

# Kings Mountain Herald

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## Miss N.C. visits KMMS

Michelle Warren, the reigning Miss North Carolina and first runnerup to Miss America 1997, proved she was in tune with teenagers Tuesday.

Suffering obviously from a migraine headache, she stood in front of a cheering throng of Kings Mountain Middle students and when they asked her to sing "The National Anthem" she responded without hesitation and then left them with some advice.

"You can do anything you want to and if you want it bad enough you can find ways to do it," she said, challenging students to plan now for college and occupations.

Warren, a rising senior at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte majoring in clinical psychology, called her reign as the state's beauty queen "an incredible experience."

Four years ago before she started entering beauty pageants, Warren said she had no money for college and was working full time. She is taking advantage of \$42,000 in scholarship money from the Miss America pageant to complete her education when her reign is

over. Meantime, she is traveling as many as 2,000 miles a month talking before youth groups about domestic violence.

"Every 15 seconds in this country a woman is beaten, in North Carolina alone, 25,000 families are dealing with domestic violence," said Warren.

She said she hopes to send a message to young students that they need to take self respect with them when they start dating. "Abuse happens every day but don't let it happen to you," she said.

Wearing slim black pants and a royal blue top that accentuated her slender five feet seven 107 pound frame and blonde hair, the Gaston County native said it was a relief after over three weeks this fall in Atlantic City, New Jersey to finish as first runner up to Miss America.

"This was my fifth pageant and I knew it was my last," said Warren who admitted to being a little nervous when she entered the Miss North Carolina competition, won and went on to compete for the big scholarship money.

A real trooper, Warren becomes an instant role model for



**BEAUTY QUEEN VISITS** - Miss North Carolina Michelle Warren talks with students at Kings Mountain Middle School Tuesday. Students, from left, are Tina Sprouse, Brooke Blackburn, Richie Griffin and Dustin Calvert.

a year. Replying to questions from eager students, she said she was too busy to think of marriage but admitted she has a good-looking boyfriend.

She said she has been offered a recording contract and a trip to New York for auditioning on Broadway, but right now she's busy traveling the state to push her programs.

Warren told students she had a severe weight problem as a student at Grier Junior High and weighed about 150 pounds at Ashbrook High School.

"I made up my mind that I would slim down and that good guys do finish first," she said.

Friendly, personable and dignified, she encouraged the kids to plan out their lives. "I didn't become Miss North Carolina overnight."

Warren gold students to "map our your curriculum now, have a plan for your life, because all you do now lays the foundation for high school and high schools lays the foundation for what follows."

## Election hearing Friday

A hearing on alleged voting irregularities at East Kings Mountain precinct will be held Friday at 1 p.m.

Director of Elections Debra Blanton said the public hearing will be held in the conference room at the Cleveland County Administration Building, 311 Marion Street, in Shelby.

At issue is the Ward 2 seat on the Kings Mountain Council.

Last Monday, the board conducted four recounts and declared that incumbent Jerry Mullinax was the winner on November 4 by a one-vote margin over challenger and former commissioner Jim Guyton. Mullinax also beat Guyton two years ago by a one vote margin.

Guyton charged that some people voted in the Ward 2 race on November 4 who were not entitled to do so and has sought a new election.

Blanton said the board was able to account for every ballot voted in the Ward 2 race when it recounted the votes. However, she said the board found two ballots were given out in error.

"We are amassing all the information and that evidence will be presented at Friday's hearing and the board will make a decision on findings of fact and if they find this warrants sending that information to the state board we will do that so the state board can review it at its meeting December 2 in Raleigh," said Blanton.

"We are making this hearing as public as we can, nothing is being hidden," said Blanton. "This is as open and honest as we can make it."

## Moss to lead KM Christmas parade

Former Kings Mountain Mayor John Henry Moss will serve as marshal for the Kings Mountain Christmas Parade Friday, December 5, at 6:30 p.m.

The 100-plus unit parade will be held for the first time during the evening and in conjunction with A Mountaineer Christmas planned by the Kings Mountain Business and Professional Association.

Plans for the holiday event are shaping up, according to President Kathy Neely and City Recreation Director Tripp Hord.

Downtown events will start at 5 p.m. and continue until 10 p.m. Fireworks will brighten the sky about 9 p.m. Two separate stages with ongoing entertainment, Santa and Mrs. Claus, a live nativity scene, horse and buggy rides, Christmas carolers, The Gaston County Choral Society and Handbell Choirs



**JOHN H. MOSS** are just a few of the entertainment features of the 1997 event. A Christmas tree decorating contest and a float contest are open to the public.

City Manager Jimmy Maney said Tuesday that The Christian

Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, the first group to sign up for the parade, pulled out of the lineup this week and will not participate.

Maney talked with representatives of the organization Tuesday who said they were pulling out "for the consideration of the children."

Maney quoted Klan leaders who said they felt it would be better for the Klan to march at a future date and by themselves rather than in a big group. "They said they felt for the consideration of the children they would pull out of the parade and march at a later date," said Maney.

U. S. Congresswoman Sue Myrick, the Piedmont Pistons, celebrity beauty queens, marching bands and dancers, and of course, Santa Claus, are among guests of the holiday event.



**GETTING READY FOR HOLIDAYS** - City electric department employee Josh Conrad checks the lights on one of the trees in the downtown area. The city will turn the Christmas lights on Thanksgiving night.

## City Hall is getting face lift

The City Hall is getting a face lift.

Painting crews started painting the interior lobby and offices Saturday and before they finish the Council Chambers and offices will have all-white ceilings with lullid beige walls and navy blue accents in area where there are now colored walls.

In addition, new grey/beige tinted carpet is replacing 20-year-old carpet. The Council Chambers is also expected to get new chairs and a new sound system. The Battle of Kings Mountain painting in the lobby will be moved to a central location in Chambers.

Personnel are also moving to

### KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

## Men's Community Action Club making difference in community

**GROVER** - Five meetings after Men's Community Action was formed, a group of Grover residents are making a difference.

Kenny Bell, who helped organize the group and hosted a cookout for about 50 young people and guests at his home on a recent Saturday, says kids are learning that the street "is not where the action is."

"The action is in community activities where boys and girls will play basketball, volleyball and kickball and get involved in a safe, healthy, respectful lifestyle," says Bell.

Bell said a group of neighbors got together one afternoon at his house and got the ball rolling for a Men's Community Action Club of Grover.

"We raised funds and cooked and served 125 hot dogs with all the trimmings as our first youth activity and boy did we have a good time," said club president Robert Brooks.

Bell, treasurer of the group, said the club will concentrate on helping needy families and provide fruit baskets for the elderly during the Christmas season but after the holidays the youth activities will swing into high gear.

"We hope to plan a car show and sponsor car washes and other activities," said Vice-President

James Smith. Secretary Rufus Smith said the goal of the program is to give kids something to do and get them involved in community activities.

"We want to show the youth of this community an alternative action of life as opposed to the usual actions of the world," explained Bell.

Ed Guy, assistant principal at Parker Street School, was guest speaker at the first meeting of the club at which youth attended.

"I talked about choices and how it's important for young people to make the right choices and say no to alcohol and drugs," said Guy.

Guy and his son, Anthony, joined the club activity by accident. Mr. Guy, who was running for an outside seat on the board of education, stopped in the community several weeks ago to renew acquaintances with Kenny Bell and his friends.

"Kenny is one of my former students at the Middle School and we got to talking about some of the ways that the new club could make a difference in the lives of young people and he invited me to share some of my experiences as a counselor over the years," said Guy.



**MEN'S COMMUNITY ACTION CLUB** - The Men's Community Action Club has formed in the Long Branch Community of Grover. Front row, Sam Camp, left, and Rufus Smith. Back row, from left, Anthony Guy, Kenny Bell, Ed Guy, Robert Brooks, verson Bell and James Smith Jr.