

KM girls win tournament opener

5-A

'West Side Story' set at KMHS

2-B

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City has \$1.1 million in bank

40% of needed names on term petition

Two questions raised by Councilwoman Norma Bridges during Tuesday night's City Council meeting raised some eyebrows and caused some whispering among the audience.

First, Bridges pointed out, that Woodbridge Golf Links contracted with the city in 1989 to pump raw water out of Moss Lake at a flat cost of \$4,500 a year - but that for

the past three years the city has billed the golf course for \$2,000.

Somewhere along the line, Bridges said, someone all of a sudden dropped the price of water without coming before the Council, and she said it has cost the city \$7,500 over the past three years.

Walter/Sewer Supervisor Walt Ollis said he didn't know who authorized the change and could only

assume that it was "an oversight because of so many personnel changes."

Bridges and Commissioner Jim Guyton said any change of contract should have been presented to the full City Council for approval.

In an emotional tone which obviously indicated that Mrs. Bridges was deeply pained, she related how

See Council, 2-A

The City of Kings Mountain appears to be coming out of its financial crisis and should be on good financial footing by the end of the fiscal year.

Councilwoman Norman Bridges announced at Tuesday night's Council meeting that as of January 31, the city had \$1,102,333.03 in the bank with all bills paid.

Finance Director Maxine Parsons, who was not at the meeting, said later that while those figures are correct, \$476,876 is design-

ated for a bond payment, \$282,603 is Powell Bill funds that can be used only for eligible street projects, and \$83,050 is a perpetual care fund, leaving \$259,804 in actual operating funds.

Even though a bond payment of \$600,000 must be made this month, Mrs. Bridges said she feels the city will still be in as good, if not better, financial shape at the end of the month.

"I think we're going to be able to stay above water now," she said. "I

know there's a lot of things we need to do but I feel like we're doing right. We've turned the corner" to which Mayor Scott Neisler replied, "I've been telling you that all along."

Councilman Ralph Grindstaff noted that "what we're doing we're doing right. We've turned the corner" to which Mayor Scott Neisler replied, "I've been telling you that all along."

Parsons said the city still isn't out of the woods but the budget picture is much better than it has

See Million, 12-A

Ron Massey named KM football coach

Ron Massey, whose Fayetteville Seventy-First team came within one play of reaching the 4-A state championship game last fall, has been named head football coach at Kings Mountain High School.

Principal Jackie Lavender made the announcement Wednesday afternoon.

Massey replaces Dennis Hicks, who resigned in December after 13 years with the Mountaineers and an overall record of 67-60-2 and three trips to the state 3-A playoffs.

Massey, 36, has a reputation of turning around losing programs. As a long-time assistant to coaching legend Bob Hannah at Burlington Cummings, Lumberton, and Washington and then as a head coach at Raleigh Enloe and Seventy-First, Massey was a key factor in putting teams into championship contention.

Massey spent three years at Seventy-First in one of the toughest 4-A conferences in the state, and improved that school's record from 3-7 in 1992 to 6-4 and a conference championship in 1993, and 12-3 and a berth in the Eastern championship game last fall.

Seventy-First upset perennial conference champion Fayetteville Byrd in the playoffs and eventually lost to Jacksonville 19-16 in the Eastern finals. Jacksonville went

on to lose to Crest in the 4-A championship game at Chapel Hill's Kenan Stadium.

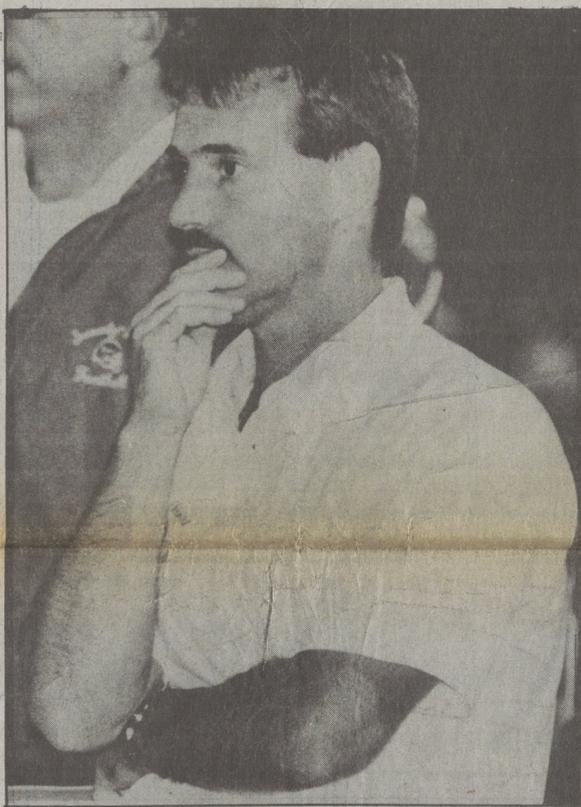
Seventy-First, trailing 19-16, was driving for a potential game-winning touchdown late in the fourth quarter but had a pass intercepted in the end zone.

A native of Graham and a 1980 graduate of Guilford College, where he played defensive end for present Lenoir-Rhyne Coach Charles Forbes, Massey began his prep coaching career as an assistant to Hannah at Burlington Cummings in the fall of 1980. When Hannah left Cummings to coach at Lumberton High School, Massey followed him there as defensive coordinator. The duo moved on in 1987 to Washington High School, and Massey took his first head coaching position at Raleigh Enloe in 1988.

In '88, Enloe qualified for the state playoffs with a 7-3 record but lost in the first round to top-ranked Northern Durham. Enloe finished 3-7 in 1989 and 6-5 in 1990, losing in the first round of the playoffs to E.E. Smith of Fayetteville.

Massey was selected KM coach from a list of over 50 applicants, including head coaches and assistant coaches in North and South

See Massey, 7-A



Ron Massey, successful head coach at Seventy-First High School in Fayetteville, has been named head football coach at Kings Mountain High School.

KM land use plan to be presented

A draft of the long-awaited Kings Mountain land development plan, a 84-page document complete with maps and recommendations, will be presented by the land use committee at a public meeting Tuesday, March 7, at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Sandra Albrecht, of the Centralina Council of Governments, facilitator, and Chairman Joe Champion will present the land use plan, including a large wall size transportation and land use map.

Champion said that public input is encouraged. He said the committee will take the input from the meeting and include all the recommendations in a final draft copy for review by City Council which makes the decision on acceptance of the plan.

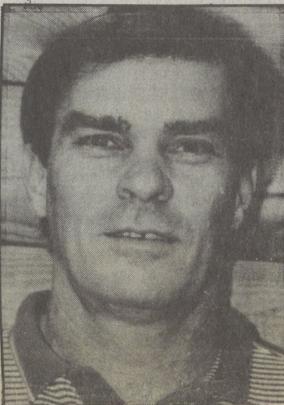
The current land use plan was adopted 20 years ago. Champion said that new development patterns, expanding city boundaries and changing urban development and population have created the need for a new land use plan.

For 13 months a 15-member committee has worked to develop the plan. The members, in addition to Champion, are Terry Baker, Shirley Brutko, David Faunce, Roger Goforth, Jim Guyton, Phil Hager, Ronnie Hawkins, Tim Miller, Al Moretz, Hal Plonk, Johnny Reavis, Odus Smith, Gene White and Ronnie Wilson.

The Kings Mountain planning area includes the City of Kings Mountain plus the one mile extra territorial area in which the city exercises zoning and sub-division regulations.

Among key recommendations: Extensions requested by property owners outside the city limits would go through the same application process, however, the property owner would be responsible for 100 percent of the actual cost less the labor of city employees.

Widen King Street to a three



JOE CHAMPION

lane facility, where possible, from Canterbury Road to just past Phifer Road.

Strongly encourage city officials to meet with Norfolk Southern Railway officials to engineer a solution to the rough and high grade crossing at the following streets: Mountain, Gold, Hawthorne, and Oak and discuss ways to expedite railway repairs.

Encourage city officials to provide additional paved parking spaces in the downtown area.

Revise the Subdivision Ordinance to restrict lots from having direct access onto major thoroughfares by requiring reverse frontage lots within new subdivisions.

Revise the subdivision ordinance to include requirements for sidewalks, curb and gutter in both the city and the extra territorial jurisdiction along residential streets and collectors.

Encourage the construction of apartments for all rent categories except low income.

Allow multifamily developments with up to six dwelling units per acre by right and allow developments from six to eight units per

See Land, 12-A

New group to work for progress

Consortium for Progress, Inc., a non-profit organization which is being organized to work toward progress in government/community relations, economic development and other community needs, will hold a press conference to outline its organization and objectives on Wednesday, March 15.

A group of business and civic leaders are serving as the steering committee for the consortium. Former Mayor John Henry Moss

and former City Councilman Jim Childers, who are members of the committee, said approximately 50 members are in the process of being approved.

They said the consortium, which will meet monthly, will be represented by committees which will deal with planning, citizens relations, governmental relations, economic development, beautification and restoration, environmental and natural resources, citizens founda-

tions, development, business and industry, and other areas of service.

Open memberships will be available and the the consortium will be a non-profit, non-political organization.

"The consortium is designed to work cooperatively with all agencies that have as their goal progress for our area," Moss said. "A lot of people can make contributions to it. We see great things coming

from this."

Moss and Childers said the steering committee has been meeting regularly to formulate a mission statement and by-laws, and to obtain charter as a non-profit organization.

Up to this point, they said, membership has been by invitation. Requirements for membership and other details of the organization will be revealed at the press conference.

Kings Mountain People



CURLY HOWARD

Everyone loves Curly Howard

By ELIZABETH STEWART
of The Herald Staff

His radio audience is his stage and every morning at 5 a.m. Curly Howard wakes up Kings Mountain with the sounds of upbeat country and bluegrass music.

The 61-year-old disc jockey at Radio Station WKMT exudes vim and vitality with a personality that has permeated the airwaves and expanded the station audience in the last three years.

"Everyone loves him," says Station Manager Jonas Bridges who said Belmont Station WCGC's loss was Kings Mountain's gain.

In 1975 Howard left a showman's career which began when he was 15 years old. Howard left school to play his guitar on professional road shows where he met and became close friends of super star Don Gibson and was a front man, side man, solo singer and provided the harmony for such country greats as Gibson, Don Reno, Clyde Moody, Red Smiley and The Tennesseans.

In his heyday Howard was a featured performer at the Virginia Barn Dance in Danville, Va., the Old Dominion barn dance in Richmond, Va. and the Louisiana Hay Ride, which ranks worldwide in entertainment second only to the Grand Ole Opry.

It was in Louisiana that Howard met Hank Williams Sr. and Elvis Presley.

"Elvis was a ball of fire in his young days and I'll

never forget him," said Curly.

The son of the late Elbert and Nettie Sisk of Shelby, Howard got his stage name with his career and his breaks came from his musical talent and his association with some of the greats of the music world.

"I used to have more curly locks than I do today and so Curly just seemed to click more with Howard than Sisk," he laughed. He completed his education on the road through correspondence courses and stayed in music full-time for 26 years until about 20 years ago when he got into disc jockeying and worked weekend shows with Keith Fowler, one of the biggest country music promoters in the country who books such bands as Alabama. His retirement home is Lake Norman, where he has lived for 16 years. He was a Belmont disc jockey for 11 years before taking his present job three years ago.

"I love people and I love spinning the records every day for people who love music as much as I do," he said.

One of Curly's first jobs as a front man was to introduce the stars of the show and Bridges, longtime country music promoter, said Curly was good at his job.

"A good side man like Curly who played rhythm guitar and harmony enhanced the shows and could make or break the stars," said Bridges who often gets

See Curly, 12-A