

ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD

Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey delivers the oath of office to Kings Mountain District Schools board member Shearra Miller. Miller's husband Tim and daughter Kathlene accompanied her.

KM 47% proficient on state writing test

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain students scored an average of 47 percent proficient on state writing tests administered last year, however, officials say scores are low region wide.

"We're not happy with where we are. We are no worse off than other people," Assistant Superintendent John Goforth told the Kings Mountain District School's board during their Monday night meeting.

KMDS fourth graders scored 46 percent proficient; seventh graders 52 percent, and sophomores, 44 percent.

Goforth told the board that the state has not offered adequate teacher training in how to prepare students for the test.

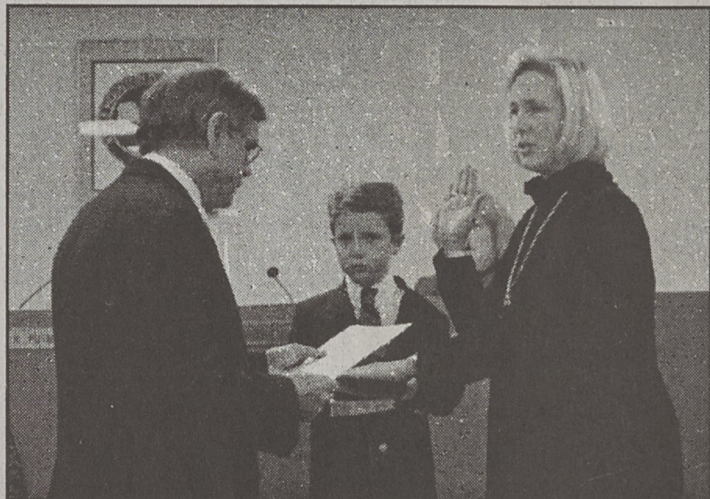
The test was a pilot; therefore schools are not held accountable for results. Prior to that test, state officials suspended the test for two years to revise it.

KMDS is now working with Cleveland County and Shelby City schools on teacher instruction, Goforth said.

In all other state testing, Kings Mountain District Schools has an excellent track record with students scoring at or above state expectations.

In other business, board members renewed Superintendent Dr. Larry Allen's contract from June 2004 to June 2005. He will not receive a raise.

Cleveland County Head Start, which is based out of KMDS, received positive preliminary results to a fed-



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Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey delivers the oath of office to Kings Mountain District Schools board member Stella Putnam. Her nephew Joe Lawrence held the Bible for Putnam's swearing in.

eral audit. Official results are expected next month. "I'm sure things will go well with their evaluation," said board member Mike Smith.

Board members watched a video on the program that auditors had seen earlier. The video was produced by local broadcaster Donna Huie-Brooks.

Board members approved three new accountability goals for Davidson School. Teachers will incorporate character education traits into the lesson plan twice weekly. Teachers will make contact with 85 percent of students' parents. Officials opted not to set the goal at 100 percent because some students are only at the end of the academic year. All students who score level two or below on end of grade or course testing will receive a personal education plan.

Teachers Amy Hord, Julie Turner, Kay Lee, Kami Champion, Susan Allen and Lori Evatt were honored for achieving National Teacher Certification. The teachers each received \$500.

Board members unanimously re-elected Shearra Miller as chairperson and Stella Putnam and vice-chairperson.

Miller's husband Tim and daughter Kathlene stood with her for the swearing in ceremony. Putnam's nephew Joe Lawrence accompanied her.

Students McKenzie Bolin, Trevor Zaffke, Brittany King and Tyler Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

Rev. Clinton Feemster of Mt. Zion Baptist Church gave the invocation.

Board members approved hiring as substitute teachers Devonya Adams, Kim Franks, Faye Harry, Debbie Heston, Bonnie Logeman, Albert Perkins, Wendy Regans, Tara Absher, Elaine Stewart and Natasha Yarbro.

In a closed session, board members met with parent Janie Robbs to discuss a personnel issue. No information was given about the meeting though Robbs has previously spoken publicly about the high school cheerleading program.

OBITUARIES

SHIRLEY STAGGS

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Memorial service for Shirley Staggs of Myrtle Beach, SC, will be held Saturday at 2 p.m. Saturday at El Bethel United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Staggs is survived by her husband, Bill Staggs of Myrtle Beach, SC; son Kenny Staggs of Florida; daughter Debbie Mathis of Raleigh; three grandchildren; mother Mallie Parker of Kings Mountain; brother Jimmy Robbs of Charlotte; and step-brothers David Parker of Kings Mountain and Johnny Parker of Charlotte. She was preceded in death by her brother Bill Robbs, and sister Elizabeth Mullinax.

Barnette Funeral Home. Burial was in Sunset Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to American Cancer Society, 500 E. Morehead St., Suite 211, Charlotte, NC 28202.

Clay-Barnette Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

RONNIE W. LEDFORD

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Ronnie W. Ledford, 67, 607 Mica Street, died December 4, 2003 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late Paul W. and Lessie Stone Ledford and was husband of the late Betty Jo Huss Ledford. He was also preceded in death by sisters Ellen G. Wright and Nancy G. Walker, and brother-in-law Ray Cooke.

He was a member of Temple Baptist Church. He was retired from the North Carolina Department of Transportation and also served in the United States Navy.

He is survived by his sisters, Mrs. Pattie L. Whetstone and husband David of Kings Mountain, and Mrs. Brenda L. Cooke of Kings Mountain.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Robert Haynes at 3 p.m. Sunday at Temple Baptist Church. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

BENA GREGORY

GASTONIA - Bena Bolin Gregory, 80, 521 Wellons Drive, Apt. B, died December 2, 2003 at her home.

A native of Cherokee County, SC, she was the daughter of the late Jesse David and Corrie Ruth Dixon Bolin. She was also preceded in death by sisters Lorene Richardson and Gerlene Humphries, and brother Dwyer Bolin.

She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her husband, Ross Gregory Jr. of Gastonia; son Rev. Rocky Lane Gregory and wife Frances of Loris, SC; daughters Linda Catherine Black and husband Spencer of Charlotte, Susan Elaine Sikes of Mt. Holly, and Clara Bolin of Gaffney, SC; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Hazel Boyd at 2 p.m. Friday at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

FREDERICK FINGER JR.

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Frederick Eli Finger Jr., 85, died December 3, 2003 at Heritage Hills in Wadesboro.

A native of Lincoln County, he was the son of the late Frederick Eli and Belle Miller Finger.

He was a member of St. Matthews Lutheran Church and was a veteran of the United States Army, having served during World War II and the Korean Conflict.

He is survived by his wife, Faye Pope Finger; son and daughter-in-law Rick and Tara Finger of Cornelius; daughters and sons-in-law Lynn and Robert Horton of Wadesboro, Joan and John Settlemeyer of Huntersville; grandchildren, Frederick Eli Finger IV of New York, NY, Alan Randolph Finger of Raleigh, Kathryn Marie Finger and James Cotesworth Finger, both of Charlotte, Hunter Hutcheson Finger of Cornelius, Michael Seth Horton and Courtney Fay Horton, both of Raleigh, Robert Evan Horton of Wadesboro, Anna Carolina Settlemeyer and Luke Eli Baxter Settlemeyer, both of Huntersville; brothers and sisters-in-law Carl Preston Finger and Daniel Miller and Dot Finger, all of Kings Mountain; and sister Sarah Finger Warren of Lynchburg, VA.

A memorial service was conducted by Rev. Bill Jeffcoat at 11 a.m. Thursday at St. Matthews Lutheran Church. Interment was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to St. Matthews Lutheran Church, North Piedmont Avenue, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 or to Barium Springs Home for Children, P.O. Box 1, Barium Springs, NC 28010.

Leavitt Funeral Home of Wadesboro was in charge of arrangements.

LOIS BEATTIE

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Lois Beattie, 87, of White Oak Manor, died December 7, 2003 at White Oak Manor.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Leo and Mae Patterson Beattie. She was a member of Boyce Memorial ARP Church, where she was a member of the Church Circle.

She is survived by a number of cousins.

A graveside service was conducted by the Rev. Doug Petersen at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Patterson Grove Baptist Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to White Oak Manor, 716 Sipes Street, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

PEGGY SUE DAWSON

LAWNDALE - Peggy Sue Dawson, 70, 433 Vic Randall Road, died December 5, 2003 at Carolina Care of Cherryville.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Dee Sisk and Lula Bridges Sisk. She was also preceded in death by her daughter Mary Ann Dawson, and sister Betty Lou Hanes.

She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her husband, Darrell Dawson of the home; son and daughter-in-law, Marty and Debbie Dawson of Kings Mountain; daughters and sons-in-law, Rhonda and Kenneth Hewitt of Boiling Springs, Amy and James Harris of Cliffside, and Darla and Gary Patterson of Shelby; half sister Judy Failen of South Carolina; half brother Dale Sisk of Shelby; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Ron Hawkins at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Clay-

KM WEATHER REPORT

(Compiled by Kenneth Kitzmiller)

	Dec. 3-9	Year Ago
Total precipitation	.59	2.10
Maximum 1 day	.59 (4th)	2.10 (4th)
Month to date	.59	2.10
Year to date	82.25	38.28
Low temperature	27 (6th, 7th)	28 (6th, 7th)
High temperature	54 (8th)	58 (3rd)
Avg. temperature	36.4	35.6

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Kings Mountain, NC 28086

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For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8

You Are Cordially Invited to Attend Our Holiday Parade of Trees

Trees are sponsored by Local Kings Mountain Businesses Monday-Friday December 15-19 5:00-7:00pm Public Invited

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- KM District School Kids Etc. Program
- Emerald Care Home Health
- KM Women's Club
- KM Herald Newspaper
- Cleveland Home Health
- Edward Jones Investments
- KM YMCA
- Total Care Home Health

SUMMIT PLACE

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Historic Home Christmas Tour



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formerly The Charles E. Neisler Home of Kings Mountain

Celebrate the Holidays

Enjoy an enchanting tour of this 1882 Historic Home - Over 16 rooms beautifully displaying lights, trees and greenery. Tours are Thursday, Friday and Saturdays 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Starting November 28th through December 20th
Cost - Adults - \$7.00 • Children 6 and under - \$4.00
Bring non perishable can goods for the Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry and receive \$2.00 off admission.

Call for more information 704-739-8008
Private tours available • group discounts / call ahead

Merry Christmas

located at

510 N. Piedmont Avenue
Kings Mountain, NC
74 Bypass Exit 216

across from First Wesleyan Church



The White House

Parking in Back