

Mountaineers eye big year in baseball

'Sound of Music' set at KMHS..... 1B
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Grover citizens object to 'closed' meeting

Grover Town Board adjourned abruptly Monday night after a citizen questioned procedures and before it could readdress a controversial decision discussed last month behind closed doors.

Ann McCarter, daughter of longtime and former mayor Bill McCarter, said she had no problem with the recent water rate increase but with its legality and timing.

She said the board discussed the matter in a closed session which violated the Open Meetings Law and that the attorney, who was present at that meeting and at Monday night's regular meeting, concurred with the action. She said the town could be sued if the board did not redo its action.

Queen said rescinding the rate would cost the town \$7,000 which it doesn't have to spend because of costly repair projects underway.

Bill Lail questioned how an attorney is selected.

Mayor Ronald Queen said his selection is made by the board.

Grover buys 2.5 million gallons of water a month from Kings Mountain which raised its rates 12 cents per 1,000 gallons in November. Queen said the January meeting included a work session to discuss those rates. The board went into executive sessions for two hours to discuss the water rates, the budget, and a legal matter. The Open Meeting Law specifies that boards can discuss personnel and acquisition of property, but not water rates and budgets, in closed meeting.

The 45-50 citizens in the audience applauded after a man in the crowd said that McCarter was taking up too much time on the agenda.

After a lengthy discussion by the mayor, Councilman Tim Rowland and McCarter about who had been rude to whom, Queen said, "I guess I have

sinned. Now I'm trying to get forgiveness."

Rowland reminded citizens that the mayor and council also are paying the higher rates and that they didn't like to see them go up any more than Queen.

"We'll try to do better," said Rowland, before he made the motion to adjourn the meeting before answering McCarter's requests.

Specifically, McCarter charged that citizens of Grover, and particularly herself, don't have the right to speak at public meetings. She said the board gives citizens three minutes to speak after their names are put on an agenda. McCarter's name was on the agenda to discuss "procedures."

"It's unheard of in a town this size to not allow a citizen a voice in government and a direct violation of my First Amendment rights," she said. "Rescind your policy, please."

McCarter said that Monday's remarks by other citi-

zens speaking out of turn was typical but she was called down when she addressed the chair.

McCarter asked that copies of the minutes be made available to every citizen. Councilwoman Sandra Ellis said that minutes can not be as detailed as McCarter wants. Queen said that minutes are available at a fee to citizens. McCarter asked that minutes be read at board meetings, a project that was discontinued, said Queen, during the last administration.

"For months there were few citizens here and we felt like it wasn't necessary to read the minutes since the board had copies. Maybe we should return to that policy now that we have large crowds which I'm glad to see," said Queen.

McCarter was joined by Bill Lail, Jack Pollock and other citizens in asking that business of the meeting be conducted at the beginning of the meeting

See Grover, 9-A

McKenney purchases Baucom Chevrolet-Geo

Ray McKenney, owner of five automobile dealerships, announces the purchase of Baucom Chevrolet in Kings Mountain and the relocation of the Ray McKenney Chevrolet GEO dealership in Cherryville to the Kings Mountain site off I-85 and Highway 161.

McKenney, in his announcement, said that General Motors recently conducted a study of all their dealerships in the United States.

"On the dealerships that were located in the smaller market area, we were informed that demographics have changed over the years, and they recommended seeking

larger locations in order to be successful in light of the high cost of operating a full service dealership," McKenney said.

"With that in mind, it makes sense for us to combine these two locations and move to the larger location in Kings Mountain. Chevrolet put this deal together because they were very satisfied with the job we had done in the sales and service area in Cherryville."

Baucom Chevrolet was formerly owned by Homer Baucom. The remaining employees there will team with those of the former Cherryville dealership.

See McKenney, 12-A



Bill Martin, left, and Ray McKenney are welcomed by Homer Baucom, right, to the Kings Mountain Chevrolet dealership which Baucom sold Friday to Ray McKenney Chevrolet/Geo.

New commissioner still not seated

A three-month dispute over how to count the paper ballots from the November county commissioner election is still on.

Courts and the election board in Raleigh have apparently washed their hands of the dispute and it's now up to the Cleveland County Board of Elections to resolve the matter.

The local board has set a meeting on March 24 in the next step toward resolving the dispute.

Charlie Harry, the fourth place finisher who thinks he might finish third and keep his seat on the board, wants the county board to view the ballots cast in several precincts to determine how many were marked in the manner he claims. He has suggested, through his attorneys, that both he and the third place finisher Sam Gold let the results of this sampling determine whether the recount proceeds.

Harry is asking that the board view the ballots from Shelby precincts 1, 3, and 4 and from the Latimore and Lawndale precincts. Harry has suggested to Tony Eastman, chairman of the board of elections, these five precincts would provide a representative sampling.

"By sampling these ballots, everyone will have a better idea of how the voters may have marked their ballots last November and whether it makes sense to proceed for a recount," said Harry. "The sampling might not change anyone's mind, but at least it offers a chance for that to happen."

Superior Court Judge Weeks ruled last week that the Wake County Superior Court did not have jurisdiction to act further at this time on the Cleveland County

recount issue and sent the matter back to the State Board of Elections. The state board told the county board to resolve the matter through a local hearing.

Gold has said he would not agree to a different type of recount, or a visual inspection of the ballots for irregular marking of candidates for county commissioner. "There needs to be some evidence of fraud or irregularity, which there was none, to conduct a different type of recount," Gold said.

Rob Deaton, attorney for Gold, filed a motion Monday in Wake County Superior Court seeking an order restraining the elections board from holding another recount.

Michael Crowell, the attorney for Harry, said there is no law requiring the ballot be counted upside down first and therefore this would not be substantially different from the original count. He said the state board unanimously ruled that the original recount be conducted as Harry requested, but that Gold had protested and got the ruling reversed. Crowell would like the county election officials visually to inspect a sampling of the ballots to determine whether the machine may have missed irregularly marked votes for Harry.

Last week, new commissioners, E. T. Vanhoy and Cecil Dickson, both Democrats, took the oath of office from Superior Court Clerk Linda Thrift. The third commissioner will be sworn to a four-year term once the recount matter is settled. Presently, Harry, a Republican, remains on the board.

Beer petition goes to Board

A petition drive to get the sale of beer and wine on the ballot in Grover ended this week with presentation of the petition with 150 names to the Cleveland County Board of Elections.

Juanita Pruette, former councilwoman who headed up the drive, presented the petition Tuesday. She said once the county board verifies the signatures as registered voters

of Grover that the elections board can call the election.

"We don't have to take the matter to Town Council," said Pruette. She said that 35 percent of the registered voters or 121 signatures were required.

The petition asked registered voters to support a vote on the sale of beer and wine at grocery and convenience stores. The petition

would not allow the sale of alcohol in restaurants.

After certifying the names on the petitions, the Cleveland County Board of Elections has up to four months to set a date for the election.

Pruette says that local supporters believe that the sale of beer and wine for off-premise use might help attract a grocery store to Grover. That's one of the town's

top concerns, according to Pruette, who says that many of the town's approximately 600 people drive to neighboring Kings Mountain, Shelby or Blacksburg, SC to buy groceries.

Pruette says a major food chain is looking at Grover with an eye to opening a store but one of the requirements is that the store be allowed to sell beer and wine.

School Board considering budget

A 'want list' of school building needs by Kings Mountain District Schools to the state has a price tag of \$10 million. In addition, Cleveland County Board of Commissioners will receive soon a capital outlay request for \$246,000.

Supt. Dr. Bob McRae will present the local budget request to commissioners in April after the Kings Mountain Board of Education conducts a hearing on the budget at the regular April

meeting.

Board chairman Ronnie Hawkins said the cost of new roofs and paving will be about \$700,000. He said county commissioners cut sales tax distribution allocations to Kings Mountain from \$500,000 to \$250,000 and the lack of funds have hurt the system.

"We can justify the \$10 million price tag," said Hawkins, who said the money would cover everything from cost of desks to roofs.

Hawkins said the system wants to continue the development of computer assistance programs among other improvements.

The budget items are on the agenda for Monday's board of education meeting.

Five board members, principals of all seven schools, some teachers, and administrative staff members held a marathon 12-hour work session, mini retreat Thursday in the Administrative Office Building and

talked about a variety of system needs--from money to video cameras for school buses. No actions were taken.

The \$246,000 request to the county, if approved, would pay for renovations, insurance, paving, roofs, and auditorium sanding, painting and flooring, in addition to other maintenance needs, said Hawkins.

Hawkins said the state asked for

See Schools, 3-A

Revco buys Cornwell Drug

Cornwell Drug Store of Kings Mountain is being sold to Revco D.S. Inc. and the transaction is expected to close on or about March 7.

Revco D.S. Inc. of Twinsburg, Ohio announced this week the signing of a sales agreement by which the company will purchase and operate as Revco stores nine Cornwell drug stores in North Carolina, including the Kings Mountain store on King Street and Country Club Drive.

"The acquisition of these stores is consistent with our strategy for growth," said D. Wayne Hoven, Revco president and chief operating officer. "They will increase our market coverage and make Revco services more convenient and accessible to these customers."

With the completion of the acquisition, Revco will have 273 stores in North Carolina.

In North Carolina, Revco will operate nine former Cornwell

stores in Morganton, Davidson, Lincolnton, Maiden, Shelby, Dallas, Kings Mountain, Stanley and Conover.

Hoven said customers of all former Cornwell stores will now enjoy Revco services--including an advanced patient counseling program and products--and the continued friendly service to which they're accustomed. Through Prescription Access Link, an interactive pharmacy computer system, a Revco pharmacist can provide prescription information, counsel patients on medication usage and provide a personalized Patient Advisory Leaflet to advise consumers on the proper use of their prescribed medicine.

Revco currently operates more than 1,160 Revco drug stores in nine contiguous eastern states and fills more than 46 million prescriptions annually. Based in Twinsburg, Ohio, the company has annual sales in excess of \$2.1 billion.

Kings Mountain People



TRIP MCGILL

Music is a message for KM's Trip McGill

Music is the love of Trip McGill's life.

The 33-year-old Kings Mountain musician, recently named Holbrook Junior High Teacher of the Year, radiates his love of music in the lives of young people who sing in his chorus and church members who sing in his choirs.

It doesn't matter who sings just so they sing for the joy of singing, says McGill, son of Norman and Nancy McGill of Kings Mountain.

Influenced by his grandmother, the late Mrs. N.F. McGill Sr., he played piano with her at Boyce Memorial ARP Church as a young boy sitting beside her on the piano bench. He started taking piano lessons at age seven. He plays piano, organ and flute fluently.

"My grandmother started me on piano," he said. "We played piano and organ duets, most times an offertory or prelude for church."

His love of music was enhanced at Kings Mountain High School

when he started band under the direction of Donald Deal. "Mr. Deal was one of the people who influenced me into teaching," said McGill. "I developed musically in the band."

McGill also credits some of his love for teaching to Mabel Boyter, an Atlanta-based choir clinician who often taught him at the ARP denomination's annual music conference.

After graduating from Erskine College with a bachelor's degree in music, he returned as music director at his home church, Boyce Memorial Church, for 3 1/2 years and now directs the choir at Pisgah ARP Church.

"Music done well is a message to all those in the congregation and it's a ministry," said McGill of his church work. He likes working with choir members on the details of the music to make the text come alive.

See McGill, 12-A

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