

Grace Page to be inducted into Sports Hall of Fame



1B

Mountaineers tied for FIRST PLACE



10A

Symphony to perform Thursday at KMHS 8:00 pm

Kings Mountain Herald

VOL. 106 NO. 15

Thursday, April 14, 1994

Kings Mountain, NC 28086 • 50c

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Young girl's death took ray of sunshine

Parents want safety signs erected

The parents of a six-year-old child who died Thursday when she was struck by a truck on West King and Watterson Streets want new signs which state "Slow, Kids Playing" put up US 74/King Street West at the playground area near West School.

Mike and Shirley Wells, of 503 West Mountain St., parents of Bobbie Jean Wells, said traffic slows during the school zone to 20 m.p.h. but after school hours the area is a 35 m.p.h. zone.

Kings Mountain Police Chief Warren Goforth said that investiga-

tion is continuing into the fatality and a full report will be given to District Attorney Bill Young.

Goforth said that Alan Dean Cray, 36, of 601 Meadowbrook Rd., was driving a 1984 Dodge truck which struck the child who witnesses said was running from a playground at West School onto King Street. The child was struck by the front tire and the rear tire of the truck ran over her, according to the report filed by Sgt. Melvin Proctor.

See Lights, 3-A



BOBBIE JEAN WELLS

Like most adorable little girls, Bobbie Jean Wells, 6, was the apple of her daddy's eye.

Her mother watched her beautiful blonde-blue eyed daughter read and even write "I Love You" all over the house and feared the worst for the unsuspecting lovable child who never met a stranger.

"We walked her to school and tried to keep her safe," said Shirley Wells, 41.

On Thursday, Bobbie Jean died after being hit by a truck just after 7 p.m. on King Street between the intersection of Watterson and Goforth Streets behind West Elementary School, a short distance from her house at 503 West Mountain Street.

Because her family thinks she would definitely approve, they donated her eyes to help a child who needs them.

"Bobbie Jean loved life and if her eyes can help another child to see all the things she loved, that's what we want," said Mrs. Wells.

"We had six years with her and it was the best years

of our life," said the doting father.

Tuesday, the grieving parents sat on their tree-lined porch directly across the street from West School and talked about their miracle baby. Bobby Michael and Shirley Carroll Wells had Bobbie when they were in their late 30's, - when their four children by previous marriages were already teenagers.

"We were told that Shirley could not have another baby but when she became pregnant at age 35 we were delighted," said Mike. Doctors had told them the new baby would be a girl and they had picked out Carrie Ann for a name and then settled on Bobbie Jean, part of both of their names.

Bobbie Jean had other ideas for a name, however, she told her West School classmates. She dressed up in her mothers' clothes and make-up and called herself Tiffany. When she grew up she wanted to be a country music singer like Reba McEntire. On the last day of her life when she started out to play with her cousins

See Death, 3-A

Sex ed curriculum discussed

Some Middle School parents said Tuesday night they may not send their children to the opening classes on Monday in the "Revised Course of Study for Healthful Living" in grades 6-8.

Health Coordinator Cindy Borders told a crowd of at times angry parents at the Middle School that two or three weeks of lessons for middle school students will start Monday.

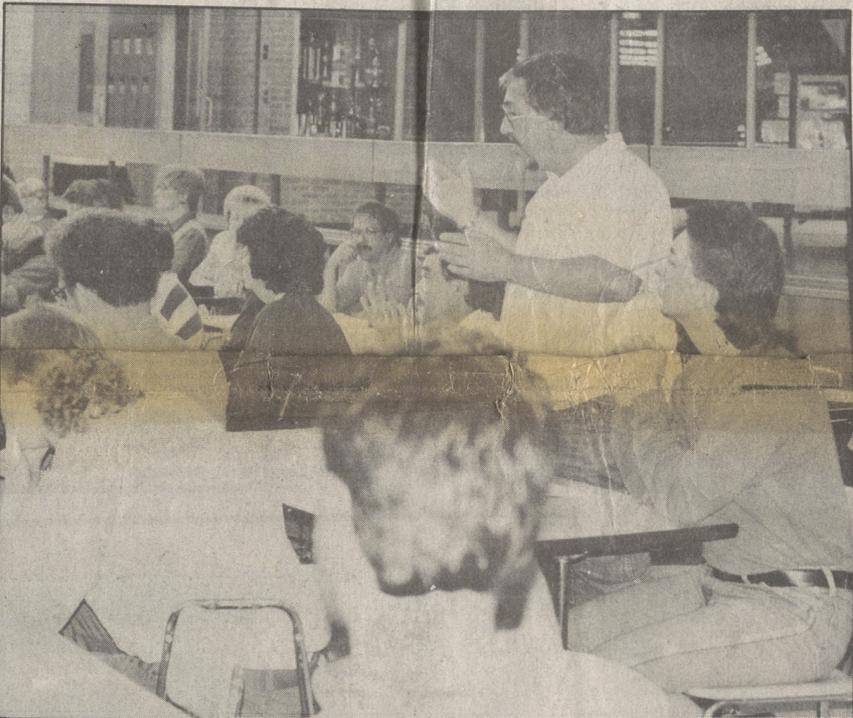
But Borders and health teachers said that students can be excused from the classes and will be given alternate assignments.

"But will they be red-flagged?" asked Melony Bolin.

The Health Council, bowing to pressures of parents, will separate the boys from the girls for the anatomy portion of the 7th grade lesson material which deals with the sex education, although Borders said she disapproves of that change.

Borders said that the boys and girls will be separated for the entire four to five days of instruction in fifth grades. Male teachers will teach boys and female teachers will

See SEX ED, 3-A



Grover parent Tom Sees, standing, speaks in opposition to the sex education portion of the school's health curriculum during a parent meeting Tuesday night at Kings Mountain Middle School.

KM Hall of Fame set Monday night

The seventh annual Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony will be held Monday at 7 p.m. at the Kings Mountain Community Center.

Jeff Mullins, head men's basketball coach at UNC-Charlotte and former All-American at Duke and on an All-NBA star, will be the guest speaker. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the Kings Mountain Herald, Carolina State Bank and McGinnis Department Store. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Inductees include Grace Neisler Page, who was the North Carolina Woman's Open Skeet Shooting Champion in 1935 and 1936; Zeb Plonk, a baseball and football standout at Kings Mountain High School and N.C. State College in the 1920s; Jimmy Littlejohn, Kings Mountain Pop Warner football coach for 35 years; and the 1955 KMHS football team which won the school's first-ever conference championship in football. Coach Shu Carlton will speak on behalf of the team.

"This is shaping up to be one of our best banquets yet," said Hall of Fame President Carl Champion. "We invite everyone to come out and help us honor these outstanding athletes and coaches."

Jay Rhodes, Hall of Fame treasurer, will serve as Master of Ceremonies. The very popular Bee Sharps, who recently sang at a Charlotte Hornets game, will sing the National Anthem.

In addition to the inductions, the Hall of Fame will also honor the 1993 KMHS baseball and men's swim teams with its annual Special Achievement Award. Both of those teams won the state championship last year.

The plaques of former Hall of Fame winners will be on display before and after the ceremony. Plaques can be seen at other times at Mauney Memorial Library.

Previous Hall of Fame inductees include Jake Early, Kevin Mack, George Adams, John Moss, Marge Crisp, Jim Dickey, Pat Murphy, the 1964 KMHS football team, George Harris, Charlie Ballard, Don Parker, Toby Williams, Jim Kimmell, John Gamble, Ken Baity, Red Ormand, Otis Cole, Eugene Goforth, Shu Carlton, Richard Gold, Freddy Smith, Coman Falls and the 1945 KMHS men's basketball team.

Previous winners of the Special Achievement Award include the 1988 KMHS girls tennis team, the 1989 KMHS baseball team, the 1990 KMHS golf team, the 1991 KMHS soccer team, and KMHS wrestling coach Steve Moffitt.

Members of the Hall of Fame committee are Carl Champion, president; Gary Stewart, vice-president; Lucille Williams, secretary; Jay Rhodes, treasurer; and board members Darrell Austin, Jonas Bridges, Dennis Hicks, Mearl Valentine, John McGinnis, Charlie Burns, Bruce Clark, and Ruby Alexander.

Anyone wishing to nominate someone for future induction into the Hall of Fame may contact any of the above. The following eligibility requirements apply:

-The person must be at least 26 years old or must be eight years out of high school.

-The person must be a native of the Kings Mountain School District (Kings Mountain, Grover or Bethware), or must have lived in the district at the time of his or her athletic achievements.

CMHA running Kings Mountain Hospital

The new Operations Director of Kings Mountain Hospital, Hank Neal, said she always wanted to get to know people in Kings Mountain since her mother was reared here.

Neal's mother, Henriette Neal, and her aunt, Martha Kershaw, daughters of cotton broker Paul Manget, have fond memories of growing up in Kings Mountain, according to Neal who joined the local hospital staff Monday.

Walking the halls and meeting the staff, Neal said she already felt "right at home" and had found

great support from local people. Her job for a year will be to complete an operational assessment and strategy plan for the hospital which is having cash flow problems.

Kings Mountain Hospital Board of Trustees Friday approved a one-year management contract with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Hospital Authority to run day-to-day operations.

"There comes a time when it is tough on everybody and this is one of those times," said J. C. Bridges,

chairman of the hospital board. He said the financially-troubled hospital has been the concern of the board and prompted the signing of a new management contract Friday.

Bridges was out of town Monday but was at the hospital Tuesday morning to welcome Neal to Kings Mountain.

Bridges presided at the Friday afternoon special meeting which was the last day on the job for nine-year veteran administrator

See Hospital, 6-A



HANK NEAL

City Council tackling serious financial problems

Kings Mountain is facing a financial crisis, due largely to diminished fund balances in the utility departments over at least a four-year period.

How does the city come up with money to pay the monthly bills on time and budget enough for reserves?

That was the question put to Mayor Scott Neisler and the seven members of the board of city commissioners Saturday and Sunday by newly-named Interim City Manager Maxine Parsons during a planning retreat that focused on the

city's current financial crisis. Parsons said the financial forecast is bleak and can be blamed on a number of reasons, largely the diminished fund balances in the utility departments.

"We have a serious cash flow problem," said Parsons, opening the Council's Saturday retreat and report of department heads at Gardner Webb University.

"When we owe city vendors \$243,924 in July '93 and have only \$4,857 and no reserves in the general fund we can't pay our bills," said Parsons. She said the months

of January and February accounted for the largest jump in the amount owed by the city.

"The City had a negative cash balance at the end of March of \$300,000 after we paid our largest bond payment of \$600,000," said Parsons, alluding to the \$9.3 million bond referendum passed by citizens for major utility improvements.

Parsons said the Local Government Commission suggests \$360,000 in reserves for a \$4.5

See Problems, 5-A

Taxes, utility rates will probably be raised

The bad news from last weekend's planning retreat by City Council will affect your pocket-book.

City taxes will probably be raised four cents in the 1994-95 budget year at a May 3 work session on the budget. This would be the first tax hike in many years.

Your cost of electricity will

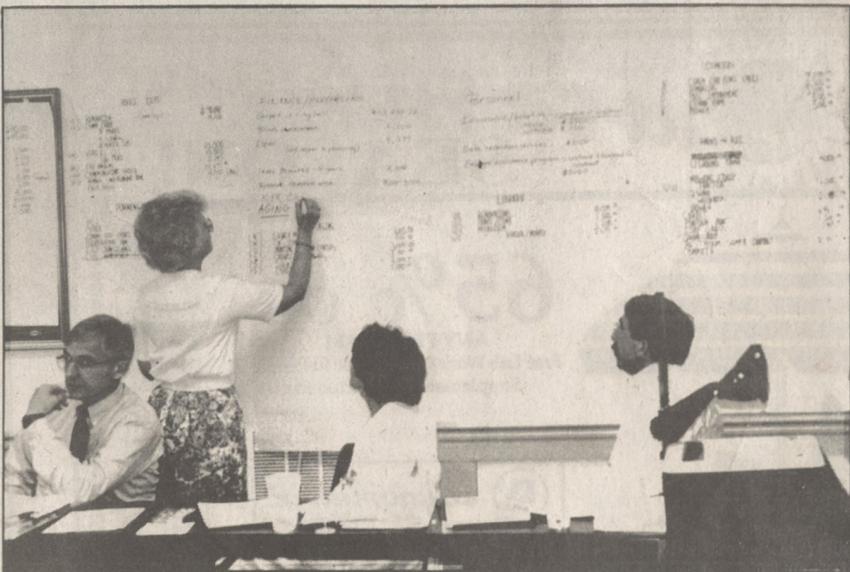
probably go up five percent.

If you live in Kings Mountain, that refreshing glass of water and that relaxing hot bath will get more expensive.

Water and sewer rates are expected to go up, both for industry and residential customers. Expected rates could be as much as 7 percent for residential customers

and 8 percent for industry and include a three percent pass-along rate from Gastonia for the cost of sewage treatment at the Crowders Creek plant. Council authorized Interim Manager Maxine Parsons to look at options as she begins work on a projected budget for 1994-95.

See Tax Rate, 3-A



Facilitators Jack Vogt, Debra Henzey and Charlie Horne, left to right, led the city's planning retreat last weekend. Interim City Manager Maxine Parsons posts departmental requests on the board.