

# BILL BATES INDUCTED INTO KM SPORTS HALL OF FAME 5A



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# KM Schools seek 1-cent supplemental tax hike

Property taxes will go up one cent if Cleveland County Commissioners approve, as expected, an increase in the Kings Mountain District School's supplemental tax from 18 cents to 19 cents per \$100 valuation.

Supt. Dr. Bob McRae said he will ask for an increase in the supplemental tax to help implement the non-certified salary schedule which will cost over \$200,000. The increased taxes will bring in approximately \$90,000, McRae told the board of education Monday night.

McRae will also ask the county in late April for \$2.1 million in the proposed current expense budget for 1998-98, an increase of 8.8 percent from last year's budget.

The proposed budget also provides for matching benefits if the General Assembly approves a proposed 8 percent hike in pay for the certified staff for next year.

The proposed budget calls for employment of a system-wide technology assistant at cost of \$25,000 and no new teaching positions. The bud-

get would provide for \$8300 for custodial uniforms, a \$2 per child increase for instructional supplies, and \$36,000 for a limited English program, a non-funded federal mandate that requires school systems to make the primary language available to every student. The system will also fund from local funds the salary of a school resource officer who had been paid for two years through a grant that provided 75 percent of his salary.

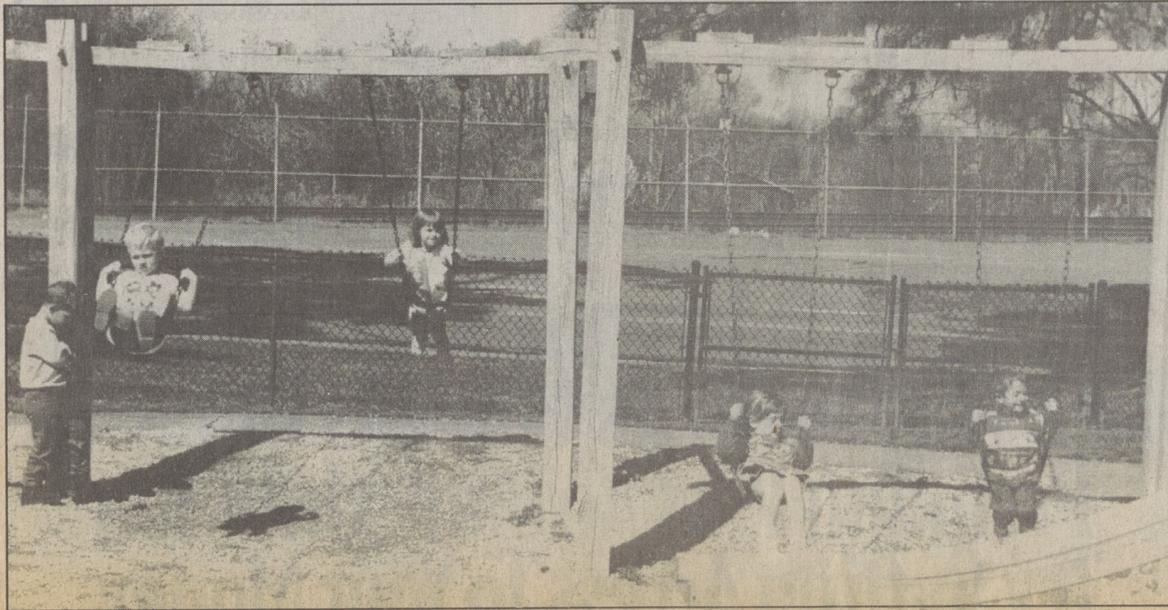
Although not funded in next year's budget,

McRae aid the board would need to look at how to handle waste collection if the city gets out of the commercial pickup business. He estimated the annual cost at \$30,000.

Prior to the review by McRae of the preliminary local budget requests, the board heard a presentation by Bob Boyd, representing Causby/Boyd Associates, on results of the compensation study his firm conducted on salary

See Tax Hike, 11-A

## FUN IN THE SUN



A little bit of energy and a little bit of sunshine equals a whole lot of fun for three-year-olds at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Preschool program. Tuesday's 70-degree weather provided the

perfect opportunity for them to get outside and play. From left to right on the swings are Joey Dow (standing), Nicholas Jackson, Anne Crawford, Haleigh Waddell and Jared Boyd.

## KM wants to annex its own Moss Lake property

The city is moving to satellite annex city-owned property at Moss Lake and will ask local legislators to introduce a bill in this session of the North Carolina General Assembly.

"This will be a zero population annexation as we will only be asking for annexation of city owned property," said Mayor Scott Neisler who said lake residents should have no fear of having to pay property taxes to Kings Mountain.

"We can't levy property taxes on our own property," he said.

Neisler got the green light from Waco Town Board at a recent meeting and meets Monday night with Shelby City Council and on April 7 with Patterson Springs Town Board, steps that are required since these municipalities are located near the lake.

Why does the city want to satellite annex Moss Lake? Neisler says the city currently buys retail electricity from Duke Power and the franchise tax the city pays for the power goes to the state of North

Carolina. However, if the transmission point is located in a city one half of that tax goes to the city and Kings Mountain wants to gain \$16,000 a year in franchise tax.

The mayor said the city can't by law satellite annex Woodbridge, North Shores or any surrounding areas of the lake and therefore would have no taxing authority of people living around the lake.

Neisler said he had contacted the Woodbridge Homeowners Association explaining the city's

position in its efforts to annex city owned property.

"We want them to know we're not trying to grab them up."

Moss Lake is located three to five miles from Kings Mountain and 1 1/2 miles from Shelby. Neisler said that the city can't annex property located further than three miles from its city limits without consent of local cities which adjoin it.

Neisler says the General Assembly has approved satel-

See Annexation, 4-A

## Survey response concerns schools

A county substance abuse survey did not reveal if any students see themselves as alcoholics nor did it ask the question of where and how underage drinkers got alcohol.

"It's a community and county-wide concern," said Jimmy Hines, coordinator of CODAP and Cleveland County Health Department official, who talked Monday night to the Kings Mountain Board of Education about the results of the survey conducted in the Cleveland County schools.

The survey revealed that 14 percent of sixth grade girls in Kings Mountain schools and 39 percent of seventh grade boys experience with alcohol and drugs and in eighth grade the percentage is higher with participation by 50 percent of girls and 57 percent of the boys.

"Seventh grade is a real concern area," said Dr. Jane King, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction.

"The pattern begins to level off here by grades 11 and 12 but there's a significant jump from sixth to seventh grade among smokers and by those who say they have used alcohol and drugs," she said.

Hines said the good news is that preventive forces are at work in the schools. He mentioned particularly the school's suspension policy, Health Council, the D. A. R. E. program, family support programs and the new character education program which he said the system could integrate with both family support and drug and alcohol prevention.

"The more support a child

has from his family and a child with good health habits and good self image is unlikely to do drugs," said Hines.

"Put a message on your refrigerator to tell your child you won't tolerate drugs and alcohol," he said.

Hines warned about alcohol which is packaged deceptively in berry flavors in colorful bottles and in popsicles, illegal for kids to buy but being marketed heavily by youth.

Patsy Rountree, Director of Health Education, said the survey would include a follow-up. She said the results of the survey would be directed to the Kings Mountain Health Council for their recommendations.

Rountree said "Student View," was administered to 6,925 sixth-12th graders in Cleveland County November 19, 1996. The results were based on 6,679 completed surveys with 90 percent of the students in Cleveland County taking part.

In Kings Mountain, 1,731 students completed surveys for an 89 percent participation rate.

The survey targeted students who were non-users; students who reported no problem associated with their use; students who reported using and experiencing some problems associated with the use of alcohol, drugs or smoking; and students who who are dependence risk or demonstrate an extensive pattern of alcohol and other drugs with four or more consequences directly associated with their use or alcohol or other drugs.

"Any use of alcohol or drugs is a problem," said Rountree.

## Tickets go on sale locally for Hall of Fame banquet

Tickets for the 10th annual Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony are on sale at the Kings Mountain Herald, Carolina State Bank and McGinnis Department Store for \$10 each.

The banquet is scheduled for Monday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m. at Kings Mountain High School. Guest speaker will be former NFL Most Valuable Player Roman Gabriel.

The Hall of Fame is planning several special activities to celebrate its 10th anniversary, and the public is urged to purchase tickets in advance since this could be the largest crowd ever.

Inductees include former KMHS football coach Bill Bates, former KMHS and University of Massachusetts basketball standout Carl Smith, former KMHS and Appalachian State football and wrestling standout Chuck Gordon, and long time Kings Mountain sports and community supporter, Carl Champion.

The annual Special Achievement Awards will be presented to the 1996 Kings Mountain High School football team which won the Southwestern 3A Conference championship, and Jackie Houston, who won four consecutive state tennis championships and completed her prep career with an 81-0 record.

In addition, the Hall of Fame will begin an annual practice of presenting college scholarships to deserving KMHS student athletes. Two scholarships will be presented this year.

In its first nine years of existence, the Hall of Fame inducted 30 individuals and five teams. Former individual inductees will be special guests at the April 14 event.

The Kings Mountain Hall of Fame was organized in 1988 to promote and reward outstanding achievement in sports in the Greater Kings Mountain area. It is a nonprofit organization certified by the State of North Carolina.

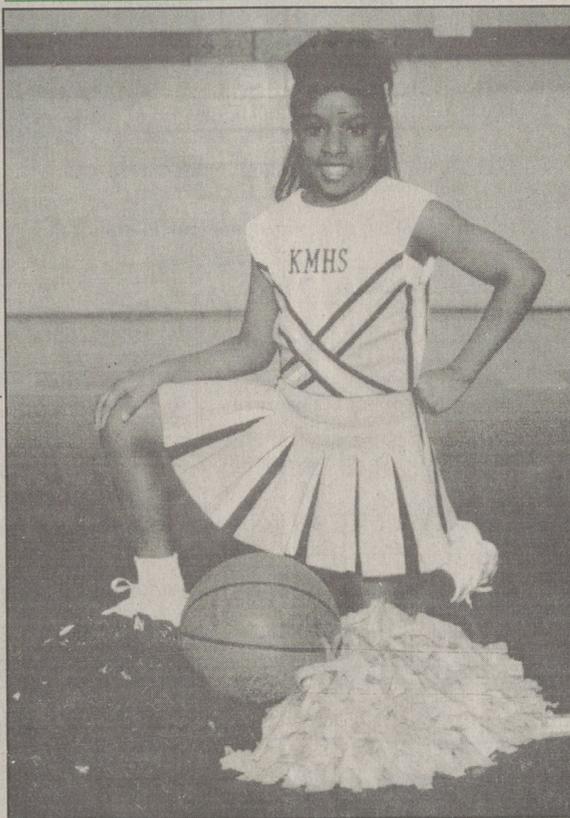
The criteria for induction includes:

-At least 26 years of age or eight years out of high school.

-Being a native of the Kings Mountain School District, or having accomplished his or her achievements while living in the Kings Mountain School District which includes the old Grover, Bethware, Davidson and Compact High Schools.

Nominations from the public are encouraged. To nominate someone for the Hall of Fame, present names and pertinent information to a member of the Hall of Fame committee or by writing Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 340, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

## Kings Mountain People



CHEERLEADER - Jennifer Hickman, KMHS junior, overcame a growth deficiency and now is one of the most energetic cheerleaders on the varsity basketball team.

## Jennifer may be small but she has big plans

Jennifer Hickman, 16, packs a big wallop in her tiny four feet tall 70 pound frame.

A cheerleader for the Kings Mountain Mountaineer varsity basketball squad, she refused to be picked up and cooed over as an elementary school student. As a high school student who recently turned "sweet 16" she enjoys her popularity on and off the basketball court.

When people saw the only child of Pamela Hickman and Ricky Clinton they would instantly coo and pick her up.

But Jennifer would ask them to put her down. Though she had the body of a 2-year-old, she was no baby. Diagnosed with growth hormone deficiency at the age of 7, she was four years behind in her growth.

People were at first surprised that Jennifer, who weighed only 24 1/2 pounds and stood only 36 inches tall, could make such progress in first grade in school which she loved.

But Jennifer, who beat the odds, had staying power and excelled in her school work and is now one of the most popular junior students at Kings Mountain High School.

Ms. Hickman said that Jennifer's growth disorder was not detected at birth. But by the time Jennifer started school in

Kings Mountain she was still being picked up and starting to get picked on by bigger kids.

At her family's urging, the parents took Jennifer to Dr. Philip Day in Grover.

Day was aware of a new hormone therapy that promotes growth. He referred Jennifer to a specialist who recommended four hormonal injections a week for four years until Jennifer reached puberty. During the first year Jennifer grew four inches.

Ms. Hickman said she was at first skeptical about the injections but Jennifer liked her new height and continues to gain in small amounts. Nobody picks on her for being petite and she has many friends in the high school where she is a busy, active student and on the A-B honor roll.

"Let's face it, in life appearance means a lot," says her proud mother, a secretary for 15 years at Cleveland Regional Medical Center in Shelby.

Jennifer has learned much about the nursing profession from her mother and as a volunteer in the Candy Striper program at Kings Mountain Hospital. Her goal is to enroll at Baptist Hospital in Winston-

See Jennifer, 11-A