

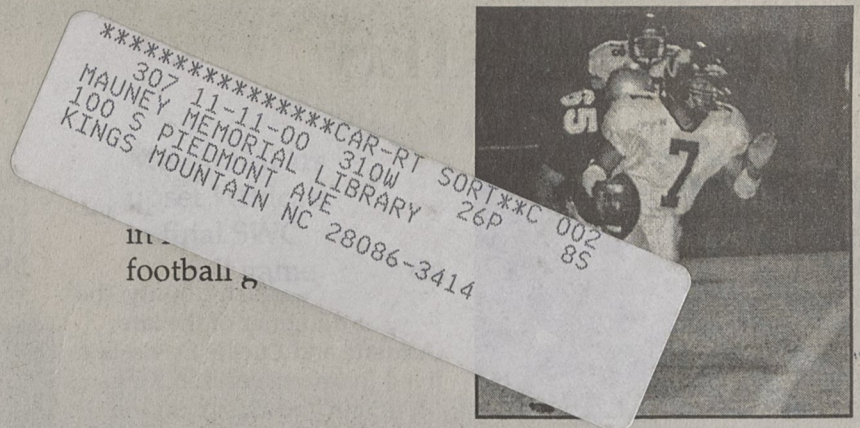
The Herald

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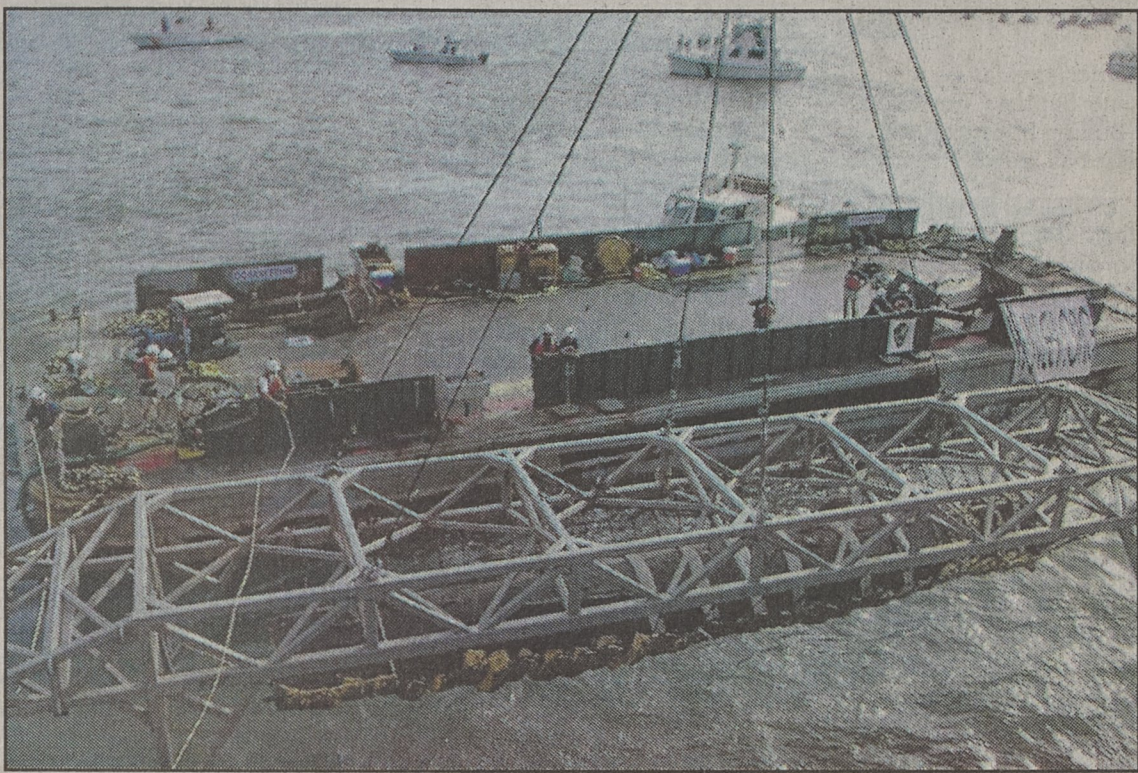


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Raising the Hunley



Kings Mountain resident Kenneth Edwards (left) supervised the diving effort to raise the Confederate submarine Hunley (below)



Supervising raising of Confederate submarine just one of many underwater adventures for KM man

BY ALAN HODGE
 Staff Writer

What does Kings Mountain have to do with the recently raised Confederate submarine Hunley? In the case of Kenneth Edwards, a great deal. A 30-year veteran of commercial underwater jobs that have spanned the globe, Edwards was diving superintendent on the Hunley project.

Even before his work on the Hunley job, Edwards had tallied three decades of underwater adventures. Just one of the many fascinating projects he was in on included putting devices at the base of a dam in Shasta, California to cool the water for migrating salmon. The water was 500 feet deep. Another trek took Edwards to Africa for a job repairing the hull of a tanker ship that had been converted for petroleum storage.

A native of Ohio, Edwards says he got into diving because he was "tired of working in buildings." He's currently employed by Oceaneering, International, Inc. The company is based in Morgan City, Louisiana. Though his actual underwater days are over, Edwards acts in a supervisory and coordinating capacity above the surface. The type of equipment that Edwards and his men use has the capability of letting them go down 2000 feet. Most jobs are in water from 100 to 300 feet deep.

Though it looked like high and exciting adventure to folks who followed the story, the Hunley raising was not that difficult for the commercial divers.

"The conditions were nice," Edwards said. "The water was warm, we had nice weather, and the visibility was around three or four feet."

The dive consisted of two teams. The commercial team had eight divers. Another team



Getting help with his diving suit from Doug Dawson of Oceaneering International, Hunley submarine discoverer Ralph Wilbanks gets set to visit the boat before it was raised.

of 15 consisted of underwater archaeologists. Some divers wore scuba gear, others had diving helmets and piped in air.

Except for a few weeks in June, Edwards was on the Hunley job from May until the end of July when the sub was raised. He and his companions had interesting living quarters while they were in the Charleston area.

See Hunley, 3A

KM puts three on county board

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain people made history in Tuesday's Cleveland County Commissioners election.

All three seats that were available went to Kings Mountain residents - Republican Ronnie Hawkins and Democrats Tom Bridges and Mary Accor.



This will be the first time in history that Kings Mountain has held a majority on the Board. The three will take their oath of office on December 1.

The general election, which drew a voter turnout of over 60 percent, reaffirmed what voters seemed to say in the May primary when the same three candidates led the tickets.

All three, as well as most of the other commission candidates, filed for office after the present Board of Commissioners approved a plan to merge the county's three school systems. That resulted in two of those commissioners - Joe Cabaniss and Joe Hendrick - being defeated in the primary. The third, chairman Jim Crawley, finished a distant third in the Republican Primary and later announced that he would resign when his term ends next month.

Hawkins led the voting Tuesday with 16,595, followed by Accor with 16,464, Bridges 16,215, Kenneth Ledford 15,132, Ray Thomas 13,432 and David Morrow 11,161. Hawkins led the voting in 11 of the county's 28 precincts; Accor led in eight, and Bridges five.

"I feel great," said a drained Hawkins Wednesday morning after staying up all night. "I think the vote really speaks well for what Kings Mountain has done, and also speaks well for what the people all over the county have done. They want to go back to being governed by the consent of the people. They want the commissioners to listen."

Hawkins said he will continue.

See Three, 5A



ACCOR



BRIDGES



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD
 Proving age is no barrier to a concerned citizen, 81-year-old Libby Mauney of Kings Mountain voted Tuesday at First Baptist Church. Mauney was driven to the poll by friend Rebecca Curry.

Bush, Gore wait on Florida count, Easley governor

BY ALAN HODGE
 Staff Writer

Cliffhanger and nail biter are two good terms to use in describing Tuesday's race for President of the United States between Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush. As of noon on Wednesday, the outcome of the closest electoral vote in 100 years and the tightest popular vote since Nixon and Kennedy in 1960 all hinged on a recount of ballots in Florida.

With nearly all states reporting, the figures early Wednesday showed both Gore and Bush with 48 percent of the popular vote. In the Electoral College, Gore had 255 and Bush 246 votes. Popular vote numbers as of 8:30 a.m. Wednesday had Gore leading Bush 48,441,615 to 48,213,814.

"We owe it to the country to do the recount as quickly as possible," said Florida Attorney General Bob Butterworth.

Final results from the recount could take several days since some absentee ballots were from out of country military personnel based in Florida. Until then, many observers

See Bush, 5A

Weatherly bumps Horn from House

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

One Kings Mountain man won and another lost in State House and Senate races Tuesday.

Former Representative John Weatherly ran third in the race for three seats from the 48th House District and will join incumbents Debbie Clary and Andy Dedmon in the legislature. Weatherly edged Jim Horn of Shelby, who served one term.

Despite leading his home county of Cleveland, former Kings Mountain Mayor Scott Neisler lost his bid to unseat Walter Dalton in the 37th



WEATHERLY

See House, 5A

Superintendent leaving

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain Schools Superintendent Bob McRae has resigned his position effective April 1 to become superintendent of Randolph County Schools.

McRae has been Kings Mountain's superintendent since 1986. Prior to that, he served as KMHS principal (1979-83) and assistant superintendent of Randolph County Schools (1983-86).

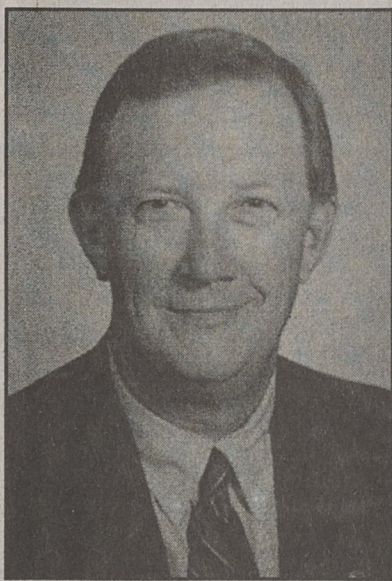
Randolph County is a much larger system than KMDS with over 17,000 students and 28 schools. The system has four high schools - Eastern Randolph, Southwest Randolph, Trinity and Randleman.

"It is certainly with mixed emotions that I leave Kings Mountain," Dr. McRae said. "Kings Mountain has been wonderful to me and my family on two different occasions for almost 20 years.

"This was a great opportunity. We have great friends here, so I certainly don't leave out of any negativity about Kings Mountain. This (Randolph County) was just a good opportunity and, honestly, from my perspective it will be good for me and the (Kings Mountain) system."

Kings Mountain Schools have experienced tremendous success under McRae's leadership, especially in the state's ABCs testing program. Kings

See McRae, 3A



BOB McRAE

War memorial rededication, parade mark Veteran's Day

Kings Mountain will hold several events on Saturday, November 11 to remember Veterans Day.

Beginning at 10 a.m., there will be a rededication of the Kings Mountain War Memorial at the corner of Mountain Street and Railroad Avenue. The cannon there, a 75mm pack howitzer, has been refurbished and its base painted with a mural by Clive Haynes who also painted the mural on the Plonk Building. Hayne's work depicts

the globe and areas where major conflicts have occurred.

Following the cannon ceremony, there will be a procession down Gold Street to the Veterans Memorial at Mountain Rest Cemetery. The parade will be led by a color guard and drum corps and will include dignitaries and veterans.

At Mountain Rest there will be a service to remember those

See Veterans, 2A



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