



WIN \$100
in Herald Football Contest

6-A

Mrs. Bessie Goforth
celebrates 100th birthday

2-A

KM women
to sing on

7-B

*****KAR-RT-SORT**CROZ
10/21/94 1 12
307 MEMORIAL LIBRARY
MAUNEY MEMORIAL AVE
100 S PIEDMONT AVE
KINGS MOUNTAIN NC 28086 3414

Kings Mountain Herald

VOL. 106 NO. 41

Thursday, October 13, 1994

Kings Mountain, NC 28086 • 50¢

STILL THE CHIEF

KM's top cop says story of his leaving 'totally wrong'

Chief of Police Warren Goforth labeled as "totally wrong" a front-page news story in Monday's Shelby Star that reported that he was leaving Kings Mountain for a security job at Cleveland Memorial Hospital.

"I have no plans to leave Kings Mountain," said the Chief who came to Kings Mountain to head the 47-person department in June 1987.

Sam Cooper, CMH vice-president in charge of security, confirmed that the Kings Mountain Chief has never applied for the security job nor been considered for the position.

Goforth has contacted a lawyer and said he may sue the daily newspaper and senior staff writer Roberta Borden.

Borden quoted three unnamed "law enforcement sources and others that Kings Mountain Police Chief Warren Goforth had applied for and gotten the job as security chief at CMH."

The Star story said that Shelby City Manager David Wilkinson had confirmed that the hospital had discontinued its security contract with the Shelby Police Department.

"And one of the county's top law enforcement officers is reported to be joining the hospital as the head of a new security department," said Borden.

Cooper told the Herald Tuesday that six officers from the Shelby Police Department rotated at the hospital with two people from Spartan Security but that he is in process of interviewing several people for the head of a new security department and has narrowed the field of applicants this week.

"Warren Goforth is not a contender for the position. I have never spoken to him about the job nor have I talked with anyone from The Star," said Cooper.

"Warren is upset and it's understandable," said Cooper.

"I categorically deny it," said Goforth, who said he has been getting calls from not only city officials but other citizens since the Star story hit the newsstands at mid-afternoon Monday.

Goforth said the rumors did not come from within his department. "I trust my people and we

look after one another," he said.

Goforth described his staff as "family," citing the recent example of caring when the staff got together and started a drive for funds to help Officer Billy Fredell when he was hospitalized for major surgery.

Goforth did not deny that the rumors could have been politically motivated.

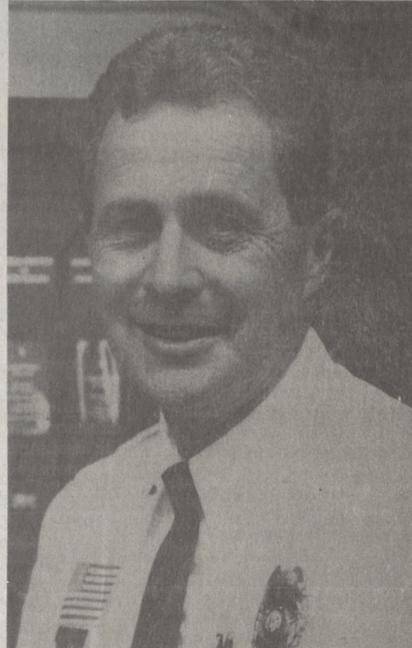
The local police staff includes sworn and reserve officers, clerical staff, and school crossing guards.

City Manager Chuck Nance said Monday that but he felt the story was inaccurate. "Warren is off for a couple of days but I'm sure I would not have had to read it in the Star if the Chief were thinking of taking another job," he said.

"Miss Rhyne's sources are inaccurate and totally false," said Goforth. "The Star's story was very unprofessional."

Goforth said he had not been contacted by The Star before the story was published nor has he been contacted since.

"I expect we'll be going to court," said the visibly upset Chief.



CHIEF WARREN GOFORTH

Commissioner candidates favor a merger of schools

The majority of the candidates for two seats open Nov. 8 on the board of county commissioners say school merger is inevitable and they would favor it.

"We don't need but one boss of the three school systems and we need to take a closer look at this issue, although I think it will be state-mandated at some point," said Republican Johnny Short, who said he believes community pride goes away with school merger.

Incumbent Democrat Ralph Gilbert said eliminating two superintendent positions would save \$200,000 but he wouldn't vote for merger for that reason.

"Rowan County added good programs to its existing school systems and they merged administration but schools stayed where they were," he said.

Republican Jim Crawley said commissioners should not be afraid to examine the facts. "This is an emotional issue but I had rather see us do things on our terms rather than have the state dictate to us. We need to look for the better education of the kids."

Democrat Pat Spangler said he would vote for school consolidation. "The state is going to mandate it in the near future," he said.

See County, 3-A



Candidates for three seats in the N. C. 48th House from Cleveland-Rutherford Counties, left to right, meet the public during a forum Monday night at Cleveland Community College. They are Dean Allen, John Weatherly, Edith Lutz, Jack Hunt, Debbie Clary and Andy Dedmon.

House candidates would put lottery to vote

The five candidates for three seats in the N.C. House 48th District say they are personally against gambling but four of the five would support a vote by the people on the controversial lottery issue.

But Republican incumbent John Weatherly of Kings Mountain called the lottery "a suckered deal all the way around" and said that putting the lottery issue on a ballot would mean that legislators sanctioned it. He said legislators can vote the will of their constituents on the floor of the House.

Democrat incumbent Jack Hunt of Lattimore said he would hate to see the state get in the

gambling business and agreed that even if a vote is taken by the people that some constitutional experts say it might not be binding.

Democrat incumbent Edith Lutz of Lawndale said she took a straw vote of her constituents when she went to the House as a freshman Representative nearly 20 years ago and found they did not favor a lottery.

Political newcomer Debbie Clary of Shelby, Republican, said she would vote the wishes of the people but that citizens had the right to vote on the issue. "Governments should not tell them how they can or cannot spend their money."

Incumbent Democrat Andy

Dedmon said he had heard a recurring theme that people want to vote on the issue.

Republican candidate Dean Allen said he had heard no clamoring for a lottery by the people he has seen in Rutherford and Cleveland Counties.

The candidates responded to five questions prepared by the Cleveland Chamber during a 50-minute forum Monday night at Cleveland County College which Cleveland President Steve Thornburg moderated. The candidates said they were all qualified during a brief introduction and ended the program

See House, 3-A

Candidates disagree on veto power

The two candidates for 37th District Senate - Dean Westmoreland of Grover and Dennis Davis - agreed on most questions raised at Monday night's forum but on the issue of a veto for the governor they were miles apart.

Westmoreland said he would never vote for the proposal unless North Carolina's governor gives up some of the power he now holds, including appointment of 3500 people to committees, chief budget officer and head of the highway department, among other things. Davis argued that North

Carolina is the only state in the nation that does not give its governor veto power and suggested he should be given line-item veto.

"We don't need an Imperial Potentate who can rule by decree," said Westmoreland, a Democrat.

The two longtime educators also disagreed on the leadership of the House/Senate.

Davis, a Republican, said he would like to keep his options open.

Westmoreland said that since

See Senate, 3-A

Mary's Grove doesn't want airport

The residents of the quiet Mary's Grove Community took a message to a three-county regional airport steering committee Friday that they are ready for a fight.

They don't want an airport/airport in their back yards.

"Hunt another spot," said Pat Carpenter, who joined some two dozen of her neighbors opposing an airport, even though an economic feasibility study for a regional-type airport won't be completed for months and it could be years before the project gets off the ground.

Several residents of the area said they started their protest movement because they fear they may have to give up property that has been in their families for generations.

And others said they don't want noise from multi-engine cargo planes and corporate jets disturbing the rural tranquility they enjoy.

Carpenter said she and her

neighbors took seriously rumors flying for weeks that a regional airport could be located at some time in their area.

They started knocking on doors and in two weeks gathered 1,000 signatures. They expect to have 1,000 more at an October 15 meeting at 10 a.m. at Mary's Grove Church.

But Al Moretz, Kings Mountain civil engineer and co-chairman of the coalition with Joe Carpenter of Gastonia, said that site selection was premature and had not been discussed. He reminded that the geographical area had been expanded to include three counties, Cleveland, Gaston and Lincoln.

Moretz said the Coalition welcomed public input, necessary for the project to fly.

A 1990 Gaston County study targeted the Mary's Grove community off N.C. 216 as a prime location for a regional airport.

Moretz said the current study

has nothing to do with the 1990 study.

"We've been very open," said Moretz but Mrs. Carpenter and others at the meeting disagreed. She said the coalition sometimes gives the appearance at least of acting secretly. She and others at the meeting said they wanted to see more about the meetings in the newspapers.

Moretz said that the media had been invited to all the meetings, as well as the general public, and that he would personally contact the local and area newspapers and reiterate that the current airport/airport study has nothing to do with the 1990 study which targeted 216 and the Mary's Grove community which straddles the Cleveland-Gaston line as a proposed site.

Consultant Richard Bisanar updated the progress of the study at a breakfast meeting at

See Airport, 4-A



Pat Carpenter holds up petitions with 1,000 signatures of Mary's Grove Community residents opposed to an airport/airport. Carpenter expects to get another 1,000 signatures at a meeting of local residents Saturday at Mary's Grove Church.

School Board meets at Central

Central School, a landmark for learning in Kings Mountain, reached another significant milestone Monday night.

The three-story facility on Ridge Street, which was recently refurbished to house the District Office, hosted its first School Board meeting in a spacious Board Room (formerly two large classrooms) on the main floor.

The Central project was the last of a prioritized list of improvements suggested by the 1981 Blue Ribbon Committee on Facility Improvements. Former Board members Doyle Campbell and Paul Hord pointed out that it was the intent of that committee - and the Board which approved the facility improvements - that the Central project be the last because members first wanted to make the needed improvements in schools.

See School, 3-A