

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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Allen named superintendent

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

Dr. Larry Allen has been chosen to replace Dr. Bob McRae as superintendent of Kings Mountain District Schools. The announcement came at a special meeting Wednesday morning. McRae will be leaving Kings Mountain in April to take over the schools in Randolph County.

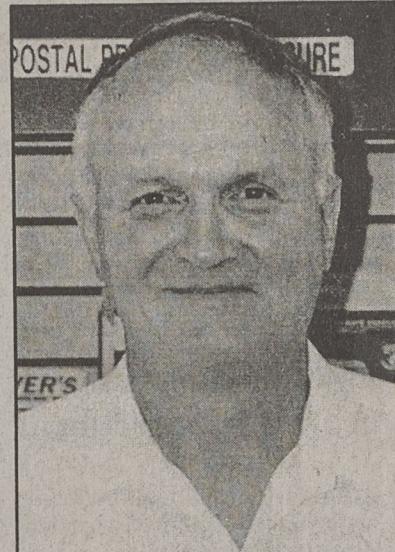
A long-time resident of Kings Mountain, Allen is a native of Shelby. He currently serves as chairman of the Kings Mountain school board. He

graduated from Shelby High School in 1960 and holds degrees from Appalachian State University.

Allen's career as an industrial arts and drafting teacher began in Greensboro in 1964. From 1965-1968 he taught at Shelby High School. He came to Kings Mountain and taught from 1968-1974. The years 1974 through 1978 saw Allen serve as principal of Central School.

In 1979 he took over as assistant superintendent of Kings Mountain Schools, a job he held until 1985 when he became as-

See Allen, 3A



Dr. Larry Allen, chairman of the Kings Mountain Board of Education, is coming out of retirement to become Superintendent of Schools.

■ SWINGING INTO SPRING



Spring-like temperatures saw East Elementary students (from left) Katelynn Daniel, Kurtis Martin, Leticia Michelle and

Sale of KM lakes tabled 'indefinitely'

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

City Council Tuesday night voted 4-3 to "table indefinitely" the sale of the old City and Davidson lakes and to refund earnest money to Sea Island Land Co., which had recently bid \$630,000 for the two pieces of property.

A standing-room-only crowd that spilled all the way out of Council Chambers into the lobby of City Hall, reacted to the vote with a thunderous ap-

plause. Councilmen Carl DeVane, who made the motion, Bob Hayes, Howard Shipp and Clavon Kelly voted to table the matter. Gene White, Jim Guyton and Dean Spears opposed.

During the citizens comments section earlier in the meeting, a number of representatives of the recently-organized Friends of the Lakes urged Council to retain and maintain the lakes for recreational purposes. They also presented a petition containing approximately 500 names of persons opposed to

the sale. Prior to the vote, several of the Councilmen stated their position. The three opposing the motion to table noted that the sale of the lakes has been discussed for years and said only recently did anyone state any opposition to it.

"Why have we been hassling with this for years - and very intensely during the past year - and nobody does anything and all of a sudden people come

See Lakes, 3A

Game rooms' permit denied, owners seek injunction

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

After a marathon meeting that began January 9 and was recessed to reconvene on two subsequent occasions, the Kings Mountain Board of Adjustments Monday night unanimously denied all nine conditional use permit requests from local video arcade owners Mike Heath and Don Johnson that would have allowed them to continue to operate their businesses past the state- and local-mandated January 31 deadline for compliance with zoning ordinances.

Immediately following the decision, Heath and Johnson said they would seek a restraining order to keep the city from enforcing the deadline while the lawsuit they recently filed against the city is running its course in the judicial system.

Although the Board reiterated on several occasions that it is not a "law-making body" and does not have the power to amend zoning ordinances, it would be hard to convince the game room owners that the city's non-conforming zoning policy is being enforced on a fair and equal basis.

"They basically denied our permits because we're not zoned right," said Johnson, who owns or leases seven of the nine businesses that applied for CU permits.

See Poker, 8A

3 boards to meet on merger

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, and Shelby City school boards will all meet February 7 to look for a solution to the merger question. The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at the Kings Mountain District Schools administrative building at 105 Ridge Street.

One of the topics expected to be discussed at the open meeting will likely be redrawing of school district lines to more evenly distribute students throughout the county. One of the guests will be Michael Crowell, the attorney who represents Cleveland County Schools. Some people have been concerned that redrawing the school lines will result in a flood of lawsuits.

See Merger, 3A

Red Cross looking for home in downtown KM

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

Old movie theaters seem to be hot items in Kings Mountain lately. Besides the possibility of the former Joy Theater becoming a performing arts center, there's a chance that the Dixie Theater could become a new location for the Cleveland County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Red Cross executive director Rick Dancy says his group is currently looking for a Kings Mountain site. The Dixie is located on Railroad Avenue not far from the Joy. Besides the Dixie, Dancy said the former SageSport building on West Mountain Street is under consideration.

"We haven't decided on a location yet, but we want the Red Cross to be involved in down-

town revitalization in Kings Mountain," Dancy said.

Uses for the Kings Mountain branch of the Red Cross will include safety and CPR classes, storage for emergency supplies, and a place where the bloodmobile could visit.

The Kings Mountain site would likely not be staffed full-time, but would have staff on duty as needed.

"We are really looking for a

big, open room type space," said Dancy. "We are not close to choosing a site, but we're looking."

The Red Cross also wants a new building in Shelby. That project will need \$1 million raised to see it through. The project is currently in the planning stage. The chapter is in the middle of a three-part feasibility study to determine land and building costs. According to

Dancy, two potential sites have been identified.

To help with the financial aspect of the project, Dancy has been given the authorization to hire Research Development Corp. fund raiser Carl Elliot. He is also involved in raising money for the Performing Arts Center. Other projects Elliot has had a hand in include the Harris Children's Wing of Mauney Memorial Library

City may have to redraw voting lines and postpone 2001 election

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

City Council Tuesday night set a public hearing for February 27 at 7 p.m. to consider postponing the November 2001 municipal election.

City Attorney Mickey Corry told Council that re-districting of city wards will probably be necessary because of an increase in population due to recent annexation and the U.S. census.

"State law says you must look at the ward lines to see if they need to be redrawn," Corry said.

Corry said State law requires re-districting be completed at least three days prior to the July 6 filing date for City Council. It must also be pre-cleared by the U.S. Justice Department.

Corry said it will probably be March or April before census figures are received, "and typically you anticipate 60 to 120 days for clearance by the Justice Department." He said if all of that can be accomplished by July 3 the election could go on as scheduled in November; if not, it would have to be delayed.

See Election, 8A

Council pledges \$50,000 to Little Theatre project

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

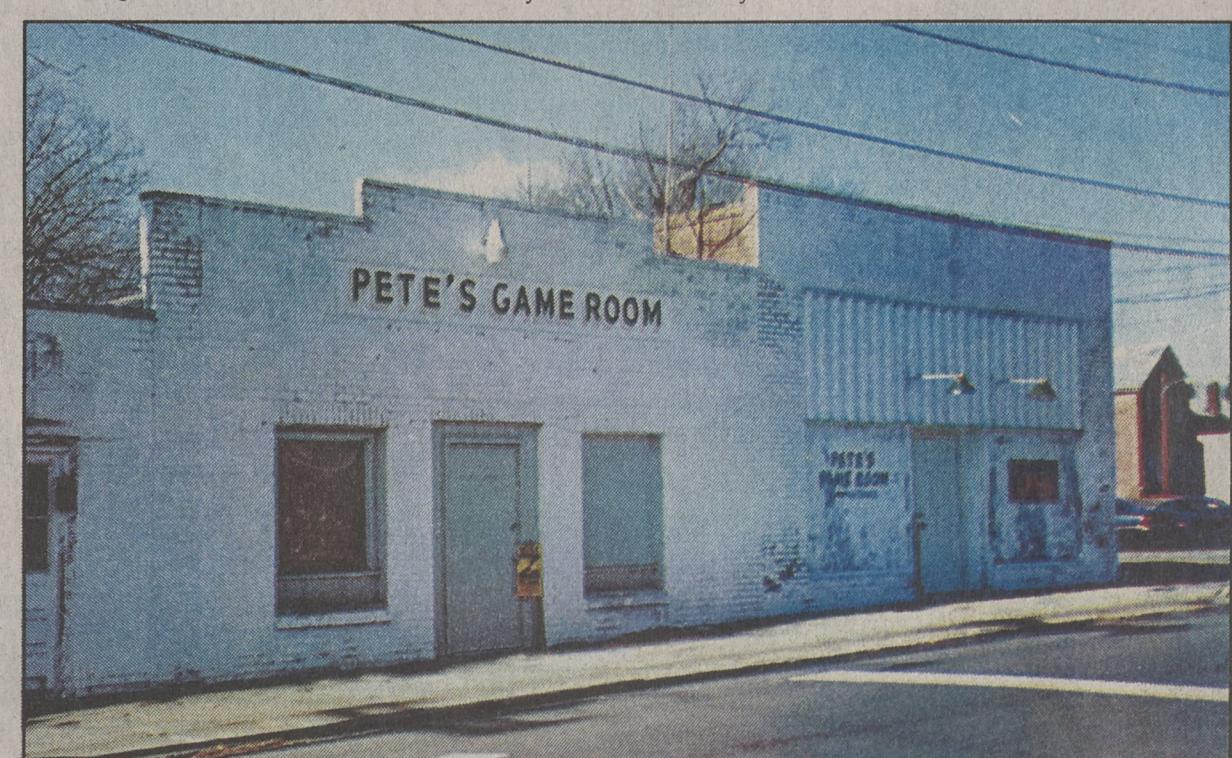
City Council Tuesday night pledged \$50,000 over a three-year period to the Kings Mountain Little Theatre's \$300,000 fund-raising project which would turn the old Joy Theater into a Performing Arts Center.

Jim Champion, Team Leader for the fund-raising effort, told Council its donation would go a long way in putting the effort "over the top."

Champion said the group has already raised over \$175,000.

Councilman Gene White said he supported the Little Theatre but that the city has committed a lot of money to other projects over the next several years, and suggested that the city offer \$25,000 over a three-year period. His proposal failed on a vote of 5-2, with Clavon Kelly siding with White.

See Theatre, 3A



Pete's Game Rooms 1 and 2 on North Piedmont Avenue are two of the nine video gaming establishments that were denied conditional use permits by the Kings Mountain Board of Adjustments Monday night. The business owners intend to seek a restraining order to keep the city from shutting them down.



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