

Mountaineers open baseball season

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Child with myriad health problems now in perfect place

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KM Schools opt for early opening

The Fall opening of school will begin a week early for students on August 12 with the end of school on May 23.

Kings Mountain Board of Education unanimously approved a calendar for the 1996-97 school term Monday night. No one spoke in opposition.

Assistant Supt. for Personnel Ronnie Wilson, who chaired the committee, said the instructional calendar places additional discretionary and mandatory work days at the beginning of the school year and finishes first semester before Christmas holidays.

The calendar also includes banked time days for staff development on October 17 and November 20 when students will be dismissed by 1 p.m. Before and

after school care will be available.

Board member Shearra Miller asked if the suggestion to finish up exams before the Christmas holidays came from the high school staff.

Hawkins said that block scheduling did figure into the deliberations but he said classes will be disrupted by only one holiday in January and that January is not a good month to start second semester due to bad weather.

"Second semester would start on January 6 and we felt that was a sound way to do the calendar," he said.

"This was not a typical winter but students were in class only three days after the break for Christmas due to the ice and snow," he said.

Miller asked what kind of feedback the committee received from schools and from parents.

"Some folks say it's too hot to start school August 12 but all the school plants are airconditioned," said Wilson.

Wilson said that instructionally, the calendar is in line with the board's educational goals.

The calendar calls for inclement weather makeup days on Feb. 21, March 28, April 11, April 4 and April 3.

Discretionary workdays are August 1,2,5,9; one-half day on October 18; November 11; January 2; half-day January 3; February 21; March 14; April 11; and May 27-28.

Mandatory workdays are August 6-8 and 1/2 day August 9; half day October 18; half day January 3; and May 26.

Annual leave days are July 31, December 30,31; March 28; April 1-4; and May 29-30.

Holidays are September 2; November 28-29; December 23-27; January 1, January 20 and March 31.

End of nine weeks - October 14, December 20, March 11, May 23.

October 18 is mandatory work day for elementary schools and discretionary for Middle/ High; and January 3 is mandatory for middle/high and discretionary for elementary.

See Calendar, 2-A



READY FOR SPRING SALE - As the weather warms later this week, many Kings Mountain area residents are likely to flock to the roadside market beside the Kings Mountain Depot where many area citizens sell their wares. Gary Burris is eager to ring up some sales.

K-3 report cards to have new look

Student report cards in K-3 will be different next year.

The new look is a result of teacher and parent request to school administrators to fit what the state is requiring teachers to teach, according to Assistant Supt. of Instruction Dr. Jane King.

"You don't see reading and math components on the old card in the elementary grades," according to King.

The kindergarten report card will be changed from satisfactory to unsatisfactory, etc. to four codes 1-4 with four to indicate the boy or girl is demonstrating mastery of skills and concepts and one to indicate that he or she requires constant support and guidance.

In addition the curriculum is graded in the same manner, with strategies and comprehension grouped under reading, and the three R's featured with spelling plus integrated studies.

An attendance record is included on the card plus a personal development chart which reports to the parents if the child follows the rules, works independently, uses learning centers, etc.

The report card answers questions that parents need to know about a child's performance in school.

The first grade report to parents is similar but the report cards in Grades 2-3 show the grades A-U with the top score 90-100. A score of D means the student is having difficulty and U is unsatisfactory with a score below 59. There is space on this card for comments by the teachers. A personal development chart for the four report periods measures achievement in handwriting, following the rules, works and plays well with others, shows good attitude, etc.

A negative report card will go out to parents also which will designate where the child needs improvements in special areas.

Board member B. S. Peeler suggested that the special report card be the same color as the regular report card so that a child would not be singled out by giving him or her a "pink sheet."

King said that administrators may take a look at a new report card in Grades 4-5 next year.

Public hearing set on school budget

Public hearing on the proposed current expense and capital outlay budget for 1996-97 will be conducted April 8 at 7 p.m. by the Kings Mountain Board of Education.

Supt. Bob McRae said the budget will include a request of over \$2 million in appropriations from the county board of commissioners, a 14.2 percent or \$256,000 increase from last year.

"We don't feel this is unreasonable because there has been no per pupil increase in two years," he told the Board of Education Monday night.

"We are two hitting on three years behind," he said.

The budget does not call for any fund balance appropriations as it has in prior years.

McRae said there is a significant fund balance in the current budget for one-time, not recurring improvements, and there is no projected increase in the school tax of 18 cents per \$100 valuation.

However, McRae said the board may want "to revisit the school tax issue depending on the decision by county commissioners."

The budget calls for a 5 percent salary increase for teachers, the employment of 4 1/4 classroom positions, a 1/2 clerical position at Bethware School where the school population has jumped to 600, a summer assistant custodian since school will be starting earlier next year and probably contractors to help do carpet cleaning to get the buildings ready for fall.

The budget calls for a \$5 increase per child for instructional supplies and \$36,340 for after school remediation in grades K-8 to help keep the numbers down in summer school. McRae said a similar program is already in operation at the high school.

Other proposed budget items include fax machine lines for the schools, a \$6,000 increase for contracted services, and a 5 percent supplement increase for certified

See Hearing, 2-A

Kings Mountain People Bridges super salesman for over half-century

For nearly 50 years Bob Bridges has been behind a parts counter and he's perfectly content to stay on the job 50 more years, God willing.

The popular Bridges, president of City Auto & Truck Parts, started selling parts when he was 16 years old.

On March 26 he will celebrate a half century as a super salesman.

His two sons, Kevin and Eddie Bridges, represent the third generation in the family in the business. Kevin has worked with the family business for 21 years and Eddie joined the firm in 1994.

"I don't know all there is to know about parts because times have changed in the automotive business too," said Bridges, reminiscing about the changes while talking to customers and friends who stopped by his place for a cup of coffee and morning conversation.

Bridges recalled that from 1937-51 one fuel pump would fit every car and truck that Chevrolet produced but that's not the case now. There are 10-12 fuel pumps

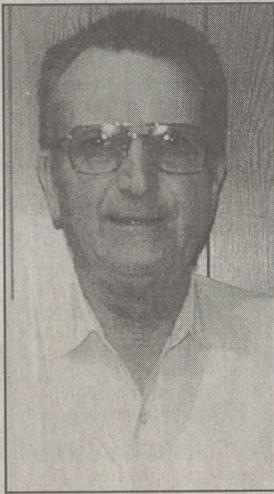
for a one year model, pulling out the figures from his catalogs he calls his bible and finding 11 different fuel pumps for a 1994 model Chevrolet.

The proliferation of parts include heavy parts for trucks and off the road equipment. There is more demand for more than 80 percent of his business for parts, not for automobiles, but for over the road trucks and off the road equipment.

"We have evolved to the state of electronic computing in this business also but we have to depend also on our catalogs," said Bridges who says a computer will never take the place of the paper catalog.

Bridges followed a trade he learned from his father, Ed W. Bridges at Bridges Auto Parts when it was located at the corner of West Mountain Street and beside of where Dellinger's is located today. Bridges Auto Parts built a new building in 1948 and Bob remained with the firm until 1957. Bob's father was killed in an airplane crash in 1949.

See Bridges, 2-A



BOB BRIDGES

Passion Play may change your life

The Gatlinburg Musical Passion play coming to Kings Mountain March 23 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Barnes Auditorium is packed with emotion but local ministers warn that seeing it may change your life.

Rev. David Philbeck, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church, has seen the musical drama several times and each time the message he has preached for 20 years of the saving power of Jesus Christ comes alive.

Rev. Corky Bell hears the same testimony often from people who write to The Church of His Majesty in Gatlinburg and relate the life-changing experience they received while watching the story of the life of Jesus from his birth to

his Ascension.

Tickets are going fast for the two performances but they are available from both Macedonia Baptist Church and Kings Mountain Baptist Church and from Kings Mountain Baptist Associational offices. Kings Mountain churches are sponsoring the play.

Bell, in Kings Mountain last week for a meeting with the local ministerial association, gave his own testimony.

He ran a successful business for 27 years in Birmingham, Ala. So heavy was the burden of his call to preach that he literally ran from God and stayed away from the church.

See Play, 2-A



Rev. David Philbeck, left, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church, talks with Rev. Corky Bell, pastor of Gatlinburg's 80-member Church of His Majesty, which is bringing the Gatlinburg Passion Play to Kings Mountain March 23.

Public Hearing Tuesday on retirement center

A decision on the granting of a special exception permit to the Consortium for Progress Inc. for the building of an assisted living center on Phifer Road will be made Tuesday at a 7 p.m. meeting at City Hall.

Ninety property owners who live in Southwoods Subdivision and area petitioned the board on March 5 to delay action for 90 days until questions and concerns could be answered. The petitioners also requested a night meeting so that more property owners could give input.

About a dozen people spoke at the initial meeting, both proponents and opponents who had concerns about traffic congestion, emergen-

cy access and buffer zones.

The request must be approved by the board.

Chairman Bob Myers said at the recent meeting that if the board rules for the developers that the opposing property owners may appeal to the courts.

Phase I of the \$3 million project would be a 48-room, 66-bed facility. Phase II would add two buildings and 66 more beds. The facility would be built on 11.8 acres of property owned by the Phifer Heirs directly across from the entrance to Kings Mountain Middle School.

Kings Mountain Summit Place would accommodate senior citi-

See Consortium, 2-A