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Mountaineers
beat Shelby **6-A**

KM man to protest
mobile home park
water policy **3-A**

3-A

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Kings Mountain People

Jake Bridges, 83, keeps press rolling

Unlike many senior citizens his age who have long been retired from business and sports, Jake Bridges, 83, is still bowling every chance he gets and operating a job printing press.

He's a left handed hurler in the major league lanes and scores almost every time. Jake says he earned his fine pitching arm on a baseball team as a young man.

"You can tell by watching the World Series now that the left handers are doing a better job, they can't throw a straight ball," laughed Jake who has been pulling for the Yankees although he admits to being a Braves fan.

Jake says it was time for a change for the Series pennant. The Braves won four times, the Cleveland Indians four times and now it's time for the Yanks.

"Mr. B" is how Jake Hord Bridges is affectionately known at Printin' Press in Kings Mountain where you can set your clock by him. He is both punctual and hard-working, trademarks he learned at an early age.

Working every day is nothing new to Bridges. He went to work in a grocery store in

Gaston County at the age of 14, earning \$3 a day, and then started off as a knitter for A. B. Carter in 1936 and retired as a supervisor after 40 years in the business. He got his high school diploma as an adult studying for three years in a correspondence course.

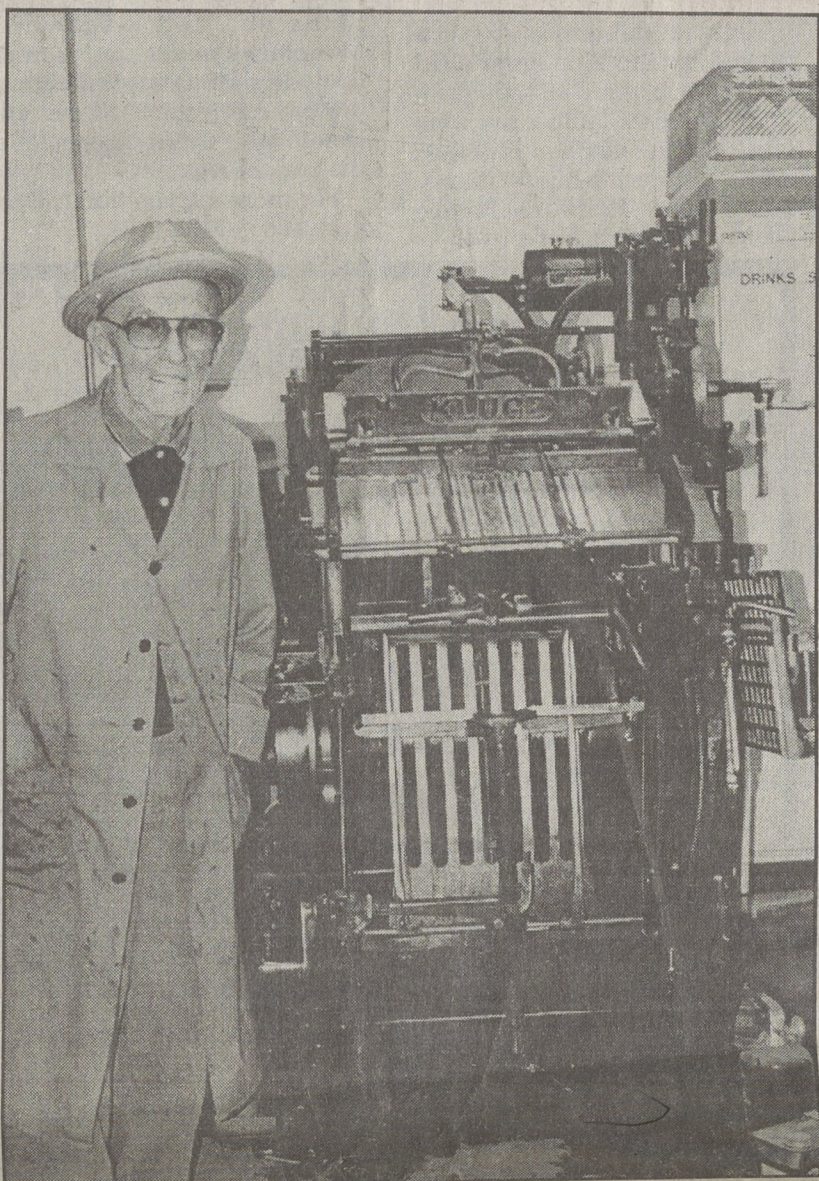
"When I first went to work for Carter there were eight people employed and I made \$90 a week for 50 hours. Now there's a total of 350 employed at the Gastonia plant," said Bridges.

The print shop has also changed drastically over the years from hot type and lino-type machines to offset and computerized equipment.

Raised on a farm in Cleveland County, he is the son of the late Landrum and Ida Bridges. His family used to raise cotton on Cherryville Road. He had one brother, James, and his wife of 44 years, Ethel Mae Mullinax Bridges, died in 1977.

Defense work at the A. B. Carter plant got Bridges out of Uncle Sam's Army. During the War Years the plant heat treated landing gears for the big B-59 bombers.

See Bridges, 12-A



JAKE BRIDGES

Election is Tuesday

Kings Mountain and No. 4 Township voters will join their neighbors at the polls Tuesday in the general election.

Polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. at West Precinct, The Armory; East Precinct, Community Center; Bethware, David Baptist Church fellowship hall; Grover, Town Hall, and Earl and Patterson Springs at the New Hope Baptist Church fellowship hall in the Rippy Precinct.

Voters will receive a large two-page ballot. Local races are listed on the back of the ballot along with the three constitutional amendments and bond referendum.

County Elections Board official Debra Blanton predicts that about half of the 48,500 registered voters in the county will turn out at the polls. "It could be as high as 60 percent," she said this week.

Local interest is centered on the race for three seats on the county board of commissioners where political newcomer and Republican Ruby Alexander, Kings Mountain realtor and building contractor, is running with former commissioners Joe Cabaniss, Republican, of

Shelby, and Jack Spangler, Democrat, of Lawndale, L. Ray Thomas, Republican, Police Lt. Willie McIntosh and John McBrayer, Democrats, all of Shelby.

Attention is also focused on the seven-person race for three seats in the 48th House District which includes Cleveland/Rutherford Counties; on the two Senate races, District 37 and District 25; and on the U. S. House of Representatives 9th District race in which incumbent Sue Myrick faces opposition from three candidates.

In the 11th Congressional District, which includes part of Cleveland County, Charles Taylor faces opposition from three challengers.

In the US Senate race former Charlotte mayor Harvey Gantt is challenging the Republican incumbent Jesse Helms.

A hot race has developed in the N. C. Governor's race between incumbent Jim Hunt and Republican Robin Hayes. Scott D. Yost is the Libertarian and Julia Van Witt, Natural Law candidates.

Kings Mountain voters will

See Election, 10-A

Wicker helps KMHS hook on to the Internet

Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker threw the switch Friday at 10 a.m. at Kings Mountain High School as students started conversing electronically with students at 20 sites at the three high schools in the county.

Wicker said the connection came just in time for N. C. Net Day '96, a statewide effort to promote technology in schools.

KMHS Instructor Mark Sivy and computer specialist Jim Owens said the direct access to the internet was due to the support of BellSouth, Duke Power, the local board of education and both district and high school administrations.

Duke Power representative David Hart presented a check

for \$1200 to Supt. Dr. Bob McRae to be shared by the three county school systems.

Sivy also acknowledged KM Computer official Boyce Tesenair who donated many volunteer hours to hook up the system which will give access of up to 25 hookups at one time.

Presently the Internet is used at KMHS for information access for all curriculum areas, as a curriculum support for teachers, for college information and applications, for work place readiness, for global communication, for staff support and technology access and utilization.

See NetDay, 12-A



TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS - Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker, KMHS Principal Phil Weathers and KMHS teacher Mark Sivy, standing, left to right, observe as computer operators Brandon Lovelace, Jim Miller and Brian Ladd communicate with other schools on the Internet.

Policemen leaving KM for higher paying jobs

The starting pay for Kings Mountain police officers with basic law enforcement training is \$8.83 per hour or \$18,336 per year, less than other departments in Cleveland and Gaston Counties.

That's why Ptl. Chris Owens and Ptl. Ron Creech said they are leaving KMPD this week - for more money.

"My hands are tied," said Chief Bob Hayes, a 35-year vet-

eran who said the low pay is making it hard for Kings Mountain to find good officers to fill open positions.

"Once an officer is hired, it can be difficult to keep them on staff when other higher-paying departments offer more money," Hayes said.

Owens will join the 11-county Vehicle Enforcement Division of the N. C. Department of Motor Vehicles with a \$6,000 a year

raise after orientation in Raleigh. He will be weighing trucks and providing security for rest areas in District VI working out of Charlotte.

Creech, the community police officer who helped start the program here a year ago, is joining the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department Friday as a deputy at a \$2,000 per year pay raise. Progressing from Deputy I to Deputy II in that depart-

ment can earn him increases until he reaches top pay of \$25,000 per year.

Hayes says the starting pay here is the same for new patrolmen with two or four year degrees in addition to completing the required 740 hours of basic law enforcement training.

Hayes said KMPD has lost officers to the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, Boiling

See Police, 10-A

City Council considering 4% water, sewer increase

City Council is mulling an estimated 4 percent water/sewer increase that could be effective with December bills.

A typical, inside city non-industrial water customer using 6,000 gallons of water will see his water bill go up \$1 from \$11.04 to \$12.04 and his sewer bill go up \$1.92 from \$8.76 to \$10.88.

A typical outside city non-industrial water customer using 6,000 gallons of water monthly will see his water bill go up \$1.92 from \$8.76 to \$10.88 and his sewer bill rise \$3.94, from \$12.30 to \$16.24.

For non-industrial customers the rates vary according to meter size. An inside city water customer on a 1 inch meter will see his bill go \$1 from \$15.54 to \$16.54. The outside customer using the same size meter will see his bill rise \$3.42, from \$17.84 to \$21.26.

The monthly sewer bill for non industrial customers using a 5/8 inch meter and living in the city limits will rise \$1.92, from \$8.76 to \$10.88. The outside city customer on the same size meter would see his bill go up \$3.94, from \$12.30 to \$16.24.

Interim Finance Director Dan Stone presented a chart show-

ing average monthly bill charges for customers using up to six inch meters, noting the differential between outside and inside city customers.

Stone presented an analysis of the current rates, comparing them with a rate structure he had recommended several months ago which Mayor pro tem Phil Hager said he thought Council had already decided to implement.

But City Manager Jimmy Maney said some confusion had arisen on whether a vote was taken and the board needed to take a look at the figures again and the public needed to see the impact of an increase that falls on the heels of a 7.76 percent increase that went into effect to water and sewer customers August 1.

Maney said a 3.5 percent increase voted by Council last year had not been implemented. But he said if the city passes the new increase that the water/sewer budget would about break even this year. Maney said the water/sewer fund at end of this fiscal year shows a deficit of \$270,000.

"This is not new material you

See Increase, 10-A

Stretch of road may be named for Harris

The stretch of highway on the U. S. 74 bypass inside the city limits may soon be called the J. Ollie Harris Boulevard.

City Council Tuesday night unanimously approved a resolution to be sent to the N. C. Department of Transportation requesting the name to honor the late State Senator from Kings Mountain.

Councilman Jerry Mullinax made the motion and said that a committee had originally suggested that York Road be considered for the memorial highway but that change would mean a number of address changes of residents.

Mayor Scott Neisler, who had originally suggested the York Road designation, said the 74 Bypass is traveled by about 35,000 motorists on a daily basis and connects to I-26. "This is an

ideal way to honor Senator Harris," he said.

In other actions, the board:

Awarded the low bid of \$37,931.30 for a cab and chassis for the electric department to Bobby Murray Chevrolet of Raleigh. Councilman Dean Spears noted that the three bidders were all from out-of-town and he wanted to know why local bidders are not included. City Manager Jimmy Maney said that local dealers were invited but did not have big trucks and would be included in all future bids for police cars, etc. Other bidders were Volvo of Charlotte, \$39,403; and Ben Mynatt Chevrolet of Concord, \$42,661.

Accepted Dilling Street property from Plonk Heirs, an amendment to the Peak Generation contract regarding

storm drainage replacement and a \$104,730 budget amendment for the Powell Bill Fund.

Approved after a public hearing a rezoning request from Donald Welch, Dixon School Road at Battleground from R-20 to GB.

Amended certain details of a prior resolution regarding the issuance of up to \$8,500,000 in general obligation refunding bonds. Interim Finance Director Dan Stone said the city closed on the bonds Tuesday and the money was in the bank. Stone said the city realized a return of \$377,000. The first interest payment on the bonds is due September 1, 1997.

Authorized city police to re-install a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Southwood

See Harris, 10-A



GIFT TO SCHOOLS - David L. Hart, center, District Manager of the Three River Area for Duke Power Co., presents a check for \$1200 to be shared by all schools in Cleveland County to KM Supt. Dr. Bob McRae on Net Day Friday at the local high school. Peggy Paksoy, Cleveland Chamber President, looks on.