

LOCAL NEWS

Candidates for school board speak at forum

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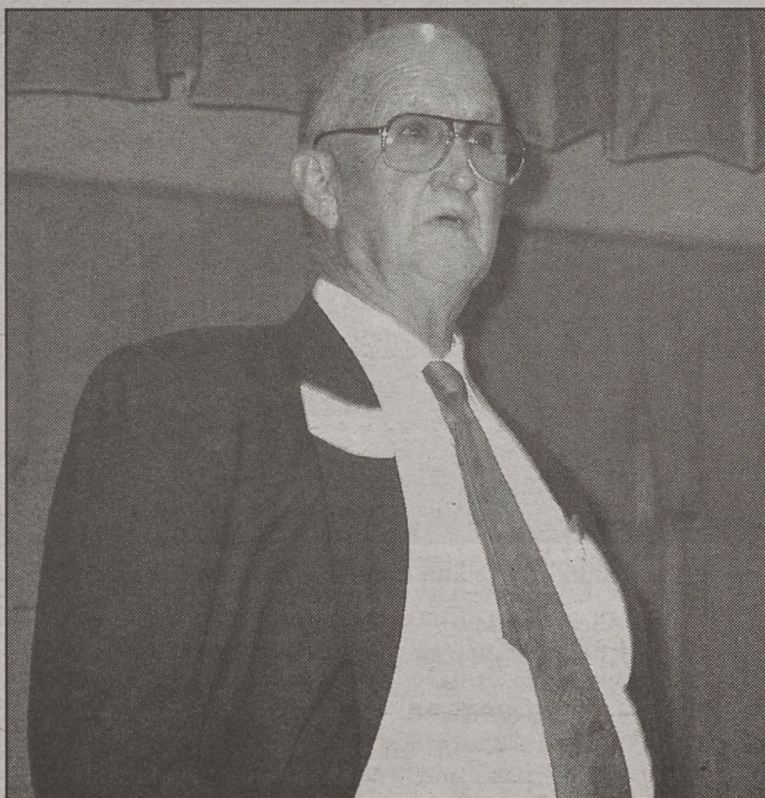
The Kings Mountain Woman's Club hosted a candidate forum for school board members Monday night at their clubhouse on Mountain Street.

Although the forum was held the same time as the Cleveland County Board of Education meeting, a few of the candidates, not currently on the board, were in attendance. Incumbent school board members Shearra Miller and Tommy Greene sent a letter in their absence, asking for the public's continued support. Ann Bennett, chairwoman of the club's Public Affairs division, read the letters to the crowd.

Burney Drake, of Shelby, is a retired educator. During his 33 years in education, he said, he taught all grade levels, coached for 23 years and was a high school and middle school administrator. Some of the issues he deems important are: making sure children are reading by the third grade, making sure teachers have adequate tools and resources, ensuring schools have a "well-rounded" curriculum with arts, languages and physical education; seeing local dollars put to use in the schools; smaller classrooms; and more consistent pay for the "backbone of the schools," the custodians and the secretaries. He said that he can bring hard work and a sense of urgency to the board.

"I'd like to see the consolidation of services. The largest business in Cleveland County is the schools and we're working out of five offices," he said. "I've always kept children first in my educational journey and I'll continue to do so as a school board member."

Connie Phifer Savell, native of Kings Mountain, taught for 31 years at North Elementary School. She is currently retired, but maintains the title of a national board certified teacher. Savell has served on various committees for the school system throughout her career, including the Kings Mountain Association of Educators, the Erskine College Board of Trustees, and the NC Association of Educators board of directors, representing Cleveland, Gaston and Catawba counties and Hickory. "I'm running for the Cleveland County school board because of my passion for education," she said. "My teaching experience and



Kings Mountain residents Bob Scoggins, left, and Connie Phifer Savell participated in Monday's School Board candidate forum at the Woman's Club.

various other roles within the educational profession enhanced the expertise that I will provide as a member of the Cleveland County board, if elected...I would like to represent you to provide a voice for the children of Cleveland County."

Bob Scoggins, of Kings

Mountain, taught in Gaston County for several years and at Shelby High School for 15 years before retiring. "I'm more interested in the amount of money spent outside of what goes into the classroom than anything else," he said. "I'd like to have a full accounting of quite a few

things that go on up there in the central office. I'm interested in a full accounting of all of the work that is done with visiting, traveling...We've always got people going to conferences. A couple of years ago, I know we had several top administrators went to a trade show in Bolder, Co. I want

to see a full accounting of that and especially of the outside consultants that are brought in."

Currently, there are 10 candidates in the running for six available school board seats. Contact information for the candidates can be found on Cleveland County's Board of Election's

Attention Farm Bureau Members Gaston County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

October 22, 2007 • 6:00 pm at the Rankin Lake Club House

Guest Speaker:
Janice Noffsinger
Director of Organizations
NC Farm Bureau

Meal: Barbeque
\$5 Adults \$2.50 Children under 12
Election of Officers and Directors for 2008
Door Prizes: Gift Cards • Fall Decorations

RSVP to 704.922.5237 by October 15, 2007

Directions: N. 321 - Turn at red light by Western Sizzlin
(Go straight: you come to a stop sign - go straight across and it runs into the parking lot at the Rankin Lake Community Building)

