



KM and Grover mourn loss of Gentle Giant Jim Scruggs

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13 Mountaineers on All-Southwest 3-A football team

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KM's Micheal Wilson stars in 'Nutcracker'



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BRIEFLY

Winter band concert Thursday at KM High

The Kings Mountain District Schools bands will present their annual winter concert Thursday, Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes Auditorium.

The concert will feature the Kings Mountain Middle School 8th grade band, the Kings Mountain High School 9th grade band and the Kings Mountain High School Concert Blazer Band. The bands will be performing traditional as well as seasonal favorites.

The Blazer Band will be joined by Mars Hill College clarinet instructor Denise Schmidt who will perform a concerto with the band. A six piece "up front" Dixieland band made up of Jim Miller, Micheal Wilson, Ben Howell, Clark Poole, Josh Rountree and Ron Feemster, will also be featured.

A highlight of the concert will be a drawing for \$500 cash to some lucky individual who has made a donation to the band to help raise funds for its spring trip to Florida. The Blazer Band has been selected to present a special concert at Walt Disney World's Epcot Center. The band trip to Florida will be April 22-26.

Windjammers MC toy ride December 14

The Windjammers Motorcycle Club will have its 9th annual Ride for the Children of Cleveland County Sunday, Dec. 14.

The bikers will line up in Ingle's parking lot on West Dixon Blvd. at 1:30 p.m., and leave at 2 p.m. to carry toys to children at the Children's Home of Cleveland County.

The public is encouraged to give new toys and donations and to join the bikers for a free breakfast before the ride at the Windjammer Club House, 1509 E. Dixon Blvd., and a pig picking after the ride.

For more information, call the club house at 482-8704, Billy T. at 739-2203 or Britt at 482-6358.

KM garbage pickup schedule for holiday

Public Works Director Jackie Barnette has announced the holiday schedule for sanitation pick-up.

Household garbage will be picked up on December 22, 23, 24, 29, 30 and 31. If your regular schedule for pickup is Thursday the sanitation department will pick up garbage on Wednesday.

The schedule for commercial customers will be December 22, 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, 31 and January 1.

Citizens should place big Christmas boxes in bags at the roadside for sanitation workers to pick up.

City offices will be closed December 24, 25 and 26 for Christmas holidays and January 1 and 2 for New Year's holidays.

New traffic light up on King Street

The new traffic light on West King Street at the entrance to First Baptist Church is expected to become operational with a flash mode in about a week.

Jimmy Hamrick of the State Highway Department of Transportation office in Shelby, said the flashing signals will be used for a week or more and then the traffic light will become completely operational.

Highway workers put up poles and lights and now are waiting for the electricity to be turned on at the intersection.



STARS OF PARADE - Santa and Mrs. Claus delighted the crowds who braved the cold Friday night to attend the Kings Mountain Christmas parade. More parade pictures are on page 3-A.

State-ordered KM election set for February 24

The State Board of Elections has set Tuesday, February 24, 1998 as the date for a new election in Ward 2 between Jerry Mullinax and Jim Guyton.

City Manager Jimmy Maney said he was notified by Director of Elections Debra Blanton Friday that the new date had been set pending further instructions by the state board. Mrs. Blanton is out of town until Thursday and was unavailable for comment as The Herald went to press this week.

Elections Board Secretary Ruth Wilson said that the state elections board is sending all the paperwork to the U. S. Justice Department for preclearance. Wilson said an appeal by Mullinax could put the election on hold but that the state board set the date of February 28 for elections in four municipalities in which it ordered runoffs due to alleged voter irregularities.

Mullinax said Tuesday he has yet to receive notification from the state of the state board's decision last week to order a new election. He said he has 10 days after he receives an official notice to enter an appeal to Wake County Superior Court.

See Election, 9A

KM City Council takes oath Tuesday

With the exception of the Ward 2 seat, the Kings Mountain City Council will be seated for the new two-year term Tuesday night.

Mayor Scott Neisler and Council members Phil Hager, Ward 1 Clavon Kelly, Ward 3; Gene White, Ward 4; Rick Murphrey, Ward 5; and At-Large members Norma Bridges and Bob Hayes will take the oath of office.

Three new faces will go on the board. They are Kelly, White and Hayes. Kelly defeated incumbent commissioner Ralph Grindstaff and Hayes defeated incumbent commissioner Dean Spears in the November 4 election. White defeated Pat Childers for the seat being vacated by Jerry White who did not seek reelection. Incumbent Neisler defeated Gary Joy in the mayor's race.

Incumbent Ward 2 Councilman Jerry Mullinax was still mulling a decision on whether to challenge in

See Council, 9-A

KM Schools to follow up on drug survey

The Kings Mountain Health Council will survey parents as a follow-up activity to last year's Johnston Institute survey of secondary students in regards to the use of drugs.

Kings Mountain Board of Education Monday night okayed the survey which will go out to parents of all Middle School and High School students.

"We are concerned with the data collected in November 1996," said Child Nutrition

Director Patsy Rountree in presenting the recommendation to Monday night's school board meeting.

Based on the survey responses, a significant number of middle and high school students have experimented with alcohol, drug and tobacco use. One point that was emphasized by the survey results was that alcohol, drugs and tobacco abuse are a total community concern including school, home, church and law enforcement.

Rountree said input from parents will help the Health Council plan ways to help parents better understand the problems that young people face. Rountree said the survey will help the Health Council plan future learning opportunities and parent involvement in the Kings Mountain District Schools.

Rountree said all information is confidential and specific school names are not required on the survey forms.

The two-page yellow form asks parents to identify the programs their child participates in school, including D. A. R. E., peer mediation, peer pressure reversal, stress management, elementary peer tutoring and student assistance, etc. The survey asks parents to check in appropriate blanks if their child or children never, rarely, usually, always or don't know to such questions as: Do you feel you have adequate knowledge of drug and alcohol abuse? do you

consider the use of tobacco products as a concern? do you think you influence your son or daughter in making choices about drugs? do you know how to deal with a drug or alcohol related situation? do you feel the need for additional drug awareness for adults? do you feel the need for additional drug awareness for students? would you as a parent have an interest in more drug awareness information?

See Survey, 9-A



SCHOOL BOARD SWORN - Ronnie Hawkins, Mayor Scott Neisler, Melony Bolin and Larry Allen are pictured at a swearing-in ceremony for newly-elected board of education members Hawkins, Bolin and Allen. Hawkins was reelected chairman as the board organized for the year.

New school trustees take oath

The three recently elected members of the Kings Mountain Board of Education - new members Melony Bolin, Larry Allen and Ronnie Hawkins were sworn Monday night.

Mayor Scott Neisler administered the oath.

After the swearing-in ceremony the board reelected Hawkins as chairman and Shearra Miller as vice-chairman. Miller made the motion to elect Hawkins, seconded by B. S. Peeler. Mr. Peeler made the motion to elect Miller, seconded by Allen.

Prior to the swearing-in ceremony, Supt. Dr. Bob McRae recognized retiring board members Rev. Billy Houze and Connie Allison with plaques

and life-time passes to school events.

Allison, retired longtime elementary principal, served on the board from 1993-97 in an outside-district seat. McRae said at Allison's first meeting on the board in May 1993 that the board voted to buy computers, metal detectors at the high school and created a computer lab at the middle school, among other actions. McRae called Allison "one of the board's "most faithful members."

Houze, a Baptist minister, served from 1989-1997. He served 3 1/2 years in an outside-district seat, moved inside the city limits and served the remainder of the term on the in-

See Board, 9A

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE



RUBY ALEXANDER

Cancer Alexander's toughest challenge

Fighting cancer is Ruby Moss Alexander's greatest challenge.

But the Kings Mountain woman and longtime realtor and contractor, who excelled business-wise at a time when big building jobs were primarily a man's domain, says she's up to it.

Mrs. Alexander was diagnosed with cancer Labor Day weekend when she entered Gaston Memorial Hospital for minor surgery.

"I had no idea of cancer," said Alexander who faces more surgery after the first of the

year. "I hope this surgery will be the final hurdle and give me the strength to get back on the job I love and back into community life.

"I love to talk to people and it's been hard to be at home when I have always been so active," said Alexander.

Ruby says her husband, Charles, their son and daughter-in-law, Reg and Deco Alexander, and their daughter and son-in-law, Cindy and Larry Wood, moved Regal Graphics and Alexander Realty into Alexander Park, the new

building she designed next door to City Hall.

"We still have drapes and other things to go up and plan a ribbon cutting in the spring," said Ruby.

A Thursday night telephone call to Ruby at Gaston Memorial Hospital brought news of a surprise award from the Cleveland Chamber.

"I thought the Chamber was calling me about the banquet and they had a speaker phone on and a hookup to the hospital that enabled me to hear Peggy Paksoy present me the

Entrepreneur Award which was very exciting and a big surprise," said Alexander.

Recognized as a "model of civic service," Alexander was presented the Cleveland Chamber's prestigious Entrepreneur award Thursday night at the annual banquet.

Cindy Wood accepted the award for her mother.

"I am so humbled by the award and I am so appreciative of the many prayers from people all over the county," said

See Ruby 2A