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## Mountaineers host R-S Central Friday

1-B



## 7-A Meet and Thursday at

all

# Kings Mountain Herald

VOL. 105 NO. 39 Thursday, September 30, 1993 Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086 • 50¢

## KM educator files discrimination complaint

### KMHS students suspended for fighting

Six Kings Mountain High School students were suspended Friday after fights broke out Thursday as the end of school bell rang. One student was hurt and later in the day one student was arrested in an unrelated incident. Principal Jackie Lavender said a few students signed out Monday and several parents called to say they were keeping their children home Friday after unfounded rumors started flying about possible riots. Lavender said two fights started

between a group of white and black students in the English hall near the library of the high school about 2:30 p.m. Thursday. No weapons were involved. Police on Friday morning confiscated one knife and one ball bat from a car parked in the school parking lot. Lavender said all was quiet Tuesday and there were few absences. Police were on the campus Thursday afternoon and most of the day Friday. Jamie Canipe, 17, sustained two black eyes and was treated at Kings Mountain Hospital

Emergency Room Thursday afternoon for wounds which required 10 stitches. He was out of school this week. Lavender said that an exchange of words early Thursday between a black girl and a white boy started what turned out to be for a few minutes a 'free for all' Thursday afternoon between students who took sides. "We dealt with the early problem and disciplined both students but they didn't let the issue die," she said. "All the students were in the See Fights, 9-A

Greg Payseur, veteran Kings Mountain teacher, filed Wednesday a formal, discrimination complaint against the Kings Mountain Board of Education with the North Carolina Department of Labor through its federal offices in Atlanta. Payseur contends that Supt. Dr. Bob McRae and the Board of Education violated a federal law when they bypassed him for promotion. Kings Mountain Board of Education conducted a grievance hearing behind closed doors Tuesday afternoon in spite of Payseur's request that the hearing be open to the public. Wednesday morning Payseur was hand-delivered a copy of the board's decision of their denial of the grievance. Board Chairman Ronnie Hawkins said in the letter that "the information presented to the board during the hearing Tuesday fails to substantiate your grievance that you have been discriminated against

due to your membership in the Naval Reserves. Therefore, the board's decision is to deny your grievance. We appreciate your willingness to follow appropriate board policy concerning grievance procedure and wish for you a successful school year." Payseur, Assistant Principal at Grover/ Bethware Elementary Schools and a 19-year veteran of the Kings Mountain District Schools, said he was denied the opportunity for the open meeting. Supt. Dr. Bob McRae said that the board gave Payseur that opportunity in accordance with the grievance policy but that the board has never conducted a personnel matter in open session. "The board voted unanimously to hold the hearing in private to protect both the teacher and the school board," said McRae. He said the policy spells out that the board's decision on open or closed meeting must be unanimous. See Grievances, Page 7A

## City election next Tuesday

Kings Mountain citizens will go to the polls Tuesday to elect four members of Kings Mountain City Council in what poll watchers say is an outwardly quiet election season. Polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. at the city's two polling places: East Kings Mountain at the Community Center and West Kings Mountain at the National Guard Armory. City Elections Supervisor Becky Cook is predicting that 35-40 percent of the registered voters of 4,400 will go to the polls. She will post the returns at 8 p.m. in the lobby of City Hall. Voters will choose from a field of 13 candidates for four seats on the seven-member City Council. In Ward 3, four men, including three newcomers to politics, are challenging incumbent Elvin Greene. They are Gilbert Hamrick, Charlie Smith, Ralph Grindstaff and Gary Joy. In Ward 4, incumbent Jerry White is opposed by former commissioner Jim Childers. In Ward 5, incumbent Fred Finger is challenged by newcomer Rick Murphy.

Four people seek the At-Large seat being vacated by incumbent Al Moretz. They are former mayor Kyle Smith, Jerry Mullinax, Frank Brackett and political newcomer Dean Spears. "I think the voters will turn out especially in Ward 3 where five people are running and to vote for the At-Large position where four people want to be elected," said Cook. "I've heard some people say they aren't taking the time just to vote for two people but I hope they change their mind," said Cook. "You can be sure I will cast my vote for my Ward 4 choice and for my At-Large choice on the board." "Some folks apparently don't know we have a city election Tuesday," said Cook, who said that some voters think the vote for city officials comes in November when voters choose representatives for the school board. Cook said the city runoff, if one is necessary, will be held in November. Cook and other members of the elections board Tim Miller and Valerie Boyd will be at City Hall all day Tuesday to respond to voter questions.

### SIGNS OF THE TIMES



With all the political signs around town, there must be an election around the corner. Kings Mountain's City Council primary is next Tuesday and streets such as Cleveland Avenue, where this photo was taken, are all dressed up with candidates' posters. If a runoff is necessary it will be held in November.

## Webber resigns city job

Charles Webber, the city's first personnel director in the city manager/council form of government, has resigned to accept a similar job with the City of Monroe. "Charles has done a tremendous job and made many improvements for Kings Mountain," said City Manager George Wood, announcing the resignation to City Council Tuesday night. Webber will assume his new position in Monroe, a city with a population of 20,000 people, on November 1. "Charles has done a super job here and we wish him well," said Mayor Scott Neisler. Webber came to Kings Mountain in 1988 after working as a supervisor with the Employment Security Commission for 12 1/2 years, two years in Kings Mountain and before that in Forest City and Shelby. During his tenure the city has added an employee assistance program and a flexible benefits plan. He said employment insurance has been lowered and workers compensation costs are down with stepped up safety procedures. See Webber, 9-A

## Harris on governor's Smart Start board

Cleveland County will operate one of the state's first 12 Smart Start early childhood development programs and Kings Mountain Senator J. Ollie Harris will serve on the board overseeing the development and implementation of the program. "Smart Start can mean more to our state and our county than any other single program I have ever encountered," said Harris. "I am honored to have the opportunity to contribute to this landmark effort." County Commissioner Joyce Cashion of Kings Mountain said that by getting in on the ground floor of Smart Start, Cleveland

County will go a long way toward meeting the needs of local children. "I think it's a program that will work," said Cashion, who was among a group of Cleveland County citizens who went to Raleigh last week for Governor Jim Hunt's announcement. Cashion said that Smart Start will be a cooperative effort between all school systems, industry, Social Services, Mental Health and the communities and was one of Hunt's campaign promises that pledges \$20 million to improve day care standards and availability, immunizations and other developmental factors for children under

six years of age. Supt. Dr. Bob McRae said that it is unclear how involved local schools will be in the program but he applauds Cleveland County wanting to find the best quality way or ways to prepare children for school. "We're in it to help make situations better for young children and their families but our involvement doesn't mean we will start preschool programs beyond what we do already in Kings Mountain," he said. Harris met with the North Carolina Partnership for Children Inc. in Raleigh last week which was See Harris, 9-A



OLLIE HARRIS

## Council to enforce smoking ban

Smokers who light up in city buildings not designated for smoking will face fines of \$25 under a resolution regulating smoking adopted by City Council Tuesday. The new ordinance applies to public buildings owned and operated by the City of Kings Mountain, including: Police Department: no smoking except in the squad room and outside the building at the rear entrance. Fire Department: no smoking except the area around the vending machine in the fire bay area. Cemetery Department: no smoking. City Hall: no smoking except in

the upstairs and downstairs lobby and the hallway leading to the fire department from the main stairway. Library: no smoking. Senior Center: no smoking. Citizens Service Center: no smoking except for a designated area at the end of the warehouse hallway on the southeast side of the Public Works building and outside of the building in the vicinity of the loading dock provided the area is kept clean and no combustibles are present. Water Treatment Plant: no smoking except in the office and outside the building. Deal Street Pump Shop: no See Smoking, 9-A

## Fireworks display to kickoff Mountaineer Day festivities

A dazzling kickoff to Mountaineer Day will be fireworks at the end of Friday night's Kings Mountain High School football game at Gamble Stadium. Mountaineer Day on Saturday promises to be fun for the whole family, according to the sponsoring Kings Mountain Parks & Recreation Department. Kings Mountain Fire Department is in charge of the pre-celebration fireworks display. Other pre-celebration events will include free swimming from 10 p.m. until midnight at Neisler Natatorium and a free night bike ride starting at 10 p.m. from First Carolina Federal Savings Bank. Police escorts will be provided. Mayor Scott Neisler will lead a fun walk Saturday at 9:30 a.m. at the city's walking track and certificates will be presented to participants. The downtown events kickoff at 9:45 a.m. Saturday from the entertainment stage at the corner of Cherokee and Gold Streets. A Kids Parade featuring decorated bikes and strollers at 11 a.m. and a stuffed animal contest, a dog show, and "best tea in town" contest are features of the morning and afternoon events. A two-hour gospel sing is featured in the afternoon. "Mink Band" will round off the evening entertainment with a street dance. Denese Leonard, events chairman, said there will be plenty of good food, crafts, and activities to delight the whole family.



## Hospital to cooperate with CMC

The Kings Mountain Hospital Board of Trustees Tuesday night unanimously approved affiliation with Carolinas Medical Center of Charlotte. By approving the affiliation, the board will enable the hospital to take advantage of a network of medical staffs from the two Carolinas. "The future of health care is networking small hospitals like ours to large hospitals," said KMH Administrator Hult Reep. He said the new affiliation means that Carolinas Medical Center would assist in such services as physician recruiting and offer the advantages of mass purchasing and new services. The affiliation would ultimately mean reduced patient cost at Kings Mountain Hospital. "Any new services we are not presently offering and would like to offer the hospital would lend us

a helping hand in giving those services," said Reep. Reep said the directors felt it would be an advantage to become a part of the network, joining such hospitals as Watauga Medical Center in Boone, Stanley Memorial Hospital in Albemarle, Richmond Memorial Hospital in Rockingham, McCloud Clinic and Florence General Hospital in South Carolina, Cleveland Memorial Hospital in Shelby and Wadesboro Hospital. "This does not mean that Carolinas Medical Center will manage or buy Kings Mountain Hospital," said Reep. "There are no increased costs and this probably will mean reduced costs to patients." J. C. Bridges, president of the hospital board of trustees, said full details won't be worked out for several months.