



Coming next week ...

The Herald's Special Christmas Edition

Kings Mountain Herald

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New KM councilmen take office

Rick Murphrey named mayor pro-tem

Ward 5 City Councilman Rick Murphrey, the top votegetter in the recent municipal election, was unanimously the choice of his fellow board members Tuesday for the position of Mayor pro tem.

Murphrey was nominated by At-large Councilman Harold Dean Spears. Ward 1 Councilman Phil Hager seconded the motion and the action was unanimous.

The election of Murphrey was the top item on the organizational agenda for the new board after it was seated Tuesday.

Upon motion of Councilman

Jerry White and seconded by Councilman Ralph Grindstaff, the board reelected Mickey Corry as city attorney. Hager's motion and White's second that Carolina State Bank be the city's depository for funds was also a unanimous decision.

Councilwoman Norma Bridges was the unanimous choice of the board for its representative to the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission's quarterly meetings in Forest City.

The new Council set January 11 for a special meeting to receive and

review the audit and to review the current year's budget at mid-year.

Mayor Scott Neisler took the occasion to recognize the city's newest employee, Recreation Director Bruce Clark.

Just as the mayor was about to adjourn the meeting for a reception, Spears said he wanted to make a motion that the board publicly thank Mike Heath for lowering the price of gasoline to motorists the same amount that the city raised the cost of natural gas for Kings Mountain customers.

Three new members of City Council and an incumbent took their seats Tuesday night after a ceremonial farewell to three outgoing commissioners Fred Finger, Elvin Greene and Al Moretz by Mayor Scott Neisler.

The mayor took the occasion to present the outgoing commissioners, all of whom were present except Finger, with engraved plaques and gifts and to praise them for high achievement and a tenure of office totaling 18 years. He cited the passage of the \$8.5 bond referendum and major improvements to the city's sewer and electrical systems as high marks of their career as public servants.

Judge Keaton Fonville of the 27-B Judicial District, administered the oath of office to Ward 3 Councilman Ralph Grindstaff, Ward 5 Councilman Rick Murphrey, At-large Councilman Dean Spears and Ward 4 Councilman Jerry L. White. Wives of the commissioners held Bibles for their husbands as they took the oath of office before a capacity audience at City Hall.

"Giving the best service for the best price" is the goal that Murphrey said he wanted to see happen during his term of office. He thanked his wife, Sandra and their family and supporters for long hours of campaigning on hot summer days and pledged to work with all council members and staff for the betterment of Kings Mountain.

Councilman Jerry White echoed Murphrey's remarks about service being the trademark of the new board and said that everyone worked hard to make the recent political campaign one of the cleanest ever. He said he appreciated the confidence of voters in returning him to his seat.

Councilman Grindstaff pledged to work with all citizens and represent all citizens in all matters in the coming months and said he looked forward to working with the board and staff. "By working together we can achieve," he said.

See Council, 12-A

KM students above average

Third grade students scored above the state average in math and reading on end-of-grade tests for 1992-93 and all elementary students tested above the state percentiles in math.

While third grade scores were positive, students in the middle grades four and five scored .8 of a point below the state average in reading; students in grades six, seven and eight scored two months below the state average in reading, and seventh graders tested four points below the state average in math.

Math scores at the five elementary schools were considerably higher than state-wide percentiles of 47, said Director of Student Services Jean Thrift. She made these comparisons: Bethware, 52; East, 67; Grover, 49; North, 63, and West, 65.

"We feel good about the third grade scores but we'll be developing some strategies to improve scores in the middle grades," said Thrift in a report to the Kings Mountain Board of Education Monday.

Supt. of Instruction Dr. Jane King said that teachers and principals have received copies of the base line data.

King said that some progress is noted and that overall the system "did well with a first time test that we knew very little about." She said that she is working with faculties on ways to improve future test scores.

King said that computers in the classroom are helping third graders answer many of the test questions.

"This end-of-year test was very challenging to students," she said. "We have more work to do."

King said a curriculum audit will also help improve the next test scores.

On the state percentile in reading, Kings Mountain third graders scored 51 comparing to 47 statewide and other comparison scores were: Fourth grade, 44-46; fifth grade, 44-48; sixth grade, 39-

See School, 12-A



Judge Keaton Fonville, left, administers the oath of office to newly-elected City Council members Ralph Grindstaff, Dean Spears, Rick Murphrey and Jerry White.

Moss Lake Commission asks for full-time officer

The five members of Moss Lake Commission say a full-time police officer is needed at the city-owned lake to handle patrolling, budgeting and organizational responsibilities.

After the holidays, Chairman Joe Smith, Billy Hawkins, M. C. Pruette Jr., Evelyn Hamrick and Charles Ballew will meet with City Manager George Wood to make their suggestions official.

Presently, the city lake officer Alan Hardin also is in charge of the D.A.R.E. program in the Kings Mountain schools.

Two residents of Moss Lake aired boating concerns at Monday's meeting at City Hall.

Charles Shirah, of 100 Wave Rd., stated that with the lake lowered he is unable to use his boat without taking a chance on ruining his equipment. He said he doesn't understand why the city doesn't provide better accessibility while the lake is lowered.

Smith said that the board appreciated Shirah's concerns but repairs are required, usually at periods of three to four years. Repairs have

been completed, Smith said, and lake levels should return to normal in about 60 days.

Bob Conlon addressed the board concerning areas of land in the lake which he thinks should be excavated by the city while the lake levels are lowered in order to reduce the possibility of damage to boats. The board referred the suggestion to City Engineer Tom Howard.

Mrs. Hamrick made the motion, seconded by Pruette, that the following requests be approved subject to compliance with Moss Lake Commission guidelines.

They included:

Billie G. and Terry E. Thames to build a rock shoreline except for beach area and dock space; James C. Hamrick, remove dirt so boat can come closer to the lot; Terry and Barbara Ward, seawall; Horace B. Ledford, concrete seawall; Edward Martin Jr., stationary pier and mooring facility; Robert E. Roberts, landscaping and dredging; Lawrence E. Mierka, retaining wall; and Don Harmon/Harmon Properties, concrete boat ramp.

Muddy water not health risk

The muddy water coming from your faucets is drinkable and soon will clear up, says Walt Ollis, of Kings Mountain water department.

The reason for the discoloration is because a water break at Moss lake water plant Sunday at 4 a.m. required shutting down of the plant for about an hour to isolate the break.

Ollis said that a flang that holds the pipe split in half and caused the break. "Luckily, we saw where the problem was and closed a valve and got the water back on line in about an hour," he said.

Ollis said that big industry water users have already experienced muddy water but that home users may not notice the problem until later in the week.

"There may be some spots that we missed and some muddiness may not have shown up yet," said Ollis.

Shearra Miller named School Board chairman

Shearra Miller was elected chairman and B.S. Peeler was elected vice-chairman of the Kings Mountain District School's Board of Education as the first official action of the newly-sworn board Monday night.

The two new officers have served on the board two years.

Mayor Scott Neisler administered the oaths of office to newly-elected members Ronnie Hawkins, C.A. Allison and Rev. Billy Houze. Libby Hawkins, Adelaide Allison and Karen Houze held Bibles for their husbands to take the oaths in the Administration Offices on Parker Street.

Miller is wife of Bridges Hardware co-manager Tim Miller and mother of two daughters. Peeler is a former Kings Mountain teacher.

Peeler made the motion to elect Miller, seconded by Hawkins.

Hawkins made the motion to elect Peeler, seconded by Allison.

The board action was unanimous.

"I am looking forward to serving the school system in this position," said Miller. "We will continue to work together to help our schools to be the very best possible for our children and the community."

Miller earned the highest level three certificate of excellence from the North Carolina School Boards



SHEARRA MILLER

Association recently, recognizing additional hours of staff development in-service training.

C.A. Allison and Rev. Billy Houze also received the first level certificates. Supt. Dr. Bob McRae made the presentations.

McRae called the meeting "a celebration of service," recognizing retiring vice-chairman Priscilla Mauney for six years of service on the board, chairman Ronnie Hawkins for being elected a member of the district scholarship team on the North Carolina School Board Association and presenting

See Miller, 12-A



Newly-elected school board members Rev. Billy Houze, Ronnie Hawkins, and C. A. Allison, left to right, take the oath of office from Mayor Scott Neisler.

Grover fire station addition named for ex-chief Boheler

Grover Volunteer Fire Department honored one of its own Saturday by naming the new \$180,000 addition the Joe Boheler Building.

Boheler was Chief of the Fire Department for 22 years before retirement last year.

"You have to be dedicated to be a good fireman and Joe is dedicated," said Chief Jimmy Hensley, announcing the surprise award at the end of the annual Christmas barbecue attended by 80 people.

"I'm speechless," said Boheler, who said he had no idea that his friends planned to name the building after him.

Hensley said the award was a well kept secret in town because

the firemen wanted to honor a man who had led the department over many hurdles over the years. Boheler's service began with five firemen, including himself, and one fire truck which wouldn't start half the time.

Boheler said he had seen firemen complete numerous training courses and build a handsome addition that he called one of the finest in the state. The department also has six trucks, including two pumpers, a tanker, two brush trucks and a utility truck. The addition includes a renovated kitchen and dining area, a training room, office, and utility storage room of brick and block construction. Recently, a matching grant bought \$8,820 in

turnout gear and air pack equipment.

Boheler said he responded to his first fire 22 years ago at Burton/Dixie Mill in Blacksburg, SC, a big fire that required 27 departments and many firemen to put out.

"Grover has been lucky that we have had no major fire in the city limits, although two lives were claimed by a house fire and a car fire," said Boheler.

A native of Kings Mountain, Boheler is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Harry Boheler. He owns and operates his own masonry business. He is married to the for-

See Boheler, 12-A



Brad Frasier, Member of the Year, Joe Boheler, retired Grover Fire Chief, Bill Ware, Assistant Chief and Fire Chief Jimmy Hensley show off the plaque honoring Boheler which will hang in the new Joe Boheler Building in Grover.