

CCC bonds defeated

3-A

Whitey, Wilma shared love for racing

6-A

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Pay raise included in proposed budget

Water, sewer customers to get break

Water and sewer customers of the city are getting a break in the proposed 1995-96 budget.

Gastonia is raising the cost of sewer treatment at its Crowders Creek Wastewater Plant to Kings Mountain 6.67 percent effective July 1 but the city is absorbing the annual cost that Finance Director Maxine Parsons estimates will be \$67,000 annually.

Normally the city passes on increased utility costs to the residents.

This year City Manager Chuck Nance did not include any project-

ed increased costs to taxpayers in the budget.

Finance Director Maxine Parsons said that city is paying its bills on time and ended April with \$345,000 in operating money with separate accounts for the Powell Bill and Mountain Rest Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund plus an investment of \$615,000 for reserves with North Carolina Cash Management.

At April 30 the electric fund, with a \$7.5 million budget, had \$50,000 and the gas fund, with a \$4.2 million budget, had \$120,000.

"We feel that the board will be very conservative when it approves the new budget and we feel that we won't have to up water and sewer rates to residents any time soon," she said.

Parsons said the city's cash flow has improved considerably.

Parsons said at year end 1993 the city owed \$1.3 million in unpaid bills and would go into the new budget year with no outstanding debt for accounts payables.

Last year when Parsons prepared

See Water, 13-A

A \$19.6 million preliminary city budget for 1995-96 was presented to Kings Mountain City Council Saturday by City Manager Chuck Nance and calls for a three percent across-the-boards pay raise for the 160-plus city employees and no increases in city services.

Friday night at 6:30 p.m. the Council will continue its budget workshop deliberations and get down to allocating the money it may need to spend for capital improvements and also decide on whether it will fill some of the vacant positions cut last year due to a lack of money.

Several department heads are asking for additional personnel, including the new position of cus-

tomers service representative in the finance department, one or two extra people in gas, electric and street department, an additional person at the Depot Center and a full-time secretary, instead of a part-time employee, at the Community Center.

"It appears that Council is going back and funding jobs like the assistant finance director's job that was cut in last year's budget," said Mayor Scott Neisler.

According to several Council members and the mayor, the three percent pay raise will probably be given in lieu of implementation soon of a wage and salary study which could cost upwards of \$300,000 annually. Nance has in-

cluded in the general fund budget \$562,023 for capital outlay and implementation of the wage and salary study in phases as funds become available.

"I feel like we need to study the pay plan a little further," said the mayor.

Mayor Pro Tem Rick Murphrey and Councilman Jim Guyton agreed.

"We really need to bite the bullet," said Murphrey after the meeting which recessed about 6:30 p.m. after department heads presented their requests for a wide range of items on a heavy want list that totaled nearly \$2 million dollars.

See Budget, 13-A

City has over 60 unlisted numbers

The telephone numbers of 60 City of Kings Mountain employees in major city offices are unpublished.

Ward 2 Councilman Jim Guyton says that if taxpayers pay for the telephones they should have access to the numbers.

"These services are supplied by the citizens and should be available for use by the citizens," said Guyton, who several months ago called for an investigation by City Manager Chuck Nance into the use of cellular telephones in vehicles which are city-owned and used by some city personnel. Guyton maintained that some of the calls were personal, not business calls.

Cellular phones have not been removed from vehicles but calls have been monitored, said Nance, and persons who made personal calls have been told to pay back the city. Nance has also told city employees they must not use city telephones to conduct personal business.

The numbers supplied by Councilman Guyton:

Mayor's Office - 734-4604; City Manager, 734-4606; City Clerk, 734-4605; Human Resources Director, 734-4601; Switchboard Operator, 734-4463; Finance Director, 734-4611; Assistant Finance Director, 734-4612; Billing Clerk, 734-4617; Assistant Billing Clerk, 734-4613; Collections Clerk, 734-4614; Accounts Payable, 734-4607; Planning and Development, 734-4595; Codes Department, 734-4598; Inspections Department, 734-4597; Conference Room, 734-4609; Fire Chief, 734-4565; Assistant Fire Chief, 734-4560; Firemen's Quarters, 734-4561; Fire Department Bay I and Bay II, 734-4563;

Also: Police Chief, 734-4568; Police Chief Secretary, 734-4585; Police Captain, 734-4580; Detective Secretary, 734-4600; Detective Lieutenant, 734-4582;

See Phones, 11-A

Study rates city low in performance

The City of Kings Mountain is rated as a low performance government in a recent study, "Governments of the Carolinas 1994".

Kings Mountain held the lowest score, 26, among a dozen area governments surveyed among 8,787 cities and counties studied where only 924 in the entire United States achieved the high performance score.

The Town of Lowell in Gaston County ranked in the top 10 percent of governments in using its financial resources.

The study ranked a high performance government as a stable and efficient one due to: diversified revenues, high employee productivity, controlled expenses, careful use of outside aid, reasonable revenue levels and using and controlling debt.

"We did this study to find cities and counties that use their financial resources more than others," said Greg Michels, president of Municipal Analysis Services Inc. of Austin, Texas.

The result is an objective set of governments that are financially fair while being financially stable. Lowell City managers are doing one of the best jobs with the resources they have."

A score of 61 or higher was ranked as high performance, a lower score means that they may have a lot of additional financial resources to use.

Michels said cities were only compared to cities in their size group as were counties.

Gaston County ranked 64 followed by Stanly County, 61, Kannapolis City, 60, Cherryville City, 59, Cabarrus County, 57; Forest City, 51; Lincoln County, 49; Gastonia City, 47; Lincoln County, 47; Concord City, 40; Albemarle City, 37; and Kings Mountain City, 26.



All but two players and one coach from the championship 1966 Teener Baseball team showed up to be inducted into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame Tuesday night. Kneeling, left to right, Jack Bell, Clarence Ash, Mike Smith, Joe Cornwell and Wayne

Mullinax. Standing, Coach Bo Goforth, Geeper Howard, Darrell Whetstone, Coach Roy Pearson, Gene Putnam, Rocky Goforth, Glenn Perkins, John Reynolds, Corky Fulton and Eddie Black. Other pictures are on page 5-A.

Hall of Fame inducts sports legends

Over 300 people attended Tuesday night's eighth annual Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame Banquet at the Kings Mountain Community Center. They heard ACC Coach of the Year Dave Odom talk about legends and memories and then saw some of their local legends inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Honored were baseball legends Red Layton and Bud Bumgardner, both deceased; football standout Punch Parker and the 1966 VFW Teener Baseball all-star team which won the state championship and finished third in the Teener World Series in Hershey, Pa.

Recipients of Special Achievement Awards were KMHS wrestler Kenny Bridges, who had a four-year conference unbeaten string, and the KMHS men's swim team which won the 1994 state 3-A championship. Also recognized were teams from KMHS which won conference

and/or sectional championships during the 1994-95 season, including volleyball, swimming, wrestling, boys basketball, girls track and girls softball.

Carl Champion, Hall of Fame President, said he was exceptionally pleased with the turnout on a very hot and humid evening and was also appreciative of the many sponsors which include individuals and businesses in the greater Kings Mountain area. The Hall of Fame plaques are on permanent display in the history room at Kings Mountain District Schools (old Central School) and the public is invited to go by during the day to view the display.

Red Layton, a three-sport athlete at KMHS in the early 1930's who went on to play several years of semi-professional and Textile League baseball, was inducted by his daughter-in-law Brenda Layton who said "Red and his wife,

Sarah, would have loved to have been here tonight."

Layton is regarded as one of Kings Mountain's top athletes of all-time and he was an exceptional baseball player who possessed power, speed on the base paths and natural ability in the field.

Layton's love for sports continued long after his playing career was over. As a City Commissioner in the early-fifties he fought hard for the establishment of an organized recreation program and the construction of athletic facilities at Deal Street and Davidson Parks. He also organized Kings Mountain's first Little League Baseball program in 1953 and was the city's first Recreation Director.

See Banquet, 9-A

Kings Mountain People

Miller, 71, loves to teach

Calvin C. Miller, 71, a public school teacher for 45 years, predicts that teachers will be a scarce commodity by the turn of the century because of discipline problems in the classroom.

"The average teacher spends half his time trying to discipline and the other half trying to do his job," said Miller, who says teachers aren't respected like they were when he first started teaching in 1950 after completing his education on the GI Bill.

But there's nothing the Kings Mountain man had rather do than teach and he plans to continue teaching shop and a class in social studies at York Chester Junior High in Gastonia until he's 76.

Miller will celebrate his 45th year in the teaching profession on June 2, which included a 30-year tenure in Newark, NJ.

On a recent afternoon his Social Studies class listened attentively to Miller's tales of World War II.

Fifty years ago on VE Day Miller was stationed within 100 miles of Japan.

"We were aboard ship preparing to invade Japan and we got the news over the radio that the Germans had surrendered and Russia and America had met in Berlin and we were jubilant," he said.

"On VJ Day in 1945 Japan surrendered to Douglas MacArthur on the USS Missouri after the atomic

bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki," said Miller who was with the flagship USS Harrison in the Third Fleet Task Force 58.

Miller joined the Navy at age 18 in 1942 and was discharged as a Petty Officer First Class on December 12, 1945. He saw action in the Mediterranean Sea, Ethiopia, Algiers and North Africa. "I had some close calls," he told his students, recounting story after story.

He was ready to go on liberty his first day in Africa and was called back to shore to help chase a German submarine.

"I was the only one of 25 black

See Miller, 13-A



CALVIN C. MILLER

KMHS baccalaureate is Sunday

Rev. Ralph Sparrow, pastor of Oak View Baptist Church, will deliver the sermon at Sunday night's baccalaureate service for 205 Kings Mountain High School graduating seniors at 7 p.m. at B. N. Barnes Auditorium.

The Kings Mountain Ministerial Association is sponsoring the service.

Rev. Harold Bumby, pastor of East Gold Wesleyan Church, will give the invocation and pronounce the benediction. Rev. Clinton Feemster, pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church, will read the Old Testament Scripture. Rev. John Futterer, pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church, will read the New Testament Scripture and Tim Whitaker of Lighthouse Pentecostal Church will give his testimony.

Special music will be featured. Ronnie Hawkins, a member of the Kings Mountain Board of Education, will introduce the speakers.

The diplomas will be awarded in finals exercises May 26 at 7 p.m. in John Gamble Memorial Football Stadium.

High School graduates will lead the service.

Robert Wingo Jr., vice-president of the Class of 1995, will lead the pledge of allegiance. Jason Cartee, Student Council President, will give the welcome. Quanette Nicole Setzer, president of the class of 1995, will present the class. Saeng Philavanh, class secretary, will recognize the honor graduates. Jaime Lynn Mullinax, class treasurer.

See KMHS, 11-A