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Hospital Board approves merger

But what will County Commissioners do?

Cecil Dickson, chairman of the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners, is apparently in no hurry to formalize a Kings Mountain Hospital merger with Charlotte Mecklenburg Hospital Authority but Chairman J. C. Bridges is.

"Why not Cleveland Memorial?" Dickson asked Bridges. "We do have to investigate. It's going to probably be a slow process."

But Bridges says the local hospital board must move on the proposal.

Dickson, who represents the county board on the local hospital board, voted for the plan to let the Charlotte Mecklenburg Hospital Authority run KMH for 22 years.

But Dickson said the plan must be approved by the county board of commissioners who have copies of the proposal in hand. And he indicated the process could be slow.

Dickson said that Jim Rose, chairman of Cleveland Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees, wanted to submit a proposal from the Shelby hospital first but Bridges

said the local board met with the Shelby board in January and there had been no indication since of a proposal for merger.

Dickson also pushed for a county commissioner to serve on the proposed Kings Mountain committee that will give guidance to CMHA in running the hospital and also asked that a member of the county commission be permitted to serve on the Charlotte Mecklenburg board.

"I'm not trying to jump the gun See County, 2-A

Kings Mountain Hospital trustees unanimously approved a proposal Monday by Charlotte Mecklenburg Hospital Authority to run the hospital for 22 years.

Under the plan, the financially-strapped hospital will get \$2 million over a two-year period. CMHA would make decisions concerning the hospital with the help of a local committee.

"I want to get this done as soon as possible," said Chairman J. C. Bridges.

"The citizens of Kings Mountain deserve this and it's an excellent proposal for Kings Mountain, a win for Cleveland County, a win for trustees and bond holders and a

win for Charlotte Mecklenburg Hospital Authority."

Bill Davis, who made the motion, called the proposal "very good for Kings Mountain."

"This proposal will lead us in direction and progress in establishing better health care for the community."

"I am excited."

Bridges said the proposal is contingent upon formal approval by the Cleveland County board of commissioners and the Farmer's Home Administration which holds the hospital bonds.

Under terms of the proposal:

- 1) The current lease between Kings Mountain Hospital Inc. and

Cleveland County for the operation of KM Hospital would be assigned to CMHA and Cleveland County for the remaining term of 17 years, through June 1, 2012. Thereafter, the option to renew a lease with Cleveland County for an additional five-year term, upon written agreement of both parties.

- 2) A Community Advisory board consisting of Kings Mountain residents would advise and give guidance regarding local health care decisions.
- 3) CMHA would insure that the health care services of Kings Mountain Hospital are provided for the general public without discrimination See Merger, 3-A

Wilson's life spared by jury

A Cleveland County Superior Court jury has spared the life of convicted murderer Christopher Wilson, 22.

Presiding Judge Robert M. Burroughs sentenced Wilson on Friday to life sentences for two counts of first degree murder in the December 2, 1993 shooting deaths of Ervin Lovelace Jr. and Hugh Marcum at Little Dan's convenience store on S. Battleground Avenue in Kings Mountain.

Local police say the trial was Kings Mountain's first capital murder case in 26 years.

Wilson also received a 40-year sentence for one count of armed robbery and a 10-year sentence for one count of conspiracy to commit armed robbery.

All the sentences will be served consecutively.

Trial date has not been set in the first degree double murder trial against Shalan Davinski Wilson.

Cassandra Adams, 18, of Suburban Mobile Trailer Park, who was driving the getaway car for the Wilsons, was sentenced to a 40-year prison term in a plea bargaining arrangement. She had earlier pled guilty to her part in the robbery-murders.

Wilson had asked the jury Wednesday to spare his life because he said he never planned to kill the men when he entered Little Dan's with a .38 caliber pistol in his hand.

Testimony in the Wilson trial indicated the trio were setup by Wilson's former girlfriend.

The former girlfriend reportedly told Adams about Little Dan's several days before the armed robbery and murders and suggested it would be an easy target because a woman usually worked at the store and that the clerks didn't have a gun.

Several hours before Wilson and Wilson entered the store a woman

See Wilson, 2-A



The staff of Carolina Family Care is pictured around the new sign at Dr. Deepak Gelot's new office on West King Street. From left are Revonda Crockett, Carla Bivins, Robina McMillan, Rachel Sellers and Lisa Greene. City officials have told Gelot that his new advertising sign is in violation of sign ordinances.

City says new doctor's sign must go

Dr. Deepak R. Gelot, Kings Mountain's newest family doctor, put up his advertising sign at his office on West King Street Saturday and Monday on opening day he was informed by the city codes department that he had 10 days to relocate the sign or take it down.

Interim Planning Director Jeff Putnam says the new sign is in violation of ordinances that require it to be located behind the property line and at least 10 feet above ground level if located within 15 feet of a street right-of-way.

Putnam said the city isn't picking on the newcomer, that all non-conforming signs and illegal signs are being targeted by the city and once the new sign regulations are adopted on April 25 by City Council that the city will strictly enforce the laws.

Putnam returned the \$20 sign permit fee to a Shelby man hired by Gelot Friday to put up the new sign. Putnam said the man refused the job after Putnam pointed to the sign regulations.

Gelot said that he understood his sign would be correct under the old sign regulations. The city has been working on new sign regulations for months and City Council will take a look at them at the April meeting.

Putnam maintains that Gelot is in violation under both the old rules and the new rules.

Putnam said Gelot may still pay a \$80 fee and apply to the board of adjustments for a variance. "That would keep the sign up until the board of adjustments make a decision in the matter," he said. Once the board of adjustments rules, the only appeal is through the courts, not to City Council.

Recently a similar incident occurred when Kings Mountain developer Mike Brown asked for a variance to put up advertising signs on East King Street.

"He went through the proper channels but his request was denied by the board of adjustments and the city and his lawyer worked out an agreement that Brown's sign could remain temporarily until all signs on the street came into conformance with the sign laws," said Putnam.

"It's been our policy to look at each situation individually because some folks are not aware they are in violation of the sign regulations," said Putnam.

"If the intent of the ordinance is met and a sign did not block the view of traffic we haven't split hairs about whether it's 15 feet off the right of way or 10 feet in the air because we would have had to employ a surveyor to get the exact dimensions."

Putnam estimates that a majority of advertising signs in Kings Mountain are illegal or non-conforming and some obscure the view of approaching traffic.

New 10-point grading scale approved for middle school

A 10-point grading scale will be implemented at Kings Mountain Middle School in the fall.

Kings Mountain Board of Education okayed the proposal by Principal John Goforth Monday night.

Goforth said that teachers voted by secret ballot and overwhelmingly by 3-1 margins for the proposal and more than 450 parents approved the plan after a survey.

Supt. Dr. Bob McRae said the broader range of grading is needed because of the significant amount of materials covered by the curriculum.

However, McRae said the high school will maintain the standard scale because of new block scheduling next year. For a high school student to make A he must attain a grade of 93-100; a B is 85-92; a C grade is 78-84; and a D grade is 77-70.

Goforth listed four reasons for the change, consistency with the present elementary scale; ease to remember; a belief that the expanded curriculum deserves a grading scale of broader range; and expanded scale can help eliminate non-academic grading practices such as awarding extra credit for non-academic endeavors. There are other grading practices equally as non-academia which could be eliminated, he said.

In a related proposal involving the Middle School, the board renewed its three-year contract with Channel One Communications, Knoxville, Tn. Goforth said all programs are reviewed and monitored and that a series of programs was implemented in the social studies class and teachers said the program enhanced the curriculum.

Goforth said he had received no informal or formal complaints about educational TV but that teachers had pulled some materials

See Grading, 3-A

Accor appointed Bethware principal

Mary Accor, principal of Parker Street School, will become principal of Bethware Elementary School on July 1.

Her transfer was announced by Supt. Dr. Bob McRae and approved by the Kings Mountain Board of Education Monday night.

Principal Hugh Holland is taking early retirement due to health reasons.

"Mary has mixed emotions but excited and is well suited for both her present job and to be principal at Bethware," said McRae.

"I am excited," said Accor.

Accor served as interim principal in 1993 at Bethware and loved working with the K-5, Head Start and exceptional children's classes. The Bethware student body numbers nearly 600 students.

She became principal of the new alternative school this school term. Accor joined the Kings Mountain Schools in 1979 as a seventh grade English, reading and social studies teacher and went to the Kings Mountain Junior High (middle school) as assistant principal in 1988.

She holds an undergraduate degree from Livingstone College in Salisbury and a master's in school administration from UNC at Charlotte in 1989. She was adjunct university supervisor for student teachers at UNCC.

McRae indicated that the new principal at Parker Street may be hired at the May meeting of the board of education. He said that applications are open to all school faculties in the county which enroll students at the alternative school, in its first year of operation in Kings Mountain.

Poling places remain same

Polling places will remain the same for upcoming elections.

West Kings Mountain voters will still use the National Guard Armory for both the May Cleveland Community College bond referendum and the June 13 special city election.

Elections Board Supervisor Becky Cook had said last week that renovations at The Armory would not be completed in time for the elections but Armory officials notified her this week that there is no problem in using the Armory.

Cleveland County Elections Board will conduct the May referendum.

Kings Mountain Elections Board will conduct the June referendum.

Cook said that she had already notified the United States Justice Department which must preclear the KM special election that the polling place might be changed.

KM Board of Education approved the use of the auditorium and without charge to the City of Kings Mountain.

Kings Mountain People



Mrs. Edith Goforth celebrated her 100th birthday Saturday at Country Time Rest Home. "Miss Edith" retired at 91 from Plonk Brothers and moved to the Crowders Mountain facility three years ago.

Edith Goforth 100, still going strong

By ELIZABETH STEWART of The Herald Staff

Edith Harmon Goforth makes being 100 look like something you don't want to miss.

"Miss Edith" wore an apricot suit that enhanced her beautiful silver hair at her birthday bash Saturday attended by over 100 guests at Country Time Rest Home. She smiled as she blew out the candles on her birthday cake and her wish was no secret.

Mrs. Goforth, who sold her big house on Gaston Street three years ago when she entered the facility, wants to return home and see the changes which have been made by Christy and Gary Cooke.

"Now don't misunderstand, I like it here but you know there's no place like home."

"My great-grandson just could not believe he was going to a 100th birthday celebration," she said.

Goforth credits her long life to loving the Lord, good health and hard work. Her three children say a fourth attribute is her streak of independence.

A widow for 70 years, Miss Edith retired at age 91 from Plonk Brothers Department Store where she probably hemmed thousands of pairs of men's pants during a quarter century in the sewing room. She had retired at 65 from Margrace Mill where she made overlock bedspreads and draperies for 35 years.

Edith Harmon and Robert Grady Goforth met at El Bethel Methodist Church and married in 1915 at her home on Harmon Road. They had courted in a horse and buggy, going to box suppers and church socials and Edith had learned to cook from her mother who raised a family of 12 children.

After 10 years of marriage and the birth of their three children, Mr.

Goforth died and Mrs. Goforth went to work to put her three girls through college and instilled in them the same attributes that her mother, Rachel Ann Fulton Harmon and her father, Alex Harmon, had taught her as a child. As a girl Miss Edith attended a one-room schoolhouse, then Ware School, walked to school and church at El Bethel. When company came they sat outside under the big oak trees in the yards swept clean with brush brooms.

Until she moved to Country Time Rest Home at Crowders Mountain Miss Edith walked from her home on Goforth Street to work at Plonk Brothers, baked pound cakes to give to friends, and enjoyed sitting on her big front porch with its six big rocking chairs.

See Goforth, 3-A