

Town meeting
Thursday **2-A**

New packaging firm
breaks ground in
Grover **3-A**

Garbage pickup
schedules **6-B**

Member
North Carolina Press Association

Kings Mountain Herald

Vol. 109 No. 33

Thursday, August 14, 1997

Kings Mountain, N.C. • 28086 • 50¢

Schools celebrate gains in student scores

The Kings Mountain Board of Education celebrated gains in student performance on ABC state exams at four schools and presented them red and white banners and bonuses to teachers at three exemplary schools Monday night.

Last Thursday the state's new ABC Public Education scores rated four of the six schools in the Kings Mountain District Schools - Bethware, East, North and West as having met expected growth; three schools, East, North and West as exemplary and West School as a School of Distinction.

Jean Thrift, Director of Student Services, said 84 percent of West Elementary stu-

dents performed at or above grade level.

Kings Mountain Schools tied for second place among the 17 Southwest Region systems in the state for percentage of schools reaching exemplary status.

"We had growth at every grade level in reading and math throughout the system and we feel that's an accomplishment in itself," Thrift said.

Thrift explained that students took the same state tests they always have: reading and math test for grades three through eight and writing exams for grades four and seven. But the new test results emphasized this year how much test

scores improved instead of just how high they were.

Bethware Elementary met its growth plans but fell short of the extra points needed for exemplary status.

Even Grover Elementary and Kings Mountain Middle School - the two district schools not meeting their projected growth standard, got praise for significant growth from administrators.

Thrift said Grover exceeded its growth standard in math for third and fifth graders. Grover and KM Middle, she said, came within tenths of a point of meeting their growth plans.

Thrift credited the success to the inspiration of the teachers

and staff to meet the No. 1 goal set by the Board of Education this year.

"We are proud but we don't want to forget that every school in our system showed growth and they narrowly missed the expected growth rating by small percentages," said Chairman Ronnie Hawkins.

"Fourth grade is more difficult for kids and it's harder to make gains," said board member Connie Allison, a retired principal.

"Our folks are right on track," said Dr. Jane King, Assistant Superintendent for Public Instruction.

Board member Billy Houze said students should concen-

KINGS MOUNTAIN DISTRICT SCHOOLS

percent of students at or above grade level grades 3-5 and 6-8

SCHOOL	MATH	WRITING	READING	COMPOSITE
BETHWARE	85.9	56.3	73	76.7
EAST	87.4	54.1	73.3	77.2
GROVER	75.1	50	64.2	66.7
KM MIDDLE	75.9	68.3	72.8	73.5
NORTH	87	40.3	76	75.8
WEST	95.7	47.2	86.3	84

trate more on reading and said he was confident that higher marks would be made next year.

In Cleveland County with its three school systems, Kings Mountain was the big winner on the ABC report card. Thursday's results identified Washington Elementary in

Waco in the Cleveland County Schools as an exemplary school. Shelby City Schools had no exemplary schools.

Thrift said all the certified staff in the district's three exemplary schools will receive a bonus. Noncertified staff will receive half of what the others See SCHOOLS pg. 8

Enrollment up on first day of school

School enrollment is up this year but most growth is occurring at Bethware and Grover Elementary Schools, Supt. Dr. Bob McRae told the Kings Mountain Board of Education Monday night.

Grover, with 529 students on opening day Monday, registered 485 students last year.

Bethware, with 616 students on opening day Monday, registered 526 students last year.

McRae said the growth is up at all five elementary schools in the system. This year East School registered 310 students, compared to 299 last year; West School registered 308 students, compared to 295 last year; and North registered 403 students, compared to 390 last year.

McRae said that the system installed two mobile units at East School this year for first graders. Three mobile units are in use at the Grover plant.

Middle School enrollment was also up, from 901 last year to 914 this year and the Kings Mountain High School enrollment was down, from 1,048 last year to 1,025 this year.

A total of 4,126 students reported to classes Monday, up from 4,035 last year.

McRae said the first day of school was a smooth operation.

"Students and teachers are already about the business of learning," he said.

In other actions, the board:

Set the date of September 8 at 6:30 p.m. to honor new teachers at a reception in the Teacher Center prior to the regular board meeting.

Awarded teacher contracts to Jennifer Roper, Smart Start Grover; Jeanine Heafner, first grade North; Kamie Champion, See ENROLLMENT pg. 3



FUN AT KINDERGARTEN - Katie Cudd and Ashlee Keller take their turns using earphones in the Listening Center on the first day of school Monday at East Elementary School. A total of 4,136 students went back to school for the fall term in Kings Mountain District Schools.

City Council reduces cemetery fees

By vote of 5-2, City Council Tuesday set cemetery fees for opening and closing of graves at Mountain Rest Cemetery at \$200 for inside-city residents and \$300 for outside city residents in the Kings Mountain School District.

The original proposal presented in the 1997-98 budget was \$400 for inside city residents, from \$125, and \$450 for outside city residents, from \$150.

The new fees represent a 50 percent decrease for inside city residents and a 33 percent decrease for outside city residents.

The new proposal was presented by Councilman Jerry Mullinax in a substitute motion seconded by Councilman Ralph Grindstaff. Also favoring the new fees were Councilmen Rick

Murphy and Phil Hager and Councilwoman Norma Bridges. Councilmen Dean Spears and Jerry White voted against the proposal. Earlier, Spears had made the motion to take the original recommendation by staff, seconded by White.

In his motion, Mullinax asked the city manager to review the fee structure each year at budget time.

During the citizen comment part of the meeting, Elaine Jackson suggested that Council leave the decision on fees for formal meetings other than work sessions and Jim Norris suggested that a 5 percent increase every year in cemetery fees beginning with 1984-85 year would be in order.

Council voted 6-1, with Mullinax voting against, to re-

duce by five percent the newly-set commercial rates for garbage collection.

Murphy said fees for both commercial pickup of garbage and cemetery fees were "a little high" and said the city was in good financial shape and the board should consider giving a break. He suggested that the city match the selling price of a local franchise dealer. City Manager Jimmy Maney said that the city had lost \$19,000 in sanitation revenue because the rates had not been in place. "We need to get in the business or out," he told the board.

Maney said he would follow up on a licensing charge for persons coming into the city to offer a similar business to the city's 112 customers. He also See CEMETERY page 4

KM City Council kills 4-year term proposal

Terms of Kings Mountain City Council will remain two years.

By 5-2, City Council Tuesday night killed a proposal to amend the city charter to change their terms of office from two to four year staggered terms.

Ward 3 Councilman Ralph Grindstaff's substitute motion, seconded by Councilman Jerry Mullinax, was supported also by Councilmen Rick Murphrey and Phil Hager and by Councilwoman Norma Bridges. Councilman Dean Spears made the motion, seconded by Councilman Jerry White, to adopt the ordinance subject to a vote by the people.

"I feel like we need to take no action until we get a petition signed by 10 percent of the registered voters and then we would call for a vote as we did two years ago," said Grindstaff.

"Let it stay as is until a petition comes," he said.

Hager agreed that action should come from the voters. "I think staggered terms would be better," he said.

City Attorney Mickey Corry explained that the board could adopt the ordinance amending the charter without a vote of the people or by put it to a vote by the people on November 4 at the municipal election. He said that because a charter change must be approved by the U.S. Justice Department that strict guidelines apply and that one of the guidelines is that the board should act on the resolution 60 days after public hearing on the matter.

"The public hearing has been held and that's why the items See TERMS pg. 3

Linwood area won't be annexed

City Council voted 4-3 Tuesday night not to annex 15 families in the Linwood section but unanimously voted to take in a large area on US 74 West Business and the Country Club golf course area.

Councilman Ralph Grindstaff and Jerry White spoke against the proposed annexation of the Linwood area.

White, a former county deputy, said policing the area would be a problem for Kings Mountain police because they would have to deal with two court systems, Gaston and Cleveland.

Grindstaff, who resides in East Kings Mountain, said the area already has a problem with getting emergency service and taking the area into the city limits "would only compound the problems for residents."

Frances Sarvis and her neighbors protested the annexation in a petition she presented to the recent council meeting.

Mrs. Sarvis said many of the residents are on fixed incomes and can't afford to pay for more services.

The annexed areas would start receiving city services June 30, 1998.

Voting with White and Grindstaff were Councilmen Phil Hager and Jerry Mullinax. Voting to annex the area along with the other two areas under consideration were Councilwoman Norma Bridges and Councilmen Dean Spears and Rick Murphrey.

Countdown to Crusade

Pre-Crusade youth rally Wednesday

(Ed. note - This is the ninth in a series of articles on leaders of the Jay Strack Crusade to be held August 24-28 at John Gamble Stadium.)

Shane Doty, the energetic youth minister at First Baptist Church, is a natural for his role as chairman of the youth committee of the upcoming Jay Strack Crusade.

Doty is shooting for 800-1,000 kids at a pre-crusade youth rally August 20 on the field between the natatorium and tennis courts at the high school from 6-8:30 p.m.

"The area will be transformed into a carnival with games, three on three basketball, a skate board ramp with tricks, fun stuff including caricature drawings and plenty of cotton candy and popcorn," said Doty.

Jimmy Rhea from Age of Faith will lead a praise and worship service and Scott Grissom, evangelist with the crusade team, will kickoff the rally.

Gearing up youth for the crusade is the responsibility of Doty and his committee, all youth ministers in the area who say that the crusade promises to be an experience for both Christian is are we going to be there to work with Him,"

and non-Christian young people.

"Barbara Fulton at the ARP Church, Chet Andrews at Bethlehem Baptist, Jimmy Black at Oak Grove Baptist, Patrick Washburn at Second Baptist, Curtis Williams at East Gold Street Wesleyan, Greg Moore at Christian Freedom, Lawrence Meadows at Central Methodist, Kevin Bolin at First Wesleyan, Philip Burton of Family Worship Center and Lynne Lynch at Macedonia Baptist are all just as excited as I am about this crusade and are working hard to get youth excited and in on the action," said Doty.

Other challenges for the youth leaders will be a youth pizza blast, free to all young people, on Tuesday, August 26 at 6 p.m. prior to the crusade and again on Thursday, August 28, prior to the crusade.

"We have no idea how much pizza we will need but the food will be here and we hope the crowds will come," said Doty.

Young people will also be treated to messages by Strack at assembly programs in the schools. On Monday, August 25, the popular evangelist will speak to youth at the Middle School and at the high school.

See CRUSADE page 5



YOUTH READY FOR CRUSADE - Pictured are four of the young people of First Baptist Church with Youth Director Shane Doty who chairs the youth activities for the upcoming Jay Strack Crusade. Front row, Michael Ormsby, Justin Boheler and Tyler Falls, right. Bck row, Preston Cole and Doty.