

The Herald

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Senior citizens learn to operate computers at KM Patrick Center

By ELIZABETH STEWART
 Republic Newspapers

One of the most popular places in town is the Lawrence H. Patrick Senior Center and Conference Center where 60 senior citizens are learning computers.

Carole George, a part time employee of the City of Kings Mountain, started offering the program on September 24 and it wasn't but a day or two until 60 residents had signed up for the 12 week course which ends December 12.

"We have a waiting list for the January class," said George, who teaches small groups of five students at a time in the library of the new facility. The fee is one dollar and those who can't pay a buck are not turned away. Thirty minute classes are on Tuesday and Thursday.

George conducted a survey followed by an orientation in which she found that beginner, basic and intermediate courses were needed. Those in the basic class have typed "a little" and they learn how to move the mouse on the computer, use the keyboard and learn unfamiliar terms. Those in beginners See Computers, 3A



ELIZABETH STEWART / HERALD
NEW COMPUTER CLASS - A computer class is a popular place for senior citizens at the Patrick Center. From left to right, Hazelene Abernathy, Helen Alexander, Lynn Sutton and John George.

TAX MAN COMETH MONDAY

Additional 1/2-cent sales tax vote along party lines

By ELIZABETH STEWART
 Republic Newspapers

Three of the five county commissioners favor a half cent sales tax increase which could be implemented by December 1.

The item was not on the agenda for Tuesday's night's commission meeting but all five commissioners said the state requires 30 days notification and it's likely the action could come Monday at a noon meeting in the commission chamber at the county administrative offices.

Chairman Willie McIntosh recessed Tuesday's meeting until Monday when he said he will ask for discussion on the half cent sales tax increase. Monday's meeting will also include a public hearing on a Community Block Development grant application to be submitted by the county for a raw water line to the Broad River. David Odum of the engineering firm of Odum and Associates, will make a presentation.

McIntosh of Lawndale and members Mary Accor and Tommy Bridges of Kings Mountain said earlier this week they favor the half cent sales tax increase because everyone spending a dollar in the county, whether they reside here or not, would be contributing to the tax base.

"It's either a half cent sales tax where everybody will be contributing to the tax base or raise property taxes and put the burden on property owners or cut services almost \$3 million dollars," said McIntosh. He said the half cent tax is the more fair way to do it.

Accor said the bottom line is "we must find revenue or

"We should be fighting for our reimbursables from the General Assembly and not looking for a half-cent sales tax."

Ronnie Hawkins
 County Commissioner

cut" and she said she doesn't want to pick and choose who will pay taxes. "People are suffering already and by no way or means am I in favor of a property tax increase," said Accor.

Bridges acknowledged the 3-2 vote would be along party lines but said no commissioner favors a raise in property tax. He said commissioners don't want to wait to vote on the sales tax increase because that could be viewed as political since two commissioners are up for reelection November 5. "The half cent tax isn't on food and everyone will be contributing to the tax base," he said.

"I have never voted for a tax increase," said commissioner Jerry Self. "The state legislature put us in a difficult position and cities are tied to what the county does." Self said he would like answers to some detailed questions but he is conservative and does not See Tax, 3A

Schools, students recognized by Board

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain schools and students were recognized for their outstanding achievement in the State's ABC program and end of grade and end of course testing at Monday night's School Board meeting at Central School.

Most Kings Mountain schools showed improvement in last year's ABC testing and two of the schools - East and West Elementary - continued their tradition as schools of excellence.

Supt. Larry Allen presented all schools with framed certificates and banners to mark their success.

The banners, which have been used since the inception of the ABC program, "are a little worn," according to Dr. Allen, "but that's a result of putting them up and taking them down."

"All of our schools have done well since the program started," he said.

"We look forward to the day that all schools make their goal."

The local schools received the following State awards:

Grover - Achieved Expected Growth and was named School of Distinction.

KMHS - School of Growth and School of Progress.

Davidson - Expected Growth.

East - High Growth and School of Excellence.

West - High Growth and School of Excellence.

Bethware - High Growth and School of Distinction.

North - High Growth and School of Distinction.

In addition, for the first time ever, the School Board recognized the students from each school that achieved the highest marks in their school on particular end-of-course or end-of-grade tests. They included:

End of Grade year 2001-02 - Anna

Cole, Megan Loftin, Samantha Rikard, Bryan Goodwin, Taylor Rippy, Jennifer Cole, Brenton Reid, Joshua Slycord, Laura Weigle, Stephanie Smith, Christopher Starr, Casey Batchler, Sarah Smith, Lindsay Batchler, Jessica Yarbrow, Trey Robinson, Claire Richards.

End of Course - Clay Costner, Lauren Horne, Jamie Ellis, Chris Wright, Thomas Reid (awards in Geometry and ELPS), Megan Wright, Matthew Presslar, Sharon Lamberton, Mary Grace Keller, Bryan Davison, Virginia Neisler, and Michael Mendoza.

In other action Monday, the Board:

■ Received a resolution from the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce commending all three county school systems for the progress shown in closing the achievement gap.

■ Heard concern from a parent about a situation that happened to his daughter at Kings Mountain

See Schools, 3A

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

Bill Ware always had the firefighting bug

By ELIZABETH STEWART
 Republic Newspapers

Every little boy likes to ride a fire truck and William B. "Bill" Ware was no exception.

His role model was his great-uncle, Miles Rhyne, Bessemer City fireman, who used to take young Bill in a ride on the truck while Rhyne charged the battery.

"I guess I got the firefighting bug even then," says the veteran of 24 years as a full-time firefighter on the Kings Mountain Fire Department.

After high school graduation, Bill started volunteering at the local fire department in December 1963 while taking a business course at Evans Business College and working for a local grocer. But a letter

from Uncle Sam interrupted his work and his love for firefighting was put on hold. He served in the United States Air Force at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro four years with some temporary overseas duty, came out of service and went to school at Piedmont Air Space Institute in Winston-Salem and started fixing airplanes, working for LTV in Greenville, SC in the aircraft maintenance department for



BILL WARE

draftsman, commuting from Kings Mountain to work in Charlotte. He took a job at Buckeye Fire Extinguishers in Kings Mountain and worked

two years.

"I always liked to fiddle in maintenance on the side and for several years worked full time fixing small aircraft," he laughed.

But Bill got out of aviation and into engineering sales after he took drafting classes at Gaston College and began working for Engineering Sales in Charlotte as a

for 1 1/2 years while volunteering in the fire department. An opening for a full time position came in the Fire Department and he jumped at the opportunity.

Ware drives the fire truck to fire calls and with the addition of the new Fire Station No. 2 rotates along with other firemen every 28 days to man that station.

He recalled that the first big fire he helped put out was at the old BVD, now Anvil Knit plant, on Linwood Road. Fire had erupted in the cotton storage area and bales and bales of cotton were destroyed in the blaze and damaged by water. It was also raining that night and with the sprinkler system going off and the rain the cot See Ware, 3A

Grant should help find jobs for unemployed

By ELIZABETH STEWART
 Republic Newspapers

County commissioners Tuesday night gave the green light to a \$63,000 Community Development Block grant which also includes a federal match of \$240,000 aimed at finding new opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed workers.

Rob Youngblood, Chamber President, said the \$63,000 will be used to hire consultants who, through the process will be challenged to provide new direction for the economy of Cleveland County.

There is no cost to the county. Youngblood said the grant is a joint regional economic development approach and will include a plan for Cleveland County and a plan for Gaston County.

Youngblood said the county will be participating in the Comprehensive Economic Development See Jobs, 5A



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