

It's Hot ...And Dry



IT'S HOT—Kings Mountain area residents have been hot and dry for the past several weeks, as pointed out by this 101-degree reading at Home Savings and Loan. Many old timers say they've seen it as hot and as dry, but never at the same time. Kings Mountain's last measurable rainfall came early in July and the long dry spell has resulted in major crop damage.

The Kings Mountain Board of Elections granted the Kings Mountain Citizens for Legal Control a recount of votes in last week's beer, wine and liquor referendum but the Thursday night recount did not change the outcome.

However, Wayne Russell, a registered voter, has lodged a protest of the election with Luther Bennett, Chairman of the City Elections Board, because the number of votes cast (2,850) in the ABC portion of the referendum were more than the number of voters (2,817) that the precinct registrars recorded as voting last Tuesday.

Bennett said the numbers don't have to equal out, since many of the persons who voted were not listed in the city registration books, but were registered in the county election books. Bennett said when persons came to vote last Tuesday and their names could not be found in the registration books, he called the Cleveland County Board of Elections to make sure they were registered. Those who were registered with the county were then allowed to vote.

Bennett is trying to find out from county and state election officials how to handle Russell's request.

BREAKDOWN

Due to a computer malfunction, some of the news articles for this week's Herald may have been lost. If you submitted news that is not in this week's paper, please call us at 739-7496 or bring the articles to us again at our office on Canterbury Road. We apologize for this inconvenience.

The recount last Thursday night at the Community Center resulted in only minor changes in each part of the election. The wet forces gained three votes in the wine and ABC portions and lost two votes in the beer count.

The official recounted results, with the first-counted totals in

parenthesis, included

*For the off-prem malt beverages, 1,382 (1,384).

*Against the off-premises sale of malt beverages, 1,414 (1,414).

*For the off-premises sale of unfortified wine, 1,358 (1,355).

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Ronnie Franks To Run For District 3 Seat

Ronald L. Franks has announced his candidacy for the Kings Mountain Board of Commissioners District Three seat.

A native of Kings Mountain, Franks graduated from Kings Mountain High School in 1967. He later graduated from Gaston College and Gardner-Webb College with a degree in business administration.

Franks is employed by First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Kings Mountain. He currently holds the title of vice president and treasurer. Active in civic affairs, he is past treasurer of the Jaycees, and has served as treasurer, secretary, vice president and president of the Kings Mountain Rotary Club.

"If elected, I will work to spend the taxpayers' money wisely," he said. "Problems are not always solved by spending more money. Our city is a business, owned by the citizens and operated with their tax dollars.

"The only promise I make is that if elected, I will represent all citizens in a responsible manner," he said. "I will never turn my back on the people and I will try to make our city government worth what you pay



RONNIE FRANKS

for it. A dollar spent should bring a dollar's worth of results.

"I will appreciate everyone's vote and support in the campaign," he added. "I urge everyone to vote on election day and be assured that a vote for Ronnie Franks will be appreciated and rewarded. I will not let you down."

Bob McRae Resigns

Bob McRae, principal at Kings Mountain High School for the past four years, resigned Thursday morning to accept an assistant superintendent's position with the Randolph County School System.

The Kings Mountain Board of Education accepted his resignation Thursday afternoon and began the search for a new principal. The board has scheduled a called meeting for Monday at 7 p.m. to discuss McRae's opening and several teacher positions which have come open at the high school and junior high because of recent resignations.

McRae will be in charge of instructional services for the middle grades at high schools at Randolph County. His resignation will become effective in early to mid-August, depending on when a replacement is found for him here.

"I feel this is an excellent



BOB McRAE

career opportunity," he said, "but I leave here with mixed feelings. During my four years here, everybody from the town and the school system have been

very kind and helpful to me. This has been an outstanding experience for me and I enjoyed Kings Mountain very much. I feel like I'm leaving a lot of good friends here. My biggest wish is that Kings Mountain High School will continue to grow and prosper, and I'm sure it will."

McRae, a native of Anson County, was principal at Piedmont High School in Union County before coming to Kings Mountain.

"This has been a successful four years," said Superintendent William Davis of McRae's term here. "We'll all miss him but wish him well in his new position at Randolph County."

In accepting McRae's resignation, the school board unanimously approved a resolution of appreciation for his four years of service.

The resignations of McRae and several teachers during the past few weeks have created a

shortage of personnel in a school system which just a few short months ago was having trouble renewing teachers' contracts because of a shortage of funds.

But Davis said he doesn't foresee any problems finding a replacement for McRae and the teachers.

"This is not that unusual for this time of the summer," Davis said. "Usually, we're pretty well wrapped up for another school year and all of a sudden have a rash of resignations. But we do have some key places that will be hard to fill."

In addition to McRae's position, Davis said it could be difficult to find teachers to fill two math and one social studies vacancies at the high school. The board is leaving those positions open at the moment, hoping to find qualified football coaches to fill them.

"Filling coaching positions is a challenge of its own," Davis said. "But we'll find ways to fill them."

Principals Must Live In District

Educators will have to live inside the bounds of the Kings Mountain School District to be promoted to administrative positions in the future.

The Board of Education adopted that new policy during a special meeting last Thursday.

Currently, only four of the 12 principals and assistant principals live inside the school district.

The new policy does not affect persons already holding administrative positions.

Board Adopts UR Policy

The City Board of Commissioners Monday night adopted a new policy which will put urban renewal property in the city up for sale to the highest bidder.

Mayor John Henry Moss, in recommending the action, said the city "has been very successful in returning urban renewal property back to the tax base", and the new method of sale will "create new business construction and urge the revitalization of the areas."

In the past, the city has sold UR property at the appraised market value. Under the new policy, the city holds the right to reject any and all offers.

Moss pointed out that seven

UR properties that have been sold by the city have created a tax base of \$1,755,000. Those properties include the Mills Construction housing project off Cansler Street, Western Auto, the Blazer Building, Phifer Hardware, Mickey Corry's attorney's office, Alexander Realty Duplex Apartments, and Dr. James Mason's office.

In addition to those buildings, the new Governmental Services Facilities Center is located on UR property.

In another matter Monday night, Moss and Commissioner Norman King reported that the State Department of Transportation had approved the city's re-

quest that the DOT resurface King Street from the east to west city limits at the completion of the Highway 74 bypass.

They said the DOT also agreed to widen Cleveland Avenue from the Community Center to East Ridge Street, if the city will curb that portion; and the DOT will consider widening and curbing and guttering Cleveland Avenue from Woodside to Linwood if the city will acquire the right of way. The board approved doing both.

The DOT will also consider lighting the intersections at Pied-

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Photo by Gary Stewart

BERRY PICKING TIME - When the hot July weather rolls around, it's time for blackberries to ripen. Those who can tolerate the chiggers and poison ivy can pick some tasty treats for the cold weather that's ahead. Leigh Anne Baliles, a sophomore at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Baliles of Kings Mountain, found some plump, ripe berries at Kill Deer Farm near Kings Mountain.