

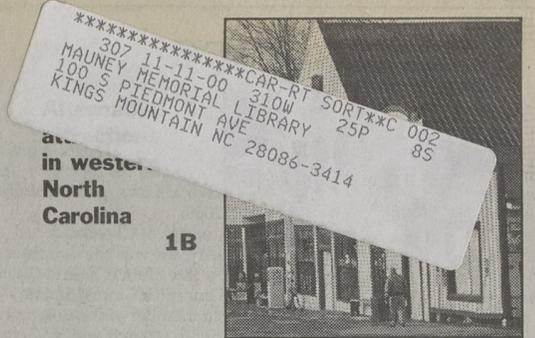
KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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KM Schools to ask county for \$1.9 million for school

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain Schools Supt. Bob McRae will go before the Cleveland County Commissioners Tuesday night to request \$1.9 million to assist in construction of a new grade 5-6 school on Kings Mountain Blvd.

The KM School Board's architect Roger Holland opened bids on the proposed school last Thursday, and they came in much lower than originally predicted. School officials first thought the new school would run around \$11.5 million, but the combined bids were \$10,856,831.

By the time the school is occupied in the fall of 2002, KMDS would have \$8,942,211 in reserve from its share of state sales tax revenues.

McRae and Holland were elated by the huge number of bids that were received, and that bids came in much lower than expected. The facility was bid in such a way that one or more classroom wings could have been deleted and added on later if funds were not immediately available.

"Six months ago we were thinking we might be \$2.7 million short, but the bids were very strong in today's economy," McRae said. "There was a lot of interest. Any time you get

more bids you have a tendency to get better prices."

Holland said he received bids from 10 general contractors, seven plumbing contractors, six mechanical contractors, and five electrical contractors.

"The bids were much better than we were even hoping for," he said.

Low bids were from Beam Construction (general), Dallas Electric (electrical), Triangle Contractors of Morganton (mechanical) and K-Ham of Greensboro (plumbing).

McRae presented the Board of Education four scenarios from which to pick one to take before County Commissioners. The first scenario (base bids

with no alternates) came in at \$9,964,386 or \$1,022,175 more than available funds.

The second bid included a Loadmaster roof alternate at a bid price of \$10,739,493; and the third option included the base bid with Pella window alternate at a combined bid of \$10,038,284.

The package the Board decided to go with was the base bid with both the Loadmaster roof and Pella windows at a cost of \$10,856,831. The Board agreed that if the Commissioners do not supply or back the additional funding that they could look

See School, 3A



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD
Terry B. McClain, left, with his wife Sheila looking on, is sworn in as a member of the Kings Mountain Board of Education by Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey at Monday night's meeting at Central School. McClain will fill the unexpired term of Ronnie Hawkins, which ends next November.

Dr. Allen reelected KM board chairman

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Dr. Larry Allen was re-elected chairman and Melony Bolin was re-elected vice-chairman of the Kings Mountain Board of Education at Monday night's organizational meeting at the Central Office.

Allen, who holds one of the two outside city seats, recently completed his first year as chairman of the board. Bolin, who holds the at-large seat, completed her first year as vice-chairman.

Bolin said she nominated Dr. Allen because of his experience as board chairman and also his expertise in many fields of education.

"He brings a lot to the table as far as his experience in building, budgeting and all areas of expertise from being with the school system for 30 years," Bolin said. "Dr. Allen is very level-headed and always puts the children first."

The Board also swore in a new member. Terry McClain was appointed last week to fill the unexpired term of new

County Commissioner Ronnie Hawkins. McClain took the oath of office from Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey.

Hawkins, who recently completed 11 years including six as chairman, was given a plaque of appreciation. McClain's term, as well as those of Allen and Bolin, expire next year. Filing for the November election will begin in June.

The School Board faces a number of challenges during the coming year, including merger and the hiring of a new superintendent. There has been some indication that the Board may choose an interim superintendent if the merger issue is not settled by the time Supt. Bob McRae leaves his post on April 1. He was recently named superintendent of Randolph County Schools.

"We do face a lot of challenges in the near future," Bolin said. "Dr. Allen is a good spokesman and presents our system well. I believe that he will carry us through getting our new school built, and I just believe that I have total support in his ability."

Bolin praised the community for the support it has shown the school system over the years,

See Allen, 3A



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD
Kings Mountain fire chief Frank Burns gets set to add another ornament to the Relay For Life tree in City Hall. So far, the tree has raised nearly \$600 for cancer research. The tree will be up until Christmas, and balls in memory of or honor of loved ones are still available at \$5 each.

KM gym named for Coach Parker

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

The Kings Mountain District Board of Education Monday night unanimously named the Kings Mountain High School gymnasium the Donald L. Parker Gymnasium in honor of retired teacher/coach Don Parker.

Parker, 86, served KMDS for 30 years, including 23 as head men's basketball coach. During his coaching era (1943-67), he won more basketball games (249) than any other Mountaineer coach, and was later the first Director of the System's Title I Special Education Program.

Contacted at his home in Tennessee, Parker said the news was "wonderful...and makes my day. I really appreciate what everyone has done."

The gym will be dedicated on April 17, 2001 as part of the annual Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

School Board Chairman Larry Allen noted that he and other board members had received numerous calls and letters from former students and players in

support of the proposal, which was brought to the Board last month by the Hall of Fame committee.

"Don Parker is one outstanding man," said Dr. Allen, who worked with Parker in KM Schools. "He has influenced many people over the years."

Jim Kimmell, one of Parker's former student athletes, came all the way from Myrtle Beach, SC to the Board meeting.

"I met Coach Parker in 1948," he recalled. "He influenced me more than any man in my life, including my father."

Kimmell said he imitated Coach Parker in his teaching and coaching philosophy. Kimmell is a retired football coach in South Carolina public schools.

"Coach Parker was an outstanding educator," Kimmell said. "In order to be a great educator a child has to know you love and care for them and Coach Parker loved and cared for all of them."

Vice-chairman Melony Bolin made the motion to name the gym for Parker, and it was seconded by Stella Putnam, who said her father played for Coach Parker in the 1940s.

Board member Shearra Miller, who moved to Kings Mountain after Coach Parker retired, said she has always

See Gym, 3A

City tables sale of lakes to get more information

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain City Council Tuesday night tabled the proposed sale of the old City and Davidson water lakes until it can find out more information about the potential buyer's intent in using the property.

Councilman Carl DeVane, who has opposed the sale of the property all through the lengthy process of Utility Committee and Council meetings and bidding, made a substitute motion to table the matter until the January meeting after Councilman Jim Guyton offered a motion to sell the lakes to Sea Island Corp. for \$630,000.

Councilmen Bob Hayes, Howard Shipp and Clavon Kelly voted with DeVane; with Guyton, Gene White and Dean Spears opposing.

"To me this is a waste of city assets," said DeVane, who at previous meetings has said he would rather the city retain the property for scenic and recreational purposes.

Citizens Mike Smith and Bobby Maner appeared before the Council. Smith challenged the board to retain the property for the same uses

DeVane suggested, and Maner said the Council should at least table the matter until it determines the intent of Sea Island Corp.

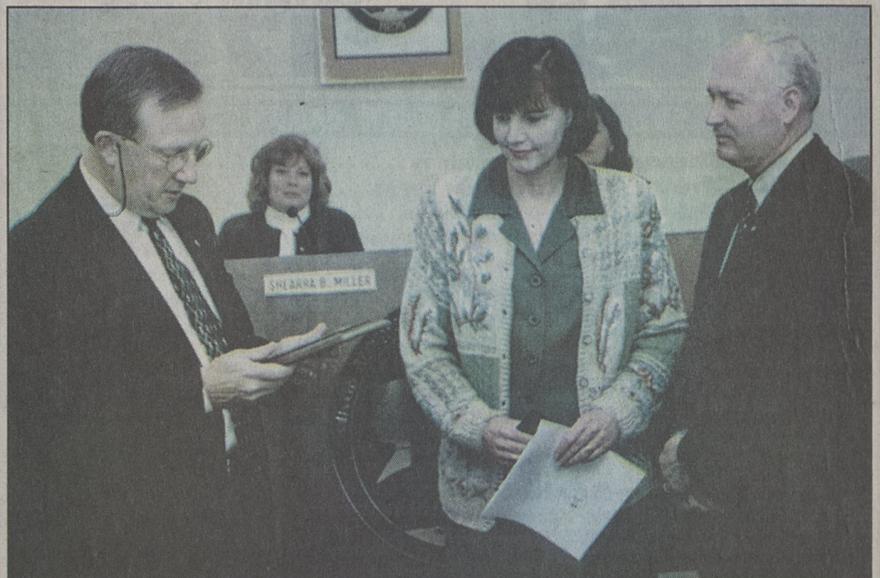
"Sea Island in November purchased a large tract of land on York Road owned by the Mauney family," Maner told Council, "and the same day they took possession they decided it over to another group. I ask you out of respect to property owners in the area to table this and find out the intentions of the potential owners."

Maner said adjoining property owners are concerned if they will have access to the lake for fishing, walking and other purposes if it changes hands; and how it would affect their property value.

"This is city property," he said. "I don't think a delay of six weeks is too much to ask. We don't want to get saddled with something we eventually won't be too proud of."

Smith suggested that the purchase offer is too low, because the area is one of the top scenic views in the state. "The scenic area of Kings Mountain is one of our greatest assets," he said. "I would like to see it developed by the city for

See Lakes, 3A



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD
Superintendent of Schools Bob McRae, left, presents a plaque of appreciation to Ronnie Hawkins, right, for his 11 years of service to the Board at Monday night's meeting at Central School. Looking on is Hawkins' wife, Libby. Hawkins resigned from the Board after being elected to the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners.



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