point 6-2 Saturday night at Lancaster Field to win the Western Regional championship. Asheboro blanked North Lenoir 7-0 Friday for the Eastern crown.

The title series gets underway Friday at 7 p.m. with KMHS ace right-hander Stephen Fisher (12-0) going against 6-6, 230-pound right-hander Patrick Bell (10-1) of the Blue Comets. Bell was recently drafted in the 54th round by the Houston Astros.

Asheboro brings a 23-4 overall record into the contest while Kings Mountain is 21-3. Asheboro has won 13 games in a row since losing an 8-7

decision to Randleman on April 29.

Game two will be played Saturday at 4 p.m. The third game, if needed, will be played one hour after the completion of the Saturday afternoon contest.

Admission, set by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, is \$5 per person. If a third game is needed, the stadium will be cleared after the Saturday afternoon game and fans will have to re-enter the stadium and pay again.

The two teams appear to be well-matched. Both have good pitching, consistent hitting and excellent defense.

The Blue Comets have a .353 team batting average. Alan Hartgrove a junior designated hitter/shortstop, is hitting .450, junior centerfielder Jermie Green is hitting .447, and senior first baseman Jason Lawson is hitting

.432. Second baseman Chad Whitson is hitting .409 and leads the club in home runs with five. Greene, Lawson and Whitson have combined for 77 runs batted in.

Others over the .300 mark for are pitcher Avery Rogers (.382), leftfielder Zac Graham (.367), and pitcher Patrick Bell (.320).

Bell has a 10-1 record on the mound with 77 strikeouts and a 1.24 earned run average in 67 innings of work. Asheboro's #2 pitcher, Avery Rogers, who hurled the Eastern Championship win over North Lenoir, is 7-0 with a 0.60 ERA in 46 innings of work. Whitson is 3-1 with a 2.10 ERA and 30 innings of work.

It appears that the only big difference in the two teams is that Asheboro is predominately a junior team while Kings Mountain has 16 seniors on its roster.

See Baseball, 10-A

### Causby to speak at school summit

Dr. Jim Causby, superintendent of Polk County Schools, will be keynote presenter and facilitator for the second Education Summit Tuesday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Kings Mountain Holiday Inn.

The event is sponsored by the Kings Mountain District Schools and Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce.

Supt. Dr. Bob McRae said the purpose of the summit will be to generate community input as to how the school system should prepare to best serve students as they approach the new century.

"The emphasis of the day will be to give our community members an opportunity to dialogue about how the Kings Mountain District School can best prepare to serve in the coming years its students and the community in which they live," said Wade Tyner, Chamber president.



**WESTERN N.C. CHAMPS** - Kings Mountain's Mountaineers won the Western 3-A baseball championship last week and will host the state 3-A championship series beginning Friday. Players include, front row, left to right, Chris Rider, Caja Ormand, Mike Smith, Kevin Melton, Robert Wingo and Sheldon Smith. Second row, Robbie Ruff, Todd Ware, Doran Moore, TG Goforth, Stephen Fisher and Rick Marr. Back row, Shane Webb, Damon Putnam, David R. Jenkins, Ben Ingle, Sharee Hopper, John Bunch, David C. Jenkins and Lewis Nantz.

## Tax rate will probably go up 4 cents

County Commissioner Cecil Dickson says he doesn't see enough support for a six cent hike in property taxes to give two cents to the three school systems.

The chairman of the board made the statement before Wednesday's meeting on the budget which opened at 1 p.m. in Shelby as The Herald went to press.

Dickson said there had been a consensus by the commissioners to hike the tax rate to four cents per \$100 property valuation.

Commissioner Joyce Cashion of

Kings Mountain said she supported the six cent hike. Based on her conversations with two other commissioners, she said the commission is looking at adding another two cents to the property tax rate to support education.

Dickson said the vote on the budget will be on June 15. He said Wednesday's agenda would feature comments from City of Shelby officials protesting a cut in municipal grants and a representative of Boiling Springs asking for support of a water shed project.

Commissioner Ralph Gilbert said that adding the tax increase was the only way to give the schools more money but he said a ruling from the state attorney general will prevent the county putting on a supplement tax for the county district and omitting Kings Mountain and Shelby which taxes its residents for a school supplement.

"It would have to be distributed on a per pupil basis and distributed equally," said Gilbert.

Gilbert said that the county is

looking for \$1.3 million, a shortfall created because of \$400,000 more in mandated social services programs and a loss of \$25 million in tax base when industries closed.

"County Manager Lane Alexander and Finance Officer David Dear have cut the budget to the bone," said Gilbert.

"I just don't know how the wind will blow," said Cashion, who said she had no firm commitment other than her own opinion of higher taxes for schools.

Gilbert said that the county is

said at last month's meeting.

Major dollars will be spent in the renovation, including more than \$100,000 to bring the building up to codes, including an elevator, a \$100,000 sprinkler system and a new roof and partitions.

McRae said that the first reading of the new policy banning K-8 students from door to door fund-raising will be read.

Betty Gamble will present the vocational education plan for next

See Central, 11-A

### KM NCAE: Use Central as an alternative school

Kings Mountain Association of Educators adopted a resolution Tuesday calling for the Board of Education to convert part of Central School into an alternative school for students with discipline/special problems.

The resolutions also included a request to the board that elementary students have access to regu-

lar, professional counseling by a full-time counselor and that administrators, with input from teachers, formulate alternate scheduling and/or discipline plans for students with repeated behavior problems.

Concern about the "lessening of minority educators," they encouraged the securing of vacant posi-

See NCAE, 11-A

tions.

## 2.5 percent pay hike in KM's '94 budget

### Outside rec fees may be increased

Kings Mountain may have to tack on more non-city residents' fees in the recreation program if Cleveland County Commissioners cut an annual grant for recreation of \$47,290.00.

City Manager George Wood opposed a cut at a meeting of county commissioners last week, noting that well over one-half of Moss Lake participants of recreational activities are non-Kings Mountain residents.

The good news for taxpayers is that the city is holding the line on taxes and there is no proposed increase in property taxes but the bad news is there are some increases in services.

City employees will also feel the budget squeeze, although they are getting more take home pay.

■ Natural gas and electricity - For the typical residential customer, the cost of gas and electricity will increase about \$2.30 a month. However, the city has adopted a monthly billing plan that will allow the city to quote monthly prices based on each industry's alternative fuels instead of charging the same as the least expensive fuel available.

■ Water and sewer - Only industries will pay higher water and sewer costs in the coming fiscal year. Water and sewer rates will go up 2.7 percent for industries.

■ Landfill fees - For residents, the monthly landfill fee will increase \$1, from \$1.40 to \$2.40. For industries, the monthly per-cubic-yard charge will increase by \$1. Cleveland County is planning to raise its landfill fees from \$19 per ton to \$23 per ton, prompting Kings Mountain and other cities to increase landfill fees.

The city's share of employees' dependent health care is going down, which means that the 173 employees will pay 10 percent more for their family coverage.

Wood says that medical costs continue to escalate at an alarming

See Budget, 13-A

## Rop new Herald publisher

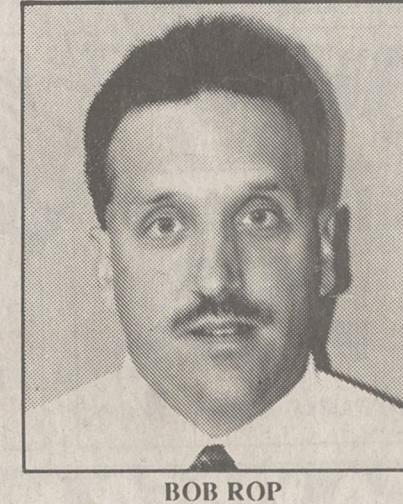
Mountain.

"I am proud to be a part of this community," said Rop. "It reminds me of my hometown. It's the same type area that I was brought up in. I look forward to being a permanent resident here."

Rop said no personnel or other major changes are planned for the Herald.

"We will continue to provide the same editorial product, and continue heading in the same direction," he said. "The Herald is the community's paper and will continue to serve Kings Mountain, as it always has."

Republic Newspapers also owns seven other community newspapers in Tennessee, Florida, Kentucky and Texas.



**BOB ROP**  
to be married later this year to Amy Larson of Tennessee, and they plan to make their home in Kings



**MOUNTAIN FEST** - The popular local band Mink performs at Saturday's Mountain Fest in downtown Kings Mountain. Story and pictures are on page 1-B.