



Students aren't playing computer games
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Red Cross ladies golf win

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DR. SAM HOUSTON

KM man heads Hunt's education commission

Kings Mountain's Dr. Sam Houston will run the new 25-member state panel that is supposed to make Governor Jim Hunt's education reform a reality.

Houston, 48, moves to Raleigh from Mooresville next week to become executive director of the new Standards and Accountability Commission at an annual salary of \$85,000.

"I'm excited at this challenge," said Houston, who has been superintendent of Mooresville School System since 1983. He won national and state recognition in 1990 when Mooresville established one

of the state's first year-round schools.

The new Standards and Accountability Act passed this summer by the General Assembly and the cornerstone of Hunt's education reform package sets up a 25-member commission comprised of employers, educators, community leaders and parents to set rigorous new standards for high school graduation. The commission will spend 18 months determining what skills a highly-skilled, highly-trained worker would need and would set new standards accordingly.

The commission will then devise a new system of measurements to make sure those standards are being met. Benchmarks, based on the standards, will be prepared for the assessment by the senior year. By 1996, all seniors in North Carolina will be required to meet the standards and by the year 2000, meeting the standards will be required for graduation.

"Dr. Houston's outstanding record as superintendent of the Mooresville public schools qualifies him to take on one of the most important jobs in the state—making sure our high school graduates can

earn a living," Hunt said. "I'm expecting him to help bring about fundamental changes in our schools and I am confident he has the talent, drive and experience to do just that."

As executive director, Houston will work with the members of the commission as they build consensus on what students should know and be able to do to compete in the modern economy. He will design the process and procedures to ensure compliance with the legislative mandates set forth in the act. He will also oversee staff and contractual services, manage the bud-

get and meet regularly with commission members.

"It's an opportunity to help the governor make an impact on education statewide," said Houston.

Son of Humes and Dot Houston of Kings Mountain and also the son of the late Deebie Suber Houston, Dr. Houston served from 1985-88 as adjunct professor at UNC-Chapel Hill. He was assistant superintendent of the Davidson County Schools from 1981-83. He earned his B.S. in 1965 and his M.A. in 1966 from Appalachian

See Houston, 12-A

IT'S A MIRACLE

Kings Mountain's Chad Baity is back home, and in school

Chad Baity, 7, smiled. He said he was "sort of glad" to be back in school on opening day of the fall term Monday.

The blonde boy wore his favorite shirt and jeans and used a walker to keep up with his first grade classmates and participate in the regular school day routine.

Monday was Chad's first day in school since January 20 when he became ill suddenly in the West school cafeteria and was rushed to Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. After seven months of extensive treatment and rehabilita-

tion Chad came home to his parents, Brent and Cindy Baity; and sister, Brooke; and was welcomed by a new baby brother, Westly Adam. The Baity lawn on Gaston Street was filled last week with welcome home signs.

Flash bulbs were also popping at West School Monday as Chad's teacher, Karla Bennett, recorded the homecoming for history.

Chad's father said that Chad was excited but otherwise Monday was a normal school day for a first grader.



Chad Baity draws at his desk at West School on the first day of the fall term of school Monday. Baity is back home and in school after a long stay at Carolinas Medical Hospital and Rehabilitation Center.

Liver transplant gives hope to KM's Chambers

Phyllis Ann Chambers, 38, underwent her second liver transplant in a month Saturday at Research Center of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA. Her family is requesting prayers from the community.

Ruth Morris, of Ebenezer Village, said her sister's condition is critical but stable.

A month ago Chambers received the liver of a 19-year-old but her body rejected it. The second liver transplant went well, according to relatives. Doctors are now treating Chambers for acute pancreatitis.

A big wall in the Research Center is lined with pictures of patients who had successful liver transplants. The Kings Mountain Chambers family wants Phyllis' picture to go up soon so they can take her home.

Chambers was transferred to the Charlottesville hospital in mid-June from a hospital in Bethesda, Maryland. The experimental drug she had been taking had slowed Hepatitis B which attacks the muscles and nervous system. Diagnosed with the liver disease a year ago, she had been on the experimental drug Fialuridine once a week since February and had shown no apparent side effects.

Chambers' mother, Helen Gordon, of Kings Mountain, and Chambers' daughter Tameka and Tameka's 11-months-old son, Desuan, are staying at the hospital in Charlottesville. Chambers' sister, Ruth Gordon Morris, drove back to Kings Mountain this week to enroll Chambers' children, Aquilla, an 8th grader, and Larry, a 7th grader, at Kings Mountain Middle School.

Morris says that travel to and from the hospital have drained the family's budget and there is no money for school clothes for the children. With the addition of her sister's children to her household, Morris now cares for six children, including her three teenagers and a



PHYLLIS CHAMBERS

eight-year-old. "I lost my job because I had to be off so much to go to the hospital," said Morris, of Ebenezer Village.

Last week Morris and a cousin, Herman McClain of Detroit, Michigan, opened an account at First Union National Bank hoping to raise funds for the Chambers' family. Donations to help defray the costs of medical expenses may be forwarded to Chambers Fund, in care of FUNB, Kings Mountain, 28086. Clothes for the family will also be appreciated. Aquilla, a girl, wears size 7, Tameka, a girl, wears size 5 and Larry, the boy, is 12 years old. Morris can be contacted at 734-0217.

Morris said there is no treatment for Hepatitis B and researchers have been trying to find a drug to fight it. She said to enter the Fialuridine test, the patients must have had the virus for at least six months. Her sister is the only female who has tested the drug. There was no payment for participation in the National Institutes of Health trial of Fialuridine which had shown no damaging side ef-

See Chambers, 5-A



West School teachers Suzanne Grayson, Principal Sherrill Toney, Juanita Lutz, Jane Crawford and Kathy Murgita, left to right, are excited about the addition of computers to the third, fourth and fifth grade classrooms.

Kings Mountain Schools enter the computer age

Why can't schools be the way they were when I was there?

It was good enough for me, so it's good enough for my kids.

As with many of our country's valued traditions, public education can prompt people to speak longingly of "the good old days."

But the schools that served America well 50 or even 20 years ago are not the schools that will adequately prepare students to be successful in the 21st century, says Dr. Jane King, Assistant Superintendent for Public Instruction in the Kings Mountain district schools.

"Today it takes a lot more to be successful and as society has become more complex, so have the demands on and the response from our educators," said King. "The global economy means students will need better language skills and more knowledge about diverse cultures and computers are the way of the future."

King and representatives of Jostens Learning Systems introduced Kings Mountain faculty members to new computers as an innovative teaching tool last week

in training sessions at Grover School and Kings Mountain Middle School. The children took a look at the computers this week during the first week of the fall term of school.

King said that in 1965, a car mechanic needed to understand 5,000 pages of service manuals to fix any car on the road. Today, he or she needs to wade through 456,000 pages of technical text. She said one of America's major advertising agencies now requires a college degree to work in the mail room and the General Equivalency Diploma which many high school dropouts have pursued is no longer accepted by the U.S. Army. Far more than simple arithmetic is needed to work well in the modern factory, she said, and in schools today technology is being tapped more and more as a learning resource.

"All of us look back with some fondness for our own years in school," said West School Principal Sherrill Toney. "But we have to realize that our children need schools that meet the demands of the 21st

See Computers, 12-A

First Bone 'Marrow-thon' set Saturday at Red Cross

Paul Elliott, 38, had never been sick a day in his life until December 1991 when doctors told him he had acute myeloid leukemia.

The gift of a stranger Saturday at the first-ever seven-county "Marrow-thon" at the Cleveland County Red Cross Chapter from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. could provide the cure for the Shelby man who admits the task of finding an unrelated donor that matches is like trying to find a needle in a haystack.

But Elliott is fighting his disease through faith in God and the support of his family and Zoar Baptist Church and coping by talking on the telephone and on ham radio, urging people to turn out for the free testing, and relaxing at his piano.

He will personally greet and register donors willing to donate their healthy bone marrow to someone whose only chance for life is a transplant.

The process of being tested takes about 10 minutes and involves a registration process, a blood sample withdrawal of two tablespoons of blood and the signing of a release form that says the donor is willing to make a marrow donation if matched with a patient. The test usually costs \$60 but Saturday's test is free. The event is sponsored by Carolinas Blood Service Region of the American Red Cross, WCNC-TV Channel 36 and MIX 104.7 (WMXC-FM).

Sandi Bollick, Red Cross blood recruiter, said that a search of 20,000 potential donors may be needed to find a single match. "Even so, the search is a worthwhile one, because each successful match literally offers the patient a chance of a lifetime."

Bollick said the American Red Cross has been working with the National Marrow Donor Program since 1987 and has registered more than 35,000 in the Carolinas, 62 of whom have actually made a marrow donation. The registry gives hope to thousands of patients who need a bone marrow transplant to replace diseased marrow. The odds of matching ranges from one in 100 to one in 1,000,000.

"In my case the match must be 100 percent," said Elliott.

A former electrical engineer at Jefferson Smurfit (formerly Container Corporation), Elliott's condition has been in remission. In mid-February 1992 he started his second round of chemotherapy treatments and his spleen was removed the day after a successful bloodmobile his church sponsored for him. In late October 1992 he was in N. C. Baptist Hospital for 53 days and again recently for 37 days. His treatment requires red blood transfusions every two weeks and HLA platelet transfusions once a week.

See Bone, 7-A



Music is relaxing for leukemia patient Paul Elliott. The first-ever Marrow-thon Saturday at the Cleveland County Red Cross Chapter in Shelby will seek a successful match for Elliott, who needs a life-saving transplant. Elliot will be on hand to register donors. The test is free to healthy persons 18-55.