

LOCAL

FORUM

From 1A

Opportunities for Workers program which encourages small businesses. Dalton introduced a bill which would allow high school students to graduate quicker and then train for technical jobs.

His opponent Jim Testa said he opposes tax hikes. He pointed to his 33-year history as a businessman creating jobs. He supports funding community colleges.

When asked whether they wanted minority votes and what they would do for minorities, Moore garnered applause when he flashed his NAACP membership card. Hamrick said she would encourage African-Americans to run for office.

Testa said he cared "about poor people more than I do wealthy." Dalton referred to his record of working with minority legislators and his work on Closing the Achievement Gap.

County Commission Chairwoman Mary Accor, a Democrat, said she would continue to listen, encourage hiring minority employees and appointing minorities to boards and would work to equalize economic development across the county.

Republican commission candidate Will Troutman said having a blind sister taught him empathy. Republican commission candidate Johnny Hutchins said he had visited Kingstown. If elected, he plans to meet with leaders and groups in minority communities.

Candidates were asked if the government would charge fees on video poker, what would they do with the money.

Hutchins said he would spend it on law enforcement and to cut the county budget.

Democrat commission incumbent Tom Bridges said he would like to stop video poker. If fines were levied, he would use those to relieve the tax burden.

Accor said she would use

the money to help non-profits, law enforcement and the schools.

Troutman said he wanted to get rid of video poker.

Moore said he had tried to ban video poker. He would use the hypothetical fines to pay for law enforcement, gambling addiction programs and DSS programs.

Hamrick said she opposed video poker and would use the funds for law enforcement and education.

Dalton said he was opposed to it, calling video poker "addictive." He would use the funds for law enforcement, mental health and fiscal education for young people.

Testa said "we need to get rid of all the video poker machines in the state." He wanted to use the money to create a regulatory task force.

Commission candidates were asked what they would want state candidates to do about improving minority access to healthcare and the large number of obstetricians leaving the profession due to high malpractice insurance.

Bridges would consult with doctors and hospitals for solutions. Troutman would demand tort reform.

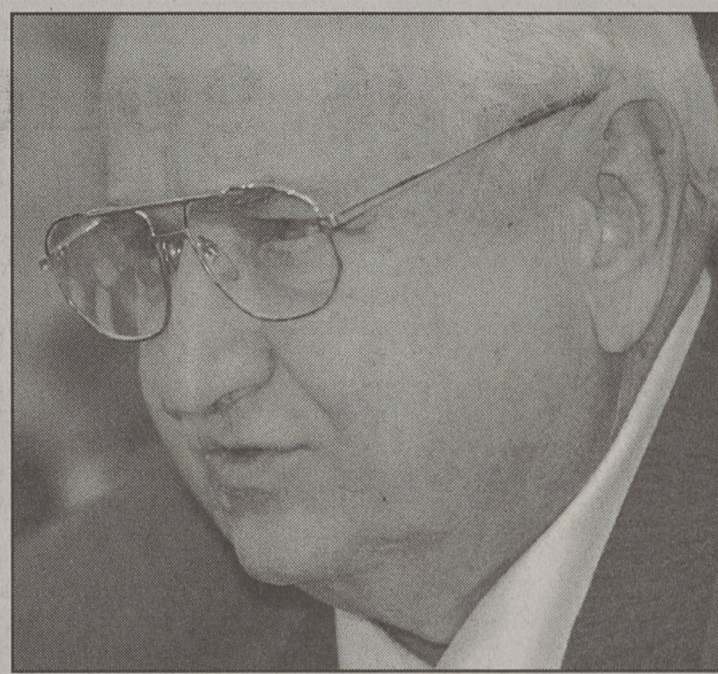
Hendrick said he had switched from regular insurance to catastrophic due to high premiums.

Dalton said he had sponsored a bill which would have required patients and doctors to go to mediation before filing suits. He was also open to a "reasonable cap."

Testa favors a cap. He pointed to Democrat vice-presidential candidate John Edwards as an example of a trial lawyer earning 50 percent or more from settlements.

Moore is backing a sliding fee cap similar to worker's compensation. He would require plaintiffs to disclose to the judge collateral funds so they could not double recover on suits. He co-sponsored a bill limiting litigation fees and favors limiting the use of expert witnesses.

Hamrick would have doctors, hospitals, insurers, employees and employers all come together to work on the problem. She also supports bipartisan efforts. Through her position as a



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD
Kings Mountain businessman Jim Testa, candidate for the NC State Senate, answers questions during Sunday's forum.

North Carolina Baptist Hospital trustee, Hamrick said she believed the majority of law suits were frivolous.

Shelby Police Chief Tandy Carter asked candidates if the city was the most dangerous or safest city in North Carolina.

Hamrick said she believed crime was getting worse but did not have statistics. She favored increasing law enforcement wages and more funding for departments.

Moore pointed to his support of bills which would allow law enforcement officers to retire after 25 years and make repeat misdemeanor offenders guilty of a felony.

Testa said he would toughen drug laws calling it the "biggest crime in every community." He said officers were "grossly underpaid."

Dalton said he had been twice voted legislator of the year by law enforcement officers. He was the primary sponsor of a bill which would toughen penalties for making methamphetamine. Dalton said he had worked to get money for the VIPER communications program for law enforcement and had supported legislation to free up money for more DNA testing.

Troutman said crime was bad in Shelby. He advocated tougher ordinances.

Hutchins supports toughening local courts. He said robbery and murder numbers were up.

Hendrick said family problems impacted the growing crime rate.

Bridges pledged to support law enforcement. He said the county had just purchased a computer which would analyze crime data.

Accor said crime had not kept the area from functioning. She talked about a weapons of mass destruction plan the county has in place.

An audience member asked Moore about his voting against a state budget which included important services. He defended this by saying the budget included tax hikes.

Kings Mountain resident Jane Martin questioned why Moore said he supported family values and had served on the Alcoholic Beverage Commission board. She also asked if he supported liquor-by-the-drink for Kings Mountain.

Moore said he opposed liquor-by-the-drink. He also said he had voted to restrict access to alcohol, supporting a bill which would keep stores that both cash checks and sell alcohol out of poorer neighborhoods.

Andie Brymer can be reached at abrymer@kingsmountain-herald.com or 704-739-7496.

DEATHS

MARIE M. SIMS BLACK
BESEMER CITY - Marie M. Sims Black, 66, 227 Horseshoe Circle, died Monday, September 27, 2004 at her residence.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Everette William "E.W." Sims.

She was a homemaker and attended Midview Baptist Church, Kings Mountain.

She is survived by her mother, Beatrice Medley Sims of Bessemer City; husband of 51 1/2 years, L.D. Black; son and daughter-in-law, Ronald E. and Vickie Ramsey Black of Bessemer City; daughters and sons-in-law, Linda Kay and Rickey McDaniel of Earl, and Lorri A. and Curtis Camp of Wilmington; sister and brother-in-law, Edith and Louis Black of Kings Mountain; grandchildren and spouses, Ricky Dale and LaBreska McDaniel of Earl, Melissa D. and Harry Webb II of Earl; grandchildren, Ronald E. Black II of Bessemer City, Amy C. Black of Boiling Springs, Frankie Lineberger and Billy Lineberger, both of Wilmington; four great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Bob Hope and Buddy Williams at 2 p.m. Thursday, September 30, 2004 at Midview Baptist Church, Kings Mountain. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery, Kings Mountain.

Memorials may be made to Midview Baptist Church, 703 Margrace Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

McLean Funeral Directors of Gastonia was in charge of arrangements.

DAN FINGER

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Daniel "Dan" Miller Finger, 82, 204 Edgemont Drive, died October 23, 2004 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

Born in Cleveland County, he was the son of the late Frederick E. and Belle Miller Finger, and was the husband of the late Dorothy "Dot" Hoke Finger. He was the retired owner-operator of Hoke Electric Company in Kings Mountain, a member of Saint Matthews Lutheran Church, and a WWII veteran.

He is survived by his son, J. Dan Finger and wife Tammy of Ashburn, VA; daughter Anne Finger Robertson and husband Robbie of Greensboro; sister Sarah Finger Warren of Lynchburg, VA; and three grandchildren, Suzanna Finger of Ashburn, VA, John Paul Finger and Hampton Finger and wife Jill, all of Austin, TX.

A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. Monday at Mountain Rest Cemetery, followed by a memorial service at 3 p.m. at Saint Matthews Lutheran Church. Rev. Bill Jeffcoat officiated.

Memorials may be made to Saint Matthews Lutheran Church, 201 North Piedmont Avenue, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Dallas Holm in Worship
Sunday, November 14, 2004
11:00 A.M.

Second Baptist Church
120 Linwood Road
Kings Mountain, NC 28086

A love offering will be received during the Service for the ministry of Dallas Holm.

For further information contact:
Second Baptist Church
(704) 739-4216

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Election Day
Breakfast & Bake Sale
November 2, 2004
Ham and Sausage Biscuits
Muffins, Cookies, Cakes, etc.
7:00 am until
El Bethel UMC Parsonage
122 El Bethel Rd., KM

MOVING
GARAGE SALE
Saturday, Oct. 30
605 Plantation Dr.
White Plains
Development
7AM - Until

Barbecue Fund Raiser
Fletcher's Barbecue Plates \$6
Friday, October 29th - 11am - until
at Harris Teeter Parking Lot in Kings Mountain
All proceeds go to the Carolina Fury Baseball Club to help with equipment & tournament fees. We deliver to businesses with 5 plates or more.
For deliveries call Teresa at 704-629-5067;
Tammy at 704-739-3846 or
Sharon at 704-739-5263. See ya there!

Moments & Memories DIAMOND SALE

 Emerald-Cut 3 Stone, Engagement Ring, 1 carat t.w. \$2,795	 Engagement Ring, 1 carat t.w., 3/8 carat center \$1,795	 Engagement Ring, 1/2 carat t.w., 1/4 carat center \$795
 Princess Cut 3 Stone, 1/2 carat t.w., \$795	 Bridal Set, 2/3 carat t.w., 1/3 carat center \$995	 Round 3 Stone, 1/2 carat t.w., \$695
1 carat t.w., \$1,995 1 carat t.w., \$1,695 1 1/2 carat t.w., \$3,495		

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UNION

From 1A

the people in power.

While today's laws prevent overt union-busting, employers still use scare tactics, according to Newton. One method is to hang a

map of Mexico in a break room during the time leading up to a union vote. The map is intended to deliver the message that if employees are forced to pay higher wages, they will close shop and move to Mexico, Newton said.

Ironically, today's compa-

nies are moving jobs to the global south seeking employees who will work for less than the \$5.15 an hour U.S. minimum wage. This mimics managers' industrial predecessors who brought union jobs to the southern U.S. a century ago seeking low wage workers, according to Newton.

Kick-Off for Harvest Festival at Galilee United Methodist
Kings Mountain, NC 28086 located on Galilee Church Road Off Hwy 161
Yard Sale - Bake Sale Hot Dog Sale - Art Sale
October 30, 2004
starting at 8:00 am

Lane Alexander retiring as county's manager

After 16 years as Cleveland County manager, Lane Alexander is retiring.

The public is invited to say good-bye to Alexander during a reception November 2 from 4 to 6

p.m. at the Charlie F. Harry Administration Building at 311 East Marion Street, Shelby.

Alexander started with the county in 1971 as assistant finance director. Current Finance Director David Dear will take over as county manager Dec. 1.

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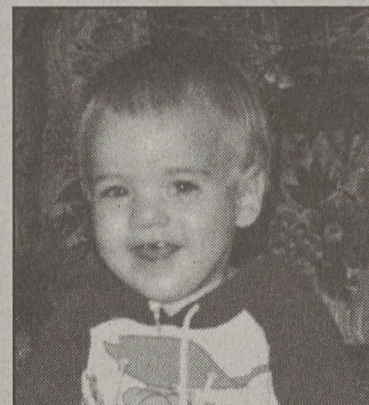
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Happy Birthday
Daniel Ruff



Happy 18th Birthday
Daniel Ruff
Love, Mom