



**Win \$50
Each Week** in the



Football Contest
See page 3B

MOUNTAINEERS WIN OPENER See page 1B

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER REUNITED See page 7A

Kings Mountain Herald

Vol. 109 No. 36

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Kings Mountain, N.C. • Since 1889 • 50¢

Crusade makes impact on KM

Local organizers said last week's Jay Strack Impact Crusade at Kings Mountain's John Gamble Stadium was true to its name - it made an impact on Kings Mountain.

Chairman Ronnie Hawkins said unofficial totals indicate that about 10,000 people attended the five-night event and about \$11,000 was received in offerings. Of that amount, about \$5,000, or Sunday's offering, will be used to meet the Crusade's \$29,000 budget and the remaining funds will go to the Jay Strack Ministries to help provide crusades in other areas of the country.

Hawkins said Sunday's attendance was about 2,500. Attendance slacked off to about 1,200 Monday, and Dr. Strack said Monday is typically the smallest crowd at a crusade, and the attendance picked up to around 1,800 to 2,000 for the remaining services.

For the five nights, Hawkins estimated there were about 400 commitments and rededications.

"I believe from what I'm hearing from different people, and what I saw in the schools...people are saying this is one of the most amazing things they have seen happen in Kings Mountain in a long time."

Hawkins said he was particularly impressed with Dr. Strack's emphasis on youth. Close to 1,000 youngsters attended two separate pizza blasts, and many young people made first-time commitments or rededicated their lives.

Dr. Strack also went into the high school and middle school and gave talks to students, talking straight to them on the negative impact of drugs, premarital sex, and pregnancy.

"As he alluded to almost every night, it's not often that they have such openness in these schools that allow them to come in and be able to speak to kids," Hawkins said. "He did not ask them to come down to the crusade, he did not ask them to be saved, he didn't have an invitation for them to come out of the bleachers. He just tried to give

See Crusade, 7-A



MAKES AN IMPACT ON KM - Evangelist Jay Strack makes a point during Wednesday night's service in the Jay Strack Impact Crusade at Kings Mountain's John Gamble Stadium. The five-night crusade was a big success with about 500 people making a first-time commitment or rededication to Christ.

Architect looking at pool repair cost

The city of Kings Mountain has acquired the services of Stewart-Cooper Architects of Gastonia to prepare an estimate of what it would cost to repair Deal Street Pool, and the city is also in the beginning stages of major painting projects at the Community Center.

The pool has been closed the past two summers because of deterioration. City Manager Jimmy Maney said by taking a look at the situation now the city may be able to re-open the pool next summer.

"You can't wait until February or March and get it open for the summer," Maney said. "We have to start now and get some work done before winter."

Maney said Stewart-Cooper worked with the City of Gastonia on the remodeling of the old Erwin Center Pool which is a little older than the 50-year old KM facility.

Maney said the architects will not only look at repairing the pool, but also the filter system, locker rooms and concession stands.

"Basically, they will come back with a new design of the pool and building," Maney said. "We're looking at what it will cost to fix it all."

Maney said the possibility of a new recreation complex to include a swimming pool had been discussed, but he said he has talked to recreation experts who advised him that most cities are moving away from that idea.

"If we talk about a new pool and complex that could be years down the road," Maney said.

Maney said a major goal of the architects will be to take a close look at the pool floor and make sure it is sturdy before any work is done.

"Before we closed the pool we were losing a foot of water each night," maney said. "We have to find out where that water was going. If you go in there and pour new concrete and the bottom is not solid you could have problems. That's why you have to employ outside people to do all that stuff. We have a 50-year-old structure and it has leaked a foot every single night. That water's going somewhere."

Maney said the city plans extensive beautification and repair projects at the Community Center.

The gym was recently closed and the city is in the process and stripping and cleaning the gym floor. The floor will be repainted, waxed and the inside walls painted. Maney said the goal is to have the gym project completed in time for basketball season.

The city is getting price quotes for painting the inside and outside of the Community Center and is doing repair work around the building.

In another capital project, Maney said the design and development stages of a new Police Department is almost completed, and he hopes the architects will be bringing those plans to the city for a review soon.

See City, 5-A

Myrick says she wants to abolish IRS

Ninth District Rep. Sue Myrick praised the balanced budget and some of the tax credits included in it during the past session of Congress, and pledged to tackle the IRS and other important issues at a Town Meeting Thursday night at Mauney Memorial Library.

She said the balanced budget bill passed earlier this year is good through the year 2002 and will continue to be balanced as long as "we (Republicans) control the House."

The budget will be balanced at the end of next year, she said. "That means we will have zero deficit barring a catastrophe."

That's real encouraging to us since this will be the first time since 1969 we've had a balanced budget."

Myrick praised the tax cuts and credits included in the budget and tax bills, including the \$500 tax credit for children under age 17 and tuition credits of \$1,500 for the first two years of college and 50 percent of up to \$5,000 for the second two years of college.

"This is a real help for people who have kids in school," she said.

She also praised capital gains tax cuts which not only includes a tax rate cut from 28 to

20 percent, but also allows homeowners who live in their homes two years to sell them and not have to pay capital gains tax on the first \$500,000 of profit.

"A lot of us, myself included, would love to sell our homes and make \$500,000," she said.

But she said more important, the previous requirement of being able to keep the profits just once has been eliminated. Now, she said, people can sell and keep the profits as often as they like as long as they live in the house two years. She said that is particularly beneficial to

See Myrick, 8-A



IN KM - U.S. Rep. Sue Myrick speaks at town meeting Thursday at Mauney Library.

Putnam no longer employed by city

Jeff Putnam, the Kings Mountain Chief Codes Inspector accused by two local businessmen for allegedly attempting to extort money from them is no longer employed by the city.

City Manager Jimmy Maney said the city's only other building inspector, Andy Scoggins, is performing some of Putnam's duties and the city is receiving help from Cleveland County on Level III inspections.

The city is advertising for a Level I inspector, and Maney said Scoggins is working toward his Level III certification.

"Inspections in Kings Mountain is at an all-time high with all the residential construction and everything else going on," Maney said. "Andy has probationary Level III certificates, but we're having to ask Cleveland County to give us a hand with our Level III building plans."

Maney said Level III buildings are major projects such as the Family Life Center currently

See Putnam, 3-A

Kings Mountain SAT scores best in Cleveland County

Kings Mountain High scores on the 1997 SAT were seven points better and the best of the three school systems in Cleveland County.

Kings Mountain students had a 956 score. North Carolina's average was 978 and the national average was 1016.

Supt. Bob McRae said he was pleased with the scores, not on-

ly because they were better than last year's 949 figure but also because more Kings Mountain students took the test.

"I've always been real cautious about reading too much into the fluctuation of scores," he said. "With a small population like ours two or three very good or two or three weaker students can make the scores

look like they're changing a lot. But the good thing this year is that they were up, and at the same time we had a seven percent increase in the number of students taking the SAT. Typically as numbers go up the scores go down."

McRae said the system has worked hard the past several years to encourage more stu-

dents to take the test. This year 46 percent of the seniors took the test compared to 39 percent last year.

"The biggest predictor of students doing better is that they are taking stronger academic preparation in high school," McRae said, "and we have been encouraging students to take

better courses. And they've also been doing some SAT preparation courses."

McRae said Kings Mountain is requiring freshmen who have proven themselves at the Middle School to take a strong course load at the high school.

"That should have some impact on down the road," he said.

Whitworth keeps moving on

By ELIZABETH STEWART
of The Herald Staff

Gene Whitworth moves faster in his electric cart, wheelchair and garden tractor than most people move on two legs.

A visit to the home of Gene and Catherine Whitworth in the Long Branch Community of Grover restores one's faith that with the right attitude no obstacle in life is insurmountable.

Whitworth, 63, lost his right leg about five years ago. A collapsed artery in his left leg cut off the blood supply and has left him without the use of both legs.

But that hasn't stopped Whitworth.

With the help of his preacher and friends in the community he redesigned his house for his convenience with a door off the porch to his bedroom wide enough for his wheelchair to

navigate. Adding a ramp, he can exit into the yard and tend to chickens and goats and pick fruit from dwarf trees, all through a path built especially for is tractor or cart

Using his wheelchair to get onto the back porch, he rides to the edge of the porch and carefully slides onto the seat of his tractor. Then he and he and his young three-year-old buddy who calls him Paw Paw ride a path through dwarf trees heavy with apples, and grape vines that were planted low enough for Gene to reach to pick. He uses an electric cart to work his farm and he drives his own truck, and just recently got his driver's license renewed for five years.

"I had to take the woman driver's license examiner a ride in the truck but I passed with flying colors," said Whitworth.

"It kills people when you take

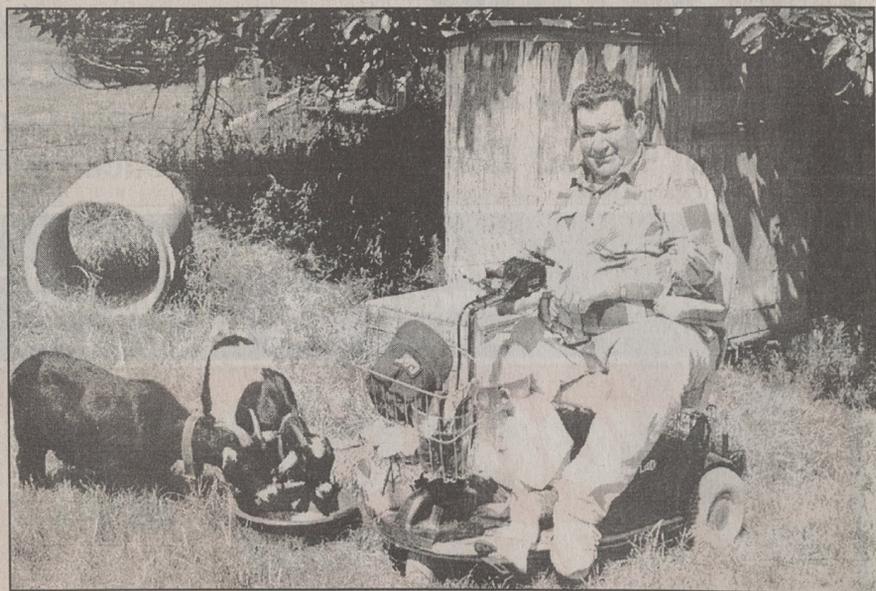
away their independence," said Gene who was determined that would not happen to him.

He has been stuck up on his lawn mower a time or two and his little cart has become stuck in the mud a time or two but always his wife and their minister help him get back on the road again.

Christopher Webster, 3, son of Larry and Kathy Webster, is just like family and has been in day care at the Whitworth home for some time.

Rev. Norris Willis, Gene's pastor at Allen Memorial Baptist Church, has become a big part of his life. The preacher and Johnny Hogue helped him with his garden and Gene never misses a Sunday morning service, a Wednesday night prayer meeting or a Thursday meeting of Baptist Brotherhood of which he is director.

See Whitworth, 8-A



MAKING THEIR ROUNDS - Gene Whitworth, with help from Chris Webster, feeds goats on his farm near Grover.