Mountaineers beat R-S Central, host South Point Friday 8 p.m. 6-A

Kings Mountain citizens turn out for Mountaineer Day 1-B

Win $100 in the First Carolina Federal Savings Bank Football Co... 5-A

MAUNEY 10-21-1996 1
307 MEMORIAL AVE
100 S PIEDMONT LIBRARY
KINGS MOUNTAIN NC 28086-3414
**********CAR-RT SORT**C002
14

Member
North Carolina Press Association

Kings Mountain Herald

Vol. 108 No. 40 | Thursday, October 10, 1996 | Kings Mountain, N.C. • 28086 • 50¢

Grover News

Committee formed to study library

GROVER - A nine member Grover Library committee has been formed to look into the feasibility of a library and the estimated costs for staff and operating expenses.

Council member Elizabeth Throop, chairman of the group, said Antoinette Adams, Heather Chadwick, Jean Harry Francis, Holly Rountree Godfrey, Lois Hicks Gold, Tommy Keeter, commissioner Jack Herndon and Robert Roper Sr. have volunteered to serve on the board. She said three more people are needed.

Throop said the committee is charged with looking for a location for a library which could possibly be open at least four hours a day. Throop said private donations would also be sought to help get the library started.

The library idea has the blessings of Town Board which appointed Throop, a retired school teacher, to chair the project.

Throop said she started reading in the first grade at Grover School and continues to be an avid reader. "This can be something that is very beneficial for our community," she told the board at Monday's meeting at Town Hall.

Grover approves new development

GROVER - Indian Creek Development got the green light from Town Board Monday night for development of new homes in Amesbury Heights, the Hardin property on Bethlehem Church Road.

Fain Hambright, the real estate agent handling the sale of the property, brought maps of the proposed development to Monday's Town Board meeting.

In other actions, the board delayed until the November meeting the letting of bids for trimming of roadside trees.

Councilman Noel Spivey said he had contacted two trimmers and the prices range from $3700 to $8000.

Spivey said both men said the 12 holly trees on Main Street need to be thinned if they are to continue to grow but Mayor Ron Queen said that citizens were up in arms the last time the trees were trimmed and he wants to be sure that it's the proper pruning time. Spivey said tree limbs are sticking out on some streets are a problem for the town's trash truck.

See Grover, 12-A

Myrick, workers concerned about jobs

GROVER - With plant layoffs affecting their co-workers, Minette Mills employees vented their concerns to U.S. Congresswoman Sue Myrick and N.C. House Rep. Debbie Clary as the two Republican candidates for reelection pumped hands Monday.

Myrick said Minette workers want the local plant locally owned and operated and are concerned about job security.

At nearby Grover Industries, the two women were taken on a tour by Grover President Charlie Harry. For Myrick it was her first time to see how Grover Industries runs.

Myrick said she was pleased that Grover Industries has been recycling 96 percent of what it uses for two years with a big recycling unit in house. She said she heard concerns about strict OSHA regulations. The plant has spent $1 million on wastewater improvements.

See Myrick, 12-A

LUNCH TIME - Lunch time at Bethware School is a busy place. Betty Alexander, veteran cafeteria manager, is shown with Bethware students ready for chicken nuggets, a school favorite.

FAST FOOD

School cafeteria s celebrate 50th anniversary; Students prefer chicken nuggets to balanced meals

Kids' eating habits have changed.

Just ask former West School cafeteria manager Ethel McGinnis, 83, Bethware cafeteria manager Betty Alexander, a 24-year veteran, and 32-year veteran of the school kitchen Joyce Hord of Kings Mountain High School.

The National School Lunch Program turns 50 next Wednesday and the city's seven schools plan special birthday parties and "take your family to lunch day."

Hord said kids love the fast food line and a la carte area at the high school. All three cooks say chicken filet and nuggets remains favorite dishes of all students.

McGinnis started working in the cafeteria at West School in 1945 where a classroom was actually the cafeteria and soup was the main course. That was the year the federal government took over the school lunch room program and lunch was a dime. Her kitchen was stocked with a stove, icebox, dish cabinet, and a table. In later years the school added a combination dining room/library.

Unlike schools of today, McGinnis never served breakfast but every child was fed at both West and North Schools where she worked during her 18 year tenure with the system. Her motto was "you can't teach a hungry child."

Peeling potatoes by hand and washing dishes by hand were the norm for all three women in the early years of the school lunchroom program. Now all cafeterias have stainless steel equipment and dishwashers plus a staff of helpers.

Alexander recalled that in 1972 that she sprayed the dirty dishes, put them in a sink of wash water, then rinsed and racked them and put them in another sink with a heat booster that heated the water up to 200 degrees to sterilize the dishes. There were no walk-in coolers or freezers. At Bethware the cafeteria was located under the gymnasium until 1974-75 but in 1976 the school got a modern kitchen, a big dishwasher and a double deck oven. Alexander also had a steamer to steam vegetables instead of having to put them in a 40 gallon pot on top of the stove. A large walk-in cooler, freezer and ice maker made her day brighter. Usually ice picks were used to chop the ice.

In earlier years kids had no choice of meals. They were served the full menu each day. Now they have meat choices, a choice of three or four vegetables, choice of two fruits and a bread and milk.

See Food, 11-A

FRESH FROM THE OVEN - Veteran Cafeteria Manager Joyce Hord turns out hot rolls from the oven at Kings Mountain High School.

KM Schools want funds for salaries

Kings Mountain Board of Education will continue to push for a new salary schedule for non-certified employees but the funding won't be accomplished this administrative year, according to Board Chairman Ronnie Hawkins.

Hawkins said the plan would be the same as teachers and maintenance staff and would be reflect the years of experience which would realize the contribution of custodians, teacher assistants, secretaries, school food service personnel, etc., some of whom have 15-25 years of experience he considered inappropriately paid for their services.

"This is long overdue and we will continue to look for ways to implement it," said Hawkins after the board returned from a weekend Advance in Boone where the full board looked at other system-wide goals.

"I don't know if the state will ever approve a salary schedule for non-certified employees but Kings Mountain will look at such a plan if we can come up with the money," he said.

Hawkins said that Kings Mountain recently added the maintenance staff to the salaried schedule that has always included teachers.

A new ABC's of Education program is in the works this year for all grades except high school, said Hawkins. He said board members discussed the new state-approved program at the recent retreat. The program is a state board initiative designed to improve performance in the schools. ABC is an acronym for accountability, basic skills and local control and is targeted to maintain performance in goals set by the state. Plans for the system's implementation of the program will be sent to the state for approval by March.

"One of the uppermost things in our minds is the school bond election in November which if passed will bring in over $6.1 million in matching funds to Kings Mountain schools over a five year period for school facility needs," he said.

Hawkins said board members will be out in the community in force in support of the bonds which will provide $11 million in matching funds for the three school systems in the county and a total of $1.8 billion overall for school needs and road construction.

"Our system has some matching dollars that we can use if the bond issue passes," he said. The matching dollars come from projects funded since 1992 and through debt service from the local bond issue passed in the late 1980s.

> *"This is long overdue."*
> -Ronnie Hawkins

Hawkins said the board indicated it would suggest to the school calendar committee that it prepare two calendars, one for the current year and another calendar in advance for the next school year. Hawkins said the advance schedules would be appreciated by parents planning vacations.

The board may also look at a dress policy for faculty and students. This does not mean a uniform, he said.

The board may also take a look at adjusting the tuition fees which currently are $115 for out-of-county and $70 for in-county students who don't reside in the KM School District. Hawkins said the system ranks seventh from the bottom in tuition costs among North Carolina schools. The costs *range from $2,000 per student* in Chapel Hill to $50 per student in Chatham County. Since the early 1980's the rate has been unchanged. The board is proposing a flat $150 fee and it would be effective next school year.

The board looked at improvements which would make Barnes Auditorium and the high school even more handicapped accessible and looked at proposed road improvements targeted for the middle and the high schools which are included in a state plan which would include a turning lane at the high school and widening of Phifer Road. Expenses for the improvements at the high school are minimal but the middle school project would be more expensive.

Hawkins said members were pleased with reading and math scores system-wide. "We are seeing a lot of growth in these areas," he said.

Present for the retreat in addition to Hawkins were Supt. Dr. Bob McRae and board members, C.A.Allison, Shearra Miller, B.S. Peeler and Billy Houze and staff members Dr. Jane King, Ronnie Wilson, Jean Thrift and Terri Haas.

CANDIDATES PUMP HANDS - Dorthy Robinson, open end spinner at Grover Industries, meets Congresswoman Sue Myrick and N.C. House Rep. Debbie Clary during a visit by the two candidates to the plant. President Charlie Harry, right, directed the plant tour.

KM School Board to meet Monday

The results of end -of-school and end-of-course testing in math and reading should bring smiles to the faces of those attending Monday night's Kings Mountain Board of Education meeting at 7 p.m. at Central School.

"Scores are up and we are very pleased," said Supt. Dr. Bob McRae.

Another major item on the agenda is the adoption of the final budget for 1996-97.

The board will also consider school participation in a county-wide drug abuse survey after approval, with slight modifications, by the Kings Mountain Health Council.

Last month the Cleveland County Abuse Task Force invited the KM system's participation in the survey.

McRae said the Health Council omitted several sensitive questions which were a part of the survey. Parents can opt their students from participation.

First reading of a policy to up the cost of out-of-district tuition will be conducted. The board is considering upping the tuition costs to $150 for all students who do not reside in the Kings Mountain School District. The fee has been $115 for out-of-county and $70 for in-county students not residing in the KM District. The fee has been unchanged since 1980.

Travis Magnum of North Shelby PTO will request a contribution to the gymnasium fund at North Shelby which serves severely handicapped children from the system and those from all over Cleveland County.

McRae will invite board members to attend a strategy and informational meeting October 15 at 7 p.m. at the Teacher's Center at Central to work the upcoming November elections at which voters will consider the passage of a big bond referendum for schools and road construction.