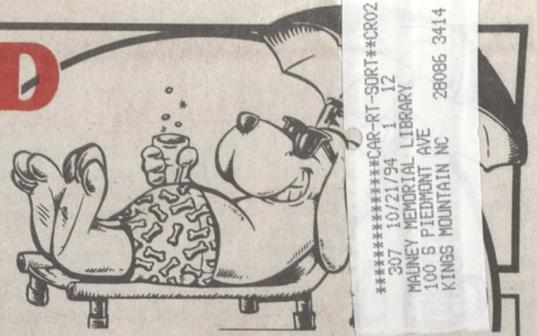


WIN AN ALL EXPENSE PAID VACATION TO FLORIDA

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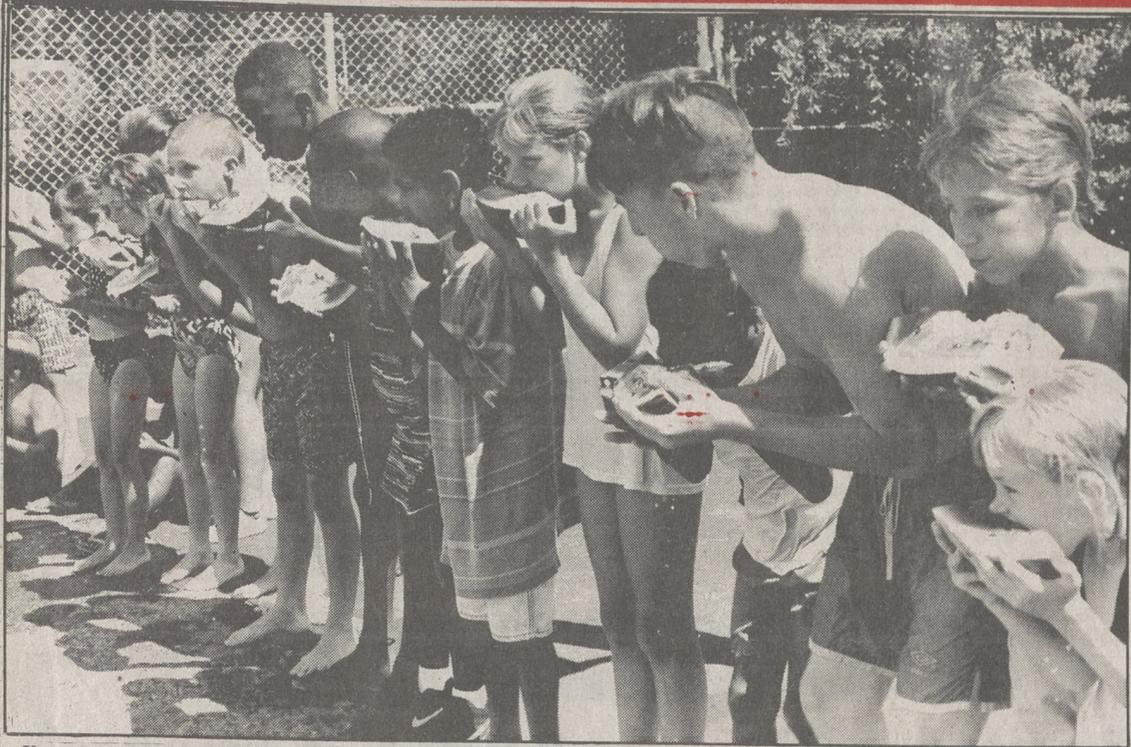
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Youngsters champ down on watermelon during Fourth of July celebration Monday at the Kings Mountain Parks and Recreation Department. More photos on page 4-A.

NAACP, county agree on seating

The Cleveland County Chapter of NAACP has accepted an offer by the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners to settle a redistricting lawsuit out of court, according to Rev. John Osborne Jr., president.

Osborne said the consent agreement, if signed as expected July 19 at a 11 a.m. meeting of the county board, would mark the end of a seven year battle over minority representation on the county board of commissioners.

"The proposed plan would mean that two minority members would be appointed by the board of commissioners in December, expanding the county board from five to seven members," said Osborne.

Osborne said the new plan gives minorities new voting possibilities and also preserves the at-large system in which elected commissioners represent the whole county.

Commissioners would still be elected at large, rather than by districts, as the NAACP had hoped. The plan would not affect the scheduled November election of two county commissioners.

Both Osborne and Kings Mountain commissioner Joyce Cashion said the new limited voting plan, a part of the compromise offer, is new to Cleveland County.

"What this means is that voters will be voting for four of seven people in 1998 when all seats would come up for election," said Osborne. "Voters would place four votes for the seven seats."

Cashion said she had some

reservations about limited voting but she is a longtime proponent of redistricting and voted for it when the NAACP first asked the commissioners to adopt a district system in 1987 and again when commissioners approved such a system in 1992. The present board rejected the plan in 1993 before redistricting could be implemented.

Osborne said the limited voting scheme is not new in the courts which have prescribed the plan as a remedy all over the country in situations of alleged violations of the federal Voting Rights Act.

Osborne said the limited voting aspect of the plan would improve the chances of minority candidates keeping their seats on boards such as the county commission.

Cashion said the plan proposes that the current system of staggered elections would continue until 1996 when three seats come up for election. The winners in that election would serve two-year terms.

The proposed plan is the result of several meetings of both groups since May with a court appointed mediator from Washington, DC and after a federal judge ordered the two parties to enter mediation.

"I want to see all of us get this work behind us and move forward in the county," said Osborne.

Cashion said the county commissioners took no action after a brief meeting Tuesday night. She said county attorney Julian Wray is still drawing up the legal documents for their signatures.

Big turnout for 4th celebration

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of the Herald

The word around town was that the City's Fourth of July celebration would be scaled down this year because of the city's financial crunch - and until just two weeks ago there was even hint that it would be cancelled altogether.

But, it would be hard to convince the hundreds of citizens in attendance that the event - and especially the 10 p.m. fireworks display - was anything less than spectacular.

Parks and Recreation Department officials did an excellent job preparing for and carrying out the event, which not only didn't lose any money but made a little thanks to an excellent financial day at the swimming pool and concession stands.

Swimming and field events - such as watermelon eating contests, balloon tosses, horseshoe

tournaments and a home run derby - drew excellent participation and fan support, and the fireworks display which cost the city \$4,500 compared to about \$8,000 in past years was just as good, if not better, than the past. Many observers said the only fireworks display they can remember "outdoing" this year's was several years ago when the grand climax of the show was a colorful display in the form of the American flag.

Bruce Clark, the new Recreation Director, praised his hard-working staff and the citizens for making the day a big success.

"I think it went over tremendously well," he said. "We had a good turnout all day long. The swimming events were just crammed, and we stayed busy all day. The home run derby was a tremendous success and I thought the fireworks show was as good as ever."

"I was just real happy with the

way things went. I want to thank everybody who helped, the Fox Distributing Company out of Shelby for helping sponsor the fireworks show, and we owe a special thanks to Monty Deaton and the entire maintenance crew of the Recreation Department for all they did in getting the place ready and maintained during the day."

Clark said the event, which began at 11 a.m., had few hitches, but he sees room for improvement.

"The only thing that really concerned me was that during the day there was something going on all the time, but after we got through with the home run derby about 7:30 there was a dead time between then and the fireworks show. I felt like the time could have been used a little better, so what our plans are for next year will be to have a full day, and a full night as well. We hope we can add some things. We have some ideas to fill that gap."

Surprisingly, Clark said two of the most popular events were the horseshoe tournament and home run derby. Twenty people entered the horseshoes singles tournament, and 24 entered the doubles event. Eighteen of the area's top softball players participated in the home run derby. "We were really surprised and pleased with the number that came for the horseshoe tournament and home run derby, as well as the swim activities," he said.

People came from all around for the 10 p.m. fireworks extravaganza, and police had to move motorists along busy Highway 74 bypass after they stopped to watch. All of the Recreation Department parking spaces were filled, and almost every street between Highway 74 bypass and Business 74 were filled with cars and spectators who either brought lawn chairs or sat on their vehicles or on the

See Fourth, 14-A

Conduct code on Board agenda

The Kings Mountain Board of Education will hear first reading of a revised policy of code of student conduct at its regular monthly meeting Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Superintendent's Office.

The revisions to the lengthy policy include recommendations from the Task Force Against School Violence concerning suspensions for students who take weapons on school grounds.

The committee is recommending that students in grades K-12 who take or possess a firearm on cam-

pus be suspended for the remainder of the school year; students in grades 6-12 who take or possess any legally defined weapon on a school campus be suspended for the remainder of the year; and students in grades K-5 who take or possess a legally defined weapon other than a firearm on campus be disciplined as determined by the administration.

Weapons prohibited include loaded or unloaded firearm, includ-

See School Board, 14-A

Grover Board to hear Sides

GROVER - A closed hearing into the recent firing of policeman Robbie Sides will be conducted by the Town Board Monday at 7 p.m.

Sides is also serving his first term as councilman.

Mayor Ronald Queen said the hearing is closed to the public. He said the hearing will determine if Sides' termination as a police officer will be overturned, as Sides requests.

Sides was fired by Chief Paul Cash after what Cash called an internal investigation into his role in a March high speed chase of a man suspected of robbing and assaulting a cab driver at Cleveland Mall parking lot. The chase ended in a wreck that sent both men to the hospital and totaled Grover's police car.

Both Cash and Sides are expected to give details of the incident in the presence of attorneys and full Council.

Chamber branch open at City Hall

The Kings Mountain branch of the Cleveland Chamber has opened new offices on the second floor of Kings Mountain City Hall.

The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and is staffed by a representative of the Shelby office of the Chamber of Commerce.

Officials plan an open house in the near future.

Kings Mountain People

War hero finally honored

By Elizabeth Stewart
 of The Herald Staff

Raymond Odell Gregory, 71, turned down the Congressional Medal of Honor during World War II but Sunday his family and the congregation of First Nazarene Church surprised him with the hero's honor he deserves.

As his wife, Geraldine, their six children and over 35 relatives looked on with the large congregation, Gregory was presented a framed shadow box by his granddaughter and her husband, Michelle and Chris Cranton, containing his two Silver medals, Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, the Good Conduct medal, American campaign medal, European African Middle Eastern Campaign Victory medal and combat infantry badge.

Mrs. Cranton said she and her husband had been working on the beautifully framed gift for two years and brought it with them when they came from Mobile, Ala. for a holiday visit.

The family decided to make the presentation during the 50th anniversary year of the Invasion of Normandy and near the Independence Day holiday, both events which marked a time when Americans chose to protect our way of life from tyranny and religious persecution.

Gregory, a retired textile supervisor at Burlington Mills and a Kings Mountain native, served in a rifle company of the 350th Battle Mountain Regiment, 88th Blue Devil Division.

He was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action on Mount Battaglia when he knocked out a machine gun nest singlehanded with two well placed hand grenades. As the machine gun fire pinned down the platoon, he crawled toward the enemy position, returning fire with his rifle. After felling two Nazis with grenades, he crawled back to his original position.

During the counter attack after he expended his grenades, he hurled rocks and rubble from the shelled ruins of an ancient castle at the advancing Jerries.

Gregory said he turned down the Congressional Medal of Honor, asking that it be given posthumously to a friend killed next to him in battle.

"My friend paid the ultimate price of freedom with his life," he said.

"My late brother Rev. John Gregory, a former Nazarene minister, prayed for me at a certain time every day that I was on the battle field and I could feel the presence of God surrounding me," said Gregory.

Gregory was wounded twice and received two Purple Hearts.

"My life was spared and I was able to return home and raise a wonderful family," said Gregory.

Gregory was drafted January 29, 1943 and discharged as a T/Sergeant October 13, 1945.

Raymond and Geraldine Holcomb Gregory recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They moved from Kings Mountain 17 years ago to the Antioch Community near Grover. The family includes six children, Gloria Dean Huffman, Ronald W. Gregory, Randy Gregory and Gina Sanders, all of Kings Mountain, Donald Gregory of Augusta, Ga. and Wanda Butler of Kingston; 14 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

"Dad never told us any War stories and has always been very modest about his participation in World War II but we kept copies of The Herald stories of the awards and decided to let our local congregation know about someone we love and are proud of his service to his country," said Ron Gregory.

"It may be said that the US Army and World War II made this man a hero but to his family he has always been a hero."



Raymond Gregory, center, holds the framed shadow box containing his many World War II medals for heroism.