



Win \$100
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of the year 5-A

'Cuckoos Nest'
opens Friday at
Little Theatre 2-A

**KM coach helps build
championship team**

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Kings Mountain Herald

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Kings Mountain, N.C.

Schools getting tougher on weapons

Student's suspension upheld by School Board

Kings Mountain Board of Education Monday night upheld, after a hearing, the suspension of a KMHS junior for the rest of the school year after a shotgun was removed from the boy's father's truck on school grounds recently.

While a packed hallway of the boys' supporters waited for the outcome, the board met behind closed doors with the student and his parents and heard a number of character references about a student called "one of our best students."

"We know the boy has a good record in the school and community but we can't make exceptions," said Board Chairman Ronnie Hawkins, who said the board unanimously took Supt. Bob McRae's recommendation to suspend the student for the rest of the school year, a policy that allows the suspended student to re-

turn to school the next year.

Hawkins said the boy's father said he left the gun in the truck after a hunting trip.

"It isn't that we are doubting a parent's story but we have to think about potential danger to all 1,100 students," said Hawkins.

Hawkins said the rate of guns found at Kings Mountain Schools is occurring even with the advent of tighter security, sterner punishment and new education methods but he said a state law that goes into effect December 1 could keep violent students out of school forever.

The law makes it a felony for a student to bring a gun onto school grounds. If convicted, the principal could permanently expel the student if the student is 16 years old

Kings Mountain Board of Education sent a message to parents and students Monday night that they're prepared to get even tougher against school violence, even if that means metal detectors at athletic events and random searches of students as they enter a school.

For the first time this fall basketball fans entering the high school gym will be monitored by metal detectors operated by two city policemen. Anyone attending the games will be checked, including fans and teams from visiting schools.

Use of the system's new metal detectors was prompted when a police officer found a loaded handgun

on the school grounds just before a dance on October 29.

School officials closed the Homecoming dance which brought criticism from at least one parent, Jackie Brown, at Monday's board meeting.

"What are you going to do about guns?" asked Myron George, parent of two children. "Is something bad going to have to happen?"

Chairman Ronnie Hawkins said the school system is doing something about violence. George called for stronger measures. He said the schools should already be using metal detectors doing random searches for weapons.

Board member Shearra Miller suggested the board take a step fur-

ther by banning book bags and oversize sports jackets. But Supt. Dr. Bob McRae said that the newly-formed school violence task force, which meets Thursday night at 7 p.m. in the Administrative Office Building, should have a hand in the decisions.

"I'm ready to crack down and go full force," said Miller.

"Things are just getting out of hand," said Jackie Brown, mother of a high school student. Brown suggested that a black policy commission composed of seven people be allowed to go into the schools and talk to the kids about grievances and help the school officials work out the problems.

See Violence, 15-A



Parents turned out at Monday's school board meeting to offer suggestions on violence prevention in the schools. Jackie Brown, above,

said a strong black policy council should be formed to deal with special concerns of black students in the school system.

KM Lake Commission okays improvements

Moss Lake Commission Monday night approved 14 requests from property owners wanting to make improvements while the lake is down.

After the business of the agenda, the Commission was treated to a videotape show of the dredging project underway at the dragline site at the old Doran Dam.

Planning Director Gene White, with Ronnie Hawkins as pilot, took the color shots from the air over Moss Lake as 200 truck loads of sand were being sifted from the lake from a 400 x 100 feet wide area. "We have 6,120 feet more to go to remove all the silt and sand," said White.

White said the video shows the tremendous growth pattern at the lake over the past 19 years.

The Commission approved requests from:

William and Karen Anderson, for a 1.5 HP water Ace pump and intake line.

Stephen and Patricia Bonino for rip-rap

Eddie Tillman Jr. to remove loose sand eroded from a vacant lot.

Rip-rap request from Vernon and Ernestine Bishop.

Rip-rap request from Jack Wells.

Faunce Realty to install two concrete ramps at Lots 1 and 4.

David Monteith for removal of brush and small trees along the shoreline and removal of earth from the earth bottom to improve boating access and removal of old road bed and installation of rip rap.

See Lake, 11-A

New gas line is completed

A new gas line to serve 40 potential customers on Oak Grove Road in the area of Tom's Family Mart at Stoney Point was completed this week.

The project cost \$87,000 and will allow Oak Grove Road residents to hook up to city gas.

City of Kings Mountain Community Services Director Tom Howard said that the city has received numerous inquiries for gas service and "quite a few have signed on."

Several other city projects are nearing completion.

Roofers were completing reroofing of the Community Center where Howard estimates that 95 percent of the work is done. He said the Single Membrane roof is being put up at cost of \$79,500.

Electrical crews are busy this week converting conduit lines in the old 1460 KVA system to the new 15 KVA system.

A defective gas line on Henry Street was being repaired and, weather permitting, street paving will begin this week or next.

At Moss Lake, where sand removal has been underway for several weeks, city crews have repaired numerous concrete areas of the dam spillway, including several joints.

Moss Lake has been lowered five feet for property owners to make improvements. The lake will be back to normal level at the end of November.

Clark named Recreation Director

Bruce Clark, 33, Kings Mountain High School head baseball coach and assistant football coach, has been hired as Kings Mountain's new recreation director.

Clark will assume his new duties as soon as he is released from his teaching contract, according to City Manager George Wood.

Clark will be paid an annual salary of \$35,378.

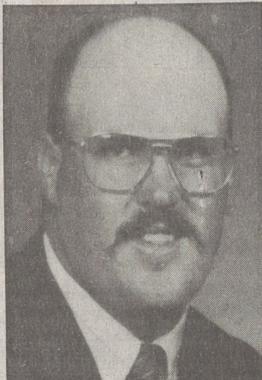
"We are very pleased that Bruce has accepted this position," said Wood. "He brings a solid recreation background and a high level of enthusiasm to our recreation program, is well known and active within the community and has a good communication with young people."

Clark is currently head baseball coach and assistant football coach in addition to his duties as a history

teacher at KMHS. Clark's teams have won two AAA high school state baseball championships.

A 1982 graduate of Wingate College with a degree in social studies/history and business administration, he was football coach at East Union Middle School in Marshville from 1978-81 and completed his student teaching at Forest Hills High School in Marshville, teaching and serving as offensive line coach for varsity football in 1982. Since 1983 he has worked at Kings Mountain High School, serving as in-school suspension coordinator from 1983-85 and as a social studies teacher since 1986.

He and his wife, Sondra, have two sons and are active in First Presbyterian Church. They reside at 609 Ginger Drive.



BRUCE CLARK

Local fires suspicious and under investigation

Seven fire calls during eight days in November have kept city firemen hopping.

Fire Chief Frank Burns said that the county fire marshal is investigating a suspicious fire November 2 at 1:27 a.m. in the vacant building formerly occupied by Hungry Howie's Pizza at 313 Walker Street. Fireman estimated the damages will top \$45,000.

City police and firemen were called to a fire at 608 Gantt Street on November 2. Teresa Jones was using gasoline to start a fire in a wood heater at 10:30 p.m. The stove exploded, doing \$10,000 damage to the house and injuring the woman's hand, according to the police report.

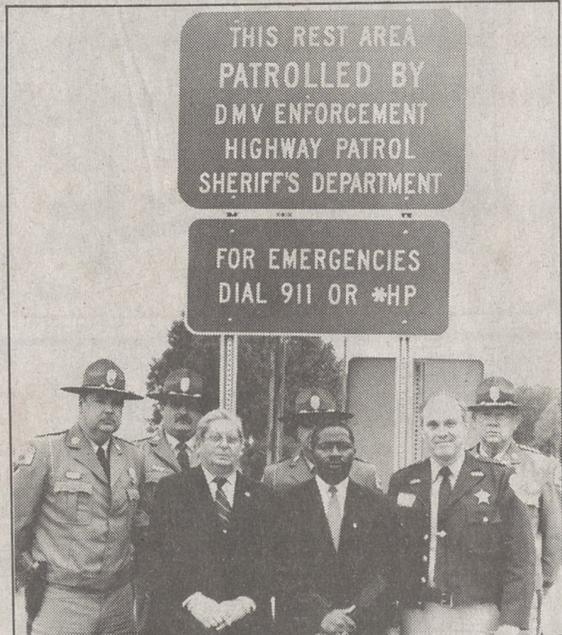
Firemen and police are investigating the report of a break-in at 402 Cherry Street and the damage by fire of the house owned by Doris and J.D. Upchurch. According to police, a neighbor in the process of moving heard a crackling sound and called police about a possible break-in. When police arrived at 1:28 a.m. they found the house was on fire and called the fire department. Firemen and police estimated the fire damages about \$15,000. The Upchurches filed a report on furniture missing from the house.

On November 1 firemen responded to a call by Ruppe Hosiery, 314 E. Gold Street. Workers turned the heat on and smelled smoke. No damages were reported.

On November 3 a man called the fire department using a cellular phone and reported a structure fire on Parker Street. It was a false alarm, according to firemen.

Police said that juvenile petitions will be sought charging a 15-year-old boy in connection with a fire at Pine Manor Apartments on November 3. Witnesses told police that a juvenile kicked the door down of the vacant apartment 94 and they then saw flames coming from the apartment and someone trying to put the fire out. Firemen were called to put out the blaze.

On November 5 local firemen assisted Bethlehem Fire Department in dousing a fire in a car on I-85 and N.C. 161.



State DOT member Carroll Edwards, left, and DMV Commander Alexander Killens join Col. R.A. Barefoot of the North Carolina Highway Patrol and other law enforcement officials at the unveiling of new signs Wednesday at the I-85 rest area on Dixon School Road. Security has been beefed up in the wake of the killing of a Kings Mountain rest stop employee in September.

State beefing up patrol of rest areas along I-85

In the wake of the September killing of a state employee at the Kings Mountain I-85 rest area, state law enforcement officials on Wednesday afternoon put up red and white signs to alert the public that police are beefing up patrols.

Division of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Alexander Killens, Colonel R.A. Barefoot, Commander of the State Highway Patrol, and State DOT member Carroll Edwards unveiled the signs at 2 p.m., signaling the installation of similar signs and a public awareness campaign at 58 other rest areas and welcome centers in the state.

A large sign reads, "This rest area is patrolled by Department of Motor Vehicles Enforcement Highway Patrol and the Sheriff's Department." A smaller red and white sign reads: "for an emergency dial 911."

"The bottom line is crime and violence but the recent fatality in Kings Mountain gives us the impetus to move quickly," said Killens.

Ten cars of highway patrolmen, sheriff's department officers, and DMV officials were on hand for

ceremonies outside the southbound rest area near Dixon School Road where Charles Alvin Porter, 39, of Kings Mountain, was found the morning of Sunday, September 26 shot to death. Two men are being sought in the slaying.

Killens said that the Department of Transportation and Division of Motor Vehicles extends sympathy to the Porter family. Porter had been a state employee of DOT for 19 years.

"Anyone who drives into this rest area will see a uniformed officer in his car or walking the grounds," said Killens. He said that no new officers have been hired but that the stepped up patrolling will be done by police, highway patrolmen and sheriff's deputies.

"We will have an appropriately manned work force," he said.

Killens said patrols were upgraded a month ago with 24-hour security of rest areas in the state. He said that DMV employs 515 officers in 10 districts.

"We must put an end to robberies, drugs, and prostitution and this is an all out effort by all law enforcement personnel to deter crime," said Killens.