

Nicki Winslow Winn-Dixie's
favorite cashier 8-A

Adults charged in
state's new gun law 7-A



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KM escapes major storm damage

Except for torrential rain, the Kings Mountain and Grover areas escaped the wrath of tropical storm Beryl which demolished a mobile home on Highway South on Crowe Road in Shelby, damaged a half dozen homes on Mount Zion Church Road in the southwest section of the county and flooded rivers and creeks Tuesday.

Beau Lovelace, Director of Cleveland County Emergency Management, was assessing the damages from the storm Wednesday morning.

Rivers and creeks at full bank were being monitored for possible flooding.

Electricity was off for a short time in two sections of

Kings Mountain Wednesday morning after tree limbs fell on lines at Country Creek Subdivision on Sheby Road and across a main primary line on Meadowbrook Road, knocking out a circuit.

City of Kings Mountain Utility Director Jimmy Maney said homes were in the dark at Country Creek from midnight Tuesday until 2:30 a.m. and on Meadowbrook Road from 1:15 until 2:30 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Winds estimated at 25-30 miles an hour knocked tree limbs in lines but Maney said major outage problems were prevented by the city's extensive, ongoing tree-trimming program underway for the past five years.

"Our service reliability has increased tremendously with tree-trimming and we expect to start again covering the city as soon as bids are taken for the work," he said.

Tree limbs blocked a portion of the road on Cansler Street between Mountain and King Street Wednesday and debris from leaves and trees washed into catch basins were the only noticeable aftermaths of a storm which touched off a tornado in the southwest section of the county and heavily damaged a wide two-state area.

Ken Kitzmiller, who keeps a weather log, said Kings Mountain received nearly three inches of rainfall on Tuesday and a total of 4.52 inches of rain in the

past seven days. This compares with .1 of rain for the same period a year ago.

"At this point in time we have almost a year's normal rainfall, 41.17 to date," said Kitzmiller.

Kitzmiller said that twigs were blown off his eight pecan trees in his yard, their limbs almost touching the ground.

"All this rain will help the grass but we'll have to get out the lawnmower," he said.

The weatherman was predicting that the rain would end Wednesday and the promise of sunshine was in the forecast for the rest of the week.

Gas line extension approved

"Must do" gas line extensions got the green light from the city utilities committee Monday and from Interim City Manager Maxine Parsons who said the money is in the budget.

Parsons said the city's bond payment of \$261,000 is due September 1 but state-shared revenues will help pay the bill. She said, however, that the city will still be sweating out big bills from its suppliers of electricity and gas until fall tax bills start coming in.

Utility Director Jimmy Maney said that a tie-in, 10,000 feet of four inch line, from Tom's Laundry to Reliance Electric is critical for new development in the Oak Grove area which will bring new gas customers to Kings Mountain.

"This plan will assure a double-feed system, a regulator system, that would also feed into the Industrial Park area and open up residential areas to Reliance Electric," he said.

Sixty new natural gas customers were added last winter and an additional 40-50 this fall to the lines will create pressure problems if the tie-in is postponed, he said.

"We can't supply the requests for gas unless we get a loop," he said.

Maney said that \$110,000 was budgeted for gas system improvements in 1993-94 but Chairman Jim Guyton balked on spending the entire amount. "We need to keep some money in a reserve account because the projected figures might turn out to be more than anticipated."

Guyton said the loop should be a priority, however.

Maney said he had already taken blanket bid proposals and is ready to go on the construction site. He said the city's cash flow won't be impacted all at one time since individual projects will be billed as they are completed.

Maney said that currently 3,000 customers purchase natural gas from the city and that about 100 new customers go on every year.

Maney said that the city's new

See Gas, 7-A

Dreaming about Florida



Lucie Bowen, left, is congratulated by Melissa Lawrence of Travel Matters after she won a Dreamer's Holiday Vacation for two in a drawing sponsored by 36 area merchants and Republic Newspapers.

Newspapers' Dreamer's Holiday anniversary surprise for Bowens

Lucille Caveny Bowen could hardly believe her good luck.

The Dixon Community resident, the winner of Dreamer's Holiday for two, will travel with her husband, George, to St. Petersburg, Fla. for a 35th wedding anniversary celebration on January 7, compliments of Republic Newspapers and the 36 merchants who sponsored a double page advertisement for four weeks recently to promote their businesses and offer their customers a free drawing and a chance for a dream vacation.

"This is the first time I have ever won anything," said Mrs. Bowen, who was all smiles after her lucky ticket was pulled on Friday.

Bowen registered with Melissa Lawrence at Travel Matters in July when she went to the local travel agency to pick up her airplane tickets to Michigan where she and her husband visited their daughter and son-in-law, Dawn and Peter Chisholm and five-year-old daughter Kaleigh at K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base. Both Chisholms are in the USAF.

The whole family is excited about the good fortune of their parents, including son and daughter-in-law,

Brad and Wanda Bowen of Kings Mountain who have a seven months old daughter, Maggie.

The upcoming dream vacation will be the Kings Mountain couple's first to St. Petersburg Beach Hilton on the Gulf of Mexico in St. Petersburg, Florida. Previously, they have stayed in Orlando at Disney World and in Miami, attending Orange and Gator Bowls with friends Carl and Pat Champion.

A native of Kings Mountain, Mrs. Bowen has worked at Commercial Intertech for 13 years. She formerly worked as a waitress at Western Steer Steak House in Shelby.

Bowen, a native of Kings Mountain, has worked at PPG in Shelby for 35 years.

Lucy likes to golf but her husband is the most avid golfer in the family. Both plan to get in some fishing, boating and golfing on Florida's Pineallas Suncoast in the middle of winter.

The week's vacation for two also includes a \$600 cash travel allowance and lodging for seven days and nights with morning and evening meals provided along with round-trip transportation.

See Bowen, 7-A

Schools to open Thursday morning

School bells will ring for some 3,900 students in Kings Mountain District Schools Thursday.

While that figure is basically the same as last year, Supt. Bob McRae said pre-registration figures indicate the enrollment might be up.

"Normally, we wouldn't expect our enrollment to be up but it's always a roll of the dice," he said. "But our kindergarten pre-registration is one of the largest we've ever had, and there are also folks moving into the system and people wanting to come in from other systems."

The system will see some changes early in this school year. Most noticeable will be the move of the District Office to the old Central School in mid-September, the implementation of a very strict student code of conduct policy, and an alternative school for problem students in grades 6-12 from the county's three school districts. The school will be based at the current KM superintendent's office and will begin operation no later than the beginning of the second semester.

McRae said the three county systems are in the process of interviewing eight people for the principal's job of the alternative school. That list includes at least one employee from each of the three systems as well as people from outside the system. The committee conducting the interviews will make recommendations to the three superintendents and they will meet to choose the principal.

"We want to get the school running as soon as possible," said McRae. "But it will take some time for us to get out of the building and for them to get in. We would like to get a staff hired and the program completely set up as soon as possible, which I'm sure will be no later than the start of the second semester."

The new student code of conduct calls for suspensions for the remainder of the school year for students in grades K-12 who take or

possess a weapon on school property. McRae recently mailed letters to parents of all KM students explaining the consequences of violating the policy, and a copy of the letter is on the editorial page of today's Herald.

In connection with the policy, Kings Mountain High School will beef-up security at athletic events, especially football and basketball games. The school used metal detectors to search for weapons on all persons entering the gym at last year's basketball games, and they will do the same at football games beginning with the first home game. In addition, lighting has been improved behind the home stands and the school system is encouraging police working the games to stop loitering behind the stands during games. A part of the new policy also calls for police to crack down on persons using profanity at athletic events. Anyone heard using profanity will be asked to stop, and if they do not they will be removed from the games.

"We want to make athletic events a more wholesome and safer environment," said McRae. "We're going to be asking people to be seated during game time."

McRae said teachers and staff have worked hard during the summer to bring curriculum more in line with state recommendations.

"This is not a program that stands out by itself but is as important as anything we've done," he said. "The people in the schools have done the best jobs of preparing for the year than ever before. They did a better job of getting the word out for kindergarten registration and accommodating the needs of parents. I'm really pleased with things employees have done to be ready for the start of school."

"We're still trying to finalize our budget. There may be more new things that we'll be able to get in because of some improvement in state funding and the supplemental tax. We hope to know about that by

See Schools, 7-A

City to seek Block Grant for proposed water project

A Community Development Block Grant may be pursued by the city to run a main trunk line to serve 78 possible water customers in the Lake Montonia-Galilee Church Communities.

The idea surfaced at Monday night's utility committee meeting when Connie A. Allison, a resident of Lake Montonia Road, said the area is in need of water.

Councilman Phil Hager said that contaminated water in the area has sent residents scouring for help from either Kings Mountain or the Cleveland County Sanitary District but that it could cost Kings Mountain \$275,000 to run the line.

Interim City Manager Maxine Parsons suggested the committee pursue a grant.

However, a suggestion by the Cleveland County Sanitary District to Kings Mountain to connect its line to the city's line fell on deaf ears.

"We can't tie our water system into theirs. I hope we can extend water to Lake Montonia/Galilee if they don't beat us to it, but we can't work out a deal to give them water and take water in return," said Chairman Jim Guyton.

Walt Ollis, Director of Water/Sewer for the City of Kings Mountain, said the tie-in could only be made either at the Margrace Road or on North Piedmont Avenue but both places for a "pass through" present an impossible situation due to the low pressure.

"I have no problem with selling the district water or a tap but let them pay for it," said Ollis.

Guyton agreed, saying that Kings Mountain would be responsible for pressure and possibly other problems.

"Sell them water at the outside city rate if they want it."

See Project, 7-A



Councilmen Dean Spears, Phil Hager and Chairman Jim Guyton, left to right, members of the city utilities committee, look over plans for state-mandated improvements at City and Davidson Lake dams. Bids will be opened August 25th at 2 p.m. at City Hall and awarded by City Council at its August 30 meeting

Dam projects to be awarded

Kings Mountain City Council has set August 30 as the date to let bids for improvements to City Lake and Davidson Lake dams, both major state-mandated projects which will involve concrete repair and earth moving operations.

Water/Sewer Department Head Walt Ollis outlined plans for the improvements at Monday's meeting of the city utilities committee.

Ollis said that the State Department of Environmental and Health and Natural Resources has given approval for the repairs and that W. K. Dickson Co. engineers has begun advertising for bids and are negotiating with Southern Bell Telephone Company about removal of an underground line at the Davidson dam.

It's still up in the air whether Kings Mountain or Southern Bell picks up the tab for the line removal estimated to cost \$7.329.

See Water, 7-A