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Week...**

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This Sunday**  
February 14th



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# Kings Mountain Herald

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## Group suggests no long-term camping

If the six City Council-appointed members of Moss Lake Commission have their way long-term camping at city-owned Moss Lake will end on April 30 when current leases of 15 campers run out.

Monday night the commission refused to back down from its original recommendation to Council that campsites renters move out.

The city has been renting camp sites for a modest \$500 annually, including free lights and water. Commission members charge that some campers have become permanent fixtures.

Council members sent the issue back to the lake commission along with two representatives of Council, Jim Guyton of Ward 2 and Jerry White of Ward 4, to resolve the matter after campers appeared at last month's board meeting to challenge the policy.

"The public interest is not being served by what we're doing out there," said M. C. Pruette, who said campsite leasing should be stopped.

Pruette said the commission had suggested to Council in 1991 that permitting campers to erect permanent structures, including decks and timbered flower beds, should be stopped.

"We've put a lot of love and work into that campground," said camper Kim Gamble. "We may be

**"The public interest is not being served by what we're doing out there."**

**M.C. Pruette**

from Shelby but we are good ambassadors for Kings Mountain and being there has kept out unsavory individuals."

Chairman Joe Smith passed out a sheet of 60 names of Kings Mountain area residents wanting to camp at Moss Lake but who had been turned down because the "choice sites" were taken up by permanent residents.

"This has got out of hand," said Smith, who said there has been a waiting list for three to five years.

"This is the first time I've seen a list," said Guyton. "Why didn't the lake authority do something about that?"

Smith said the lake authority was changed to a lake commission by city council with no power and with the city controlling the purse strings.

Guyton said he had complaints of vandalism of the boathouse and unauthorized cars parking in the picnic area. "How can we charge people to use the picnic area if it isn't cleaned up?" he asked.

Guyton said that if the campers move out that the camping area could become an eyesore.

Gamble said that campers have planted flowers and beautified the area.

"We're just an advisory board to Council by your designation," said J. D. Barrett. The ball is back in your court."

"I am bothered," said Smith, "that handicapped people can't get a campsite because of permanent campers."

Smith reminded that the lake commission is an unpaid volunteer board and that city council members are elected and paid by the city. "We've been trying to do what we think is right for two years now and we've made many trips out to the lake," said Smith. "It's a mobile home park out there now and not a good one."

Smith says he welcomes Council members to meetings. Previously, he said no council members had attended with the exception of former councilmen J. D. Barrett, who has been on the board for sev-

eral years and Pruette, who has served on the lake board since its creation.

Pruette recounted some of the history of the Lake Authority, noting that the board had operated on a shoestring in the earlier years of its formation. "We used to be able to collect fees and use the funds for improvements but now we can only recommend the budget and the council makes the final approvals."

White said he had not seen a waiting list of campers. "I can understand that you have to be fair to everyone," he said.

And Barrett said the biggest problem at Moss Lake is silting and Council should address that a No. 1 priority in the upcoming budget.

Gamble said that campers want to stay at the lake. She said she wasn't aware of a waiting list and she acknowledged that most permanent campers have left. "We worked to make these choice campsites and did the work because we take pride in the campground," she said.

Smith said the campground rules specifically prohibits the moving of dirt and the installation of permanent structures. He said the present campers are in

See Camping, 14-A

## Citizens talk to McMillan

Health care, gays in the military and the national budget deficit were concerns expressed by 30 people to 9th District U.S. Congressman Alex McMillan Wednesday morning as he set up office hours for three hours in the Council Chambers at the Governmental Facilities Center.

Tom Brooks, president of B&D Enterprises, said he is opposed to mandated health care because of the adverse affect it would have on small businesses such as his family-operated Tom's Family Mart and B&D Welding but he supports the availability of health care for all workers.

Brooks said he is concerned about reports from the Governor's Conference recently in Washington, DC in which they en-

See McMillan, 13-A



Tom Brooks, right, talks with U. S. Congressman Alex McMillan Wednesday morning as McMillan met with 30 of his constituents at City Hall. The 9th District Congressman heard concerns primarily about rising costs of health insurance.

## Possible 'setup'

# Man charged with murder

Pheui "Sammy" Syda, 31, of 808 1/2 Fourth Street, faces first degree murder charges in the Sunday morning beating death of another Laotian man, Vilay Thongpounphin, 31, of 18 Chesterfield Apartments.

Kings Mountain police say that conflicting stories by the suspect and his wife, Kathy Hutto Syda, 19, has muddled the investigation which is continuing.

Syda is in Cleveland County Jail without bond. His first court appearance is February 17 in Cleveland County District Court.

Det. Sgt. Billy Benton said evidence will be turned over to District Attorney Bill Young who will determine if more charges will be filed in the case.

Benton said that King Mountain Police were called to the home of Pheui and Kathy Syda Sunday morning at 5:27 a.m. to investigate a 911 call from Mrs. Syda that an alleged first degree burglary and attempted sexual assault had occurred. Once at the home, Benton said police found the badly beaten body of Thongpounphin in the Sydas' living room near the front door.

Benton and Lt. Richard Reynolds said that Ptl. Jerry Tesseneer was the first officer on the scene. They said the Sydas first told police that an Oriental man they didn't know broke into the house and attempted to sexually assault Kathy Syda, 19, and Syda was defending his family. A fight ensued, according to the initial report, and the victim was killed with a 20 1/2 inch wooden club.

Police said on Saturday Mrs. Syda had taken out a warrant charging Thongpounphin with assault on a female.

But later, Benton said Mrs. Syda changed her story and told police she called their Laotian acquaintance to their home at 5:30 a.m. Sunday. The husband was hiding in the closet at the time, according to police.

Benton said blood was on the walls of the three-room house and splattered a television set and the white ceiling in the living room. Police say the struggle started in the bedroom, where dried blood was visible on quilts that covered the bed. Glass in the front door was broken, according to police.

Benton said the Sydas' two children were next door at their grandparents' home. He said neighbors heard nothing.

The dead man was described by police as about five feet four inches tall and of slight build.

The suspect was described by police as about five feet six inches tall and of slight build.

Benton said Syda had moved to the United States from Laos 10 years ago. He was employed at Patrick Yarn. "He was described by family and friends as a quiet, hard-working man," said the officer.

Thongpounphin was employed at Southern Engineering in Charlotte.

Benton said the autopsy report had not been received by police on Tuesday.

"We are still investigating some underlying factors in this case," said Benton.

## Tyner wins Time Award

Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce President Wade Tyner Jr., president and general manager of Wade Ford Inc., is recipient of the 1993 Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award.

Tyner and his wife, Bradine, were in New Orleans, LA during the weekend to accept the coveted award presented to only 67 automobile dealers nationwide.

Tyner said he is "humbled and proud" of the nomination by the North Carolina Automotive Trade Association. "It was quite an experience for me and my wife to participate in the event," he said.

Tyner has attended both state

and national conventions for many years.

The National Automobile Dealers Association Convention attracted more than 20,000 people.

Associate Publisher of Time Edward McCarrick presented the award to Tyner Saturday.

The annual TMQUA program recognizes outstanding franchised new car dealers for exceptional performance in their dealerships and distinguished community service. The winners were selected by a panel of faculty members from the University of Michigan Graduate School of Business Administration. In acknowledge-

ment of the University's participation, Time Magazine makes an annual grant of scholarship funds to the Graduate School of Business Administration in the names of Time, NADA and TMQDA winners.

A North Carolina native, Tyner began his automotive career working alongside his father at the family Ford dealership, Tyner Motor Company in Pembroke, and later in Shelby. After four years in the United States Air Force, Tyner resumed his career as a sales representative for Young Motor Company in Shelby. He purchased

See Tyner, 13-A



WADE TYNER JR.

## Kings Mountain People

# Grigg a people person

Elaine Grigg, the first woman branch manager at Kings Mountain's First Union National Bank, is a success story.

The reason for her success is obvious. She gives customers a personal touch in long-term business relationships that have paid off for her and her employer.

As the top officer at her hometown bank she takes pride in customer service.

Recently she was honored as Branch Bank Manager of the Year by the 11 branch banks in First Union's Gastonia area. The local First Union was honored as the Branch Bank of the Year. Teller Betty Thornburg was honored as Sales Person of the Year.

Vocational Education Week this

week reminds local citizens of yet another home-grown product who excelled in what once was an all-male field.

Grigg, a Kings Mountain native, worked her way up from the position of teller in 1966 to the top job at First Union's main office here where she is second vice-president.

The road to the top wasn't easy but Grigg's hard work and dedication paid off with numerous promotions. Seven years ago she became the branch manager and three years ago was made second vice president.

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wink Russell of Kings Mountain and Helen Johnson of Clinton, SC, she was hired at FUNB on the recommendation of Senator J. Ollie

Harris, a director. She had applied for a job with Southern Bell but her father wanted his young daughter to stay at home and work in town. Grigg has never regretted her career choice.

This October she will celebrate her 27th year with First Union. She has seen banking become fully automated, moving from bookkeepers posting by hand and using proof machines in a second floor bookkeeping department to fully computerized operations in a modern building in which a 1-800 number can be utilized to call up virtually all customer accounts.

"We didn't lose our personal touch with computerization," said Grigg, who says that computers are

See Grigg, 14-A



ELAINE GRIGG

## Winn-Dixie plans grand reopening

Winn-Dixie will be opening the doors to the much anticipated reopening of the Winn-Dixie Store at Highway 74 and Spring Street Thursday, February 18.

"The new store will feature expanded variety, new service departments and the same everyday low prices found at all Winn-Dixie stores," said B. B. Tripp, vice president and division manager of Winn-Dixie in Charlotte.

"We believe the people in the Kings Mountain area will be very proud of this store," Tripp said. "The reopening of the store shows Winn-Dixie's strong commitment to the community and its commitment to give our customers a quality store with great selection, service and lowest prices."

Grand opening day festivities begin at 7:45 a.m. with a ribbon-cutting ceremony involving several dignitaries. Other activities include: registration for a \$1000 grocery giveaway in which 10 lucky winners will receive \$100 gift certificates and buy-one-get-one-free promotions throughout the store. In addition, the first 300 customers on February 18 will receive a "free" 2 liter soft drink, the first 300 customers on February 19 will receive a free dozen Superbrand Grade A large white eggs and on February 20 the first 300 customers will receive a free 12-ounce package of Jesse Jones hot dogs.

The newly remodeled store features a number of new specialty departments including Fisherman Wharf for fresh seafood; a full-service deli featuring hickory-smoked barbecue; a bakery for freshly baked

See Winn-Dixie, 10-A