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# Kings Mountain Herald

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## Who will be our next superintendent?

### School board gets input on new leader search

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Don't spend a lot of money on an outside party to conduct the search. Hire someone who embraces diversity. Choose a relatively young candidate. Ensure that the person you hire is

someone who will focus solely on the job, not on outside interests. Don't pick a local.

The Cleveland County Board of Education got an earful Monday after opening the floor to members of the public as part of its quest to

choose a new superintendent.

"I think you should look at the top 10 districts in North Carolina – and maybe in the United States – and actively recruit those superintendents," said Robert Williams. "The status quo

has not worked."

Other members of the public echoed that sentiment, urging the members of the board to simply seek out the best talent – whether from the next county over or in another part of the country altogether – and aggressively recruit the administrator who will replace outgoing superintendent

Dr. Bruce Boyles, whose retirement is effective June 30.

For Yvette Grant, the most important trait of the school system's next leader is that they have a strong background in teaching. Grant's other major priorities were that the individual be a relatively younger person than those who have

won the job in the past, that the next superintendent be a woman and someone who has a "strong commitment to God, to humanity."

"Women bring different perspectives to the table," she said.

Most of the six who took to the podium at the monthly board of education meeting

See SCHOOLS, 7A

## Lovelace named KM Business Person of the Year

**ELIZABETH STEWART**  
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Brenda Neal Lovelace, Senior Vice-President at Bank of the Ozarks in Kings Mountain, is Kings Mountain's 2014 Business Person of the Year.

Mrs. Lovelace was honored by the Cleveland County Chamber with the prestigious award Tuesday night as a highlight of the 16th annual Chamber's Business Showcase at Kings Mountain City Hall.

"For many years Brenda Lovelace has contributed to our community well by serving on many different boards and committees while maintaining a very important job at the same time," said Shirley Brutko, manager of the Kings Mountain Office of the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce.

Lovelace, wife of Edward Lovelace of Kings Mountain, began her career in banking 47 years ago this August at Kings Mountain



Brenda Lovelace

Savings & Loan Association as a teller. She continued in the same location with First Carolina Savings, then First National Bank, and presently with Bank of the Ozarks.

Daughter of the late Laura Holland Neal and Charles Eugene Neal Sr., she graduated from Bessemer City High School and attended Gaston College.

Brenda and Edward Lovelace have been married

See LOVELACE, 7A



## 'Godspell' now playing at the Joy

LAST SHOWS FRIDAY, SATURDAY - Trey Ross, Dori Medlin, Josh Carper, Cody Jones (as Jesus) and Loren Ware Radford, left to right, are among the 10 talented cast members in the Kings Mountain Little Theatre's presentation of the musical "Godspell" Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at Joy Theatre. The show is sponsored by Harris Funeral Home. Read all about it on page 3A.

## City approved for nearly \$34M for water infrastructure

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It's official. The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources has approved 33.8 million dollar loan to the City of Kings Mountain for water infrastructure.

Mayor Rick Murphrey received the official notice last week of the approval of the 20-year no interest loan from the state revolving fund. The Local Government Commission joined NCDENR in approving the funding.

These are the projects:  
 Water plant expansion and rehabilitation - \$12,483,330. Permit was issued March 26. The new expansion will permit the city to up its treatment capacity from 8 to 12 million gallons per day.

The new 36 inch water transmission line from Moss Lake to the city will cost \$16,162,670. Main plans have been approved and permit issued by NCDENR. All easements and right of ways have been secured for the installation. Construction contracts are expected to be awarded in April.

Water line rehabilitation project - \$5,243,500. The project, under budget by



A State Utility worker, Mayor Rick Murphrey and Water Resources Director Dennis Wells, left to right, are pictured on Business 74 as workmen install water lines, one of the major infrastructure projects to be funded by a \$33.8 million dollar loan the city has received from the state.

Photo by ELLIS NOELL

\$800,000, has enabled the city to add Ridge Street to the project from N. Battleground Avenue to Oriental Avenue. The bid has been awarded to State Utility Contractors and residents observe these workers in several areas of the city which brings up the question of "when is it to be finished and when do these orange traffic markers come down?" The mayor says that December is the estimated completion date. The rehab project also includes West Mountain to Gaston, Gold Street from Phifer Rd. to Battleground

Avenue, West King Street to Railroad Avenue and East King Street to Oriental Avenue.

"These old cast iron pipes have been in the ground 80-90 years," the mayor responds to residents asking about the new, blue PVC pipes that are visible along King Street and other sites.

The mayor said that November-December 2014 is the target date to complete the water line rehab project. The Ridge Street portion of the project is expected to be completed in early January 2015.

Clean-up of King and side streets at Mountain and Gold are underway this month, paving and sidewalks, as well as some repair work.

Dam spillway repairs at Moss Lake are not included in the projects to be covered by the \$33.8 million loan, the largest in the city's history. The mayor said that dam spillway costs will be paid with conventional funding.

By end of next year city officials promise residents will enjoy major water and sewer infrastructure improvements.

## KM man pleads guilty to child porn

A Kings Mountain man has pled guilty to two counts of child pornography and is awaiting sentencing in Mecklenburg County Jail.

Charles Kevin Bridges, 54, accepted a plea agreement Wednesday that dropped several other charges related to his case, which involved the possession of images of minor children participating in sex acts with other children and adults. He was arrested in February of last year.

Bridges pled guilty to receipt and possession of child pornography, felonies that require a federally mandated minimum sentence of five years. The prosecutor in the case, U.S. District Attorney

Anne M. Tompkins, however, has argued for a lengthier sentence of 12-15 years.

Bridges will be formally sentenced in 60 to 90 days, according to his attorney, H. Monroe Whitesides, Jr.

"He has no prior record, he's no danger to the community ... and he has a good family," Whitesides said. "These mitigating factors might allow a judge to give him the minimum (sentence)."

Prior to accepting a plea arrangement with federal prosecutors, Bridges has maintained his innocence in the case, saying that the illicit material that investigators discovered on his



Bridges

See BRIDGES, 6A



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