

Oil spill at Moss Lake

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Legion Baseball opens Monday



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Guyton charges meters not being read

Mayor's plan to add time to meetings denied

Mayor Scott Neisler's proposal to give the public three minutes to speak on the agenda at the close of City Council meetings was rejected 5-2 Tuesday night after a substitute motion failed 4-3 to try his idea for three months.

Guyton and Dean Spears concurred. Councilwoman Norma Bridges had made the motion to try the mayor's plan, seconded by Councilman Phil Hager and Spears approved. Neisler had made the suggestion last month that every citizen should be given an opportunity to comment after the meeting if he or she

signed up prior to the meeting, a similar plan which is used both by the Kings Mountain Board of Education and the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners. The Town of Grover includes citizen input at the beginning of each meeting. Murphrey contended that city-

See Mayor, 4-A

"We are not reading meters," Councilman Jim Guyton exclaimed Tuesday night after Dan Stone, representing SVBK Consulting Group of Charlotte presented his findings and recommendations from an audit of the city's billing system. Guyton pointed to utility billings in many cases where historical demand values were entered into the hand-held meter reading devices and repeated over a period of months.

"This should not be," said Guyton. He said a red flag should go up that something is wrong with the meter or the reading device. Schools and churches that should have their own rates are being billed on the residential rate in electric and gas utilities, rate schedules are being improperly applied and at least 112 commercial and industrial customers, including two barber shops, were billed for zero water consumption over a pe-

riod of years. The audit confirmed that Ruppe Hosiery, underbilled by the city for over \$70,000 in electricity, was actually overbilled \$204 in one of its smaller utility accounts. His account was one of those picked for the audit because it showed initial readings every month for a period of time. Ruppe's underbilled accounts,

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SPECIAL LOVE

Olympics sparked loving friendship for Sissy Morgan and Randall Rogers

Theirs is a love story that warms the heart. Sissy Morgan, 21, and her best beau, Randall Rogers, 23, have Downs Syndrome, a chromosome defect. The Grover girl and the Greensboro boy met at a Special Olympics tournament in Charlotte in October where he was competing in golf and she was competing in soccer. Since those first sparks of love, the telephone lines between the two communities have been buzzing and parents of both young people have taken the couple on

dates, visits at each of their respective homes, the movies and shopping malls. Their parents have encouraged their friendship, saying the young couple could live independently but wanting them to be close to the parents. Randy has a full-time job at Food Lion in Greensboro, holds the international gold award for gymnastics, plays in a rock band, and golfs. Like Sissy, he is unable to drive a car. Sissy has swam since age 4, bowled since age 12 and also ex-

See Morgan, 4-A



SISSY MORGAN AND RANDALL ROGERS

Special term election planned in KM June 13

City election officials were gearing up this week for the June 13 special election on amending the city charter to change the terms of offices of the mayor and Council from four to two years. As of Tuesday, Elections Board Chairman Becky Cook had not heard from the U. S. Justice Department which must preclear the election. Cook said she is expecting notification by June 5. Ballots have been printed, election officials are ready and the election machinery has been programmed, said Cook. A total of 4500 people are registered to vote on the question: "Shall the charter amendment to change the terms of office of the mayor and council members from four to two year terms be adopted?"

The polls will open on June 13 at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. at the two Kings Mountain precincts, West Kings Mountain at the Armory where Hilda Dixon is registrar and Christine Carroll and Betty Spears are judges and East Kings Mountain at the Community Center where Connie Putnam is registrar and Joyce Dye and Glenda Belt are judges. Members of the elections board, which includes Cook, Tim Miller and Valerie Boyd, will be on hand throughout the day at City Hall to respond to voter questions. Cook said that citizens will see one change at the precincts at this election and in the fall municipal elections. The National Guard Armory will permit no posted political signs on the grounds of the Armory property. There will be a place for people to stand on the grounds but no signs will be permitted. Cook said that the election results will be posted in the lobby of City Hall about 8 p.m. There has been little outward political activity. Mayor Scott Neisler is the only member of the

See Election, 4-A

Moss and Harris push for museum

Two well-known former public officials - former Senator J. Ollie Harris and former Mayor John Henry Moss - paid call on the City Council Tuesday and asked for Council's endorsement of a major program to ensure that the old Kings Mountain Post Office is the new home of the Kings Mountain Historical Museum. Although Council took no action, Mayor Scott Neisler said he would appoint three members of council and three members from the community to a committee to develop plans for the Historical Museum and to work closely with the Historical Foundation and set a joint meeting in July or early August. Moss also asked that Council consider funding the cost of a new roof for the post office. Both said citizen involvement is important to the success of the venture and said that a historical museum would attract visitors from far and near. Moss reported that a recent survey revealed that some one million visitors come to this area every year, to Moss Lake and to the three parks in the area. "We need to establish the museum as a treasure place, an asset to the people," he said. In other actions, Council: Set the date for public hearing on the 1995-96 city budget for June 12 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall. Reappointed Becky Cook, Tim Miller and Valerie Boyd to the Kings Mountain Board of Elections. Approved charging \$2 for sign regulation books and \$5 for zoning ordinance books. Tabled appointment of five members to the thoroughfare plan review committee.

Rhoney moving to Parker Street

Mike Rhoney, Assistant Principal at Kings Mountain High School, has been named Principal of Parker Street School. The promotion was announced Monday at a called meeting of the Kings Mountain Board of Education. Rhoney will assume his new duties July 1.

He will succeed Mary Accor, first principal of the new school which opened in January. Accor is moving to Bethware School as Principal succeeding the retiring Hugh Holland. Rhoney joined the Kings Mountain District Schools in 1988 at Central School where he was assistant principal before moving to the high school. Formerly, he

See Rhoney, 4-A



The walk to Gamble Stadium is downhill for Kings Mountain High seniors, but the future is bright for over 200 graduates who received their diplomas Friday night.

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

Wade Tyner proves that nice guys do finish first

His customers and business associates for a quarter century in Kings Mountain say that Wade Tyner is a "nice guy" on and off the car lot. People like Wade - they call him by his first name - have helped make him a successful businessman at Wade Ford Inc. where he celebrates his 25th anniversary Saturday. Retirement for Tyner, 62, a third generation automobile dealer, is still on the back burner. Selling cars is still in his blood. He still likes to help a customer find the perfect car or truck, something he has been doing since he was a boy patching tubes for automobile tires in his father's Ford store in Pembroke. A promotion advanced Wade to the concessions stand and gas pumps and earned him \$1 a day and all the soft drinks he could drink. He was 10 years old. The family moved to Shelby in

1945 where Wade's father was awarded the Kiser-Frazer franchise, later adding Packard. Here Wade Jr. was a mechanic's helper. Completing his Oak Ridge Military schooling in 1951, Tyner planned a college career at Gardner-Webb. The Korean War changed his directions and he spent four years as an air traffic controller with the USAF. From Shaw AFB in Sumter to Skulthorpe in England, he guided planes to safe landings. He also helped find his share of lost aircraft. He tells the story of how on one pea-soup night a twin engine plane left Skulthorpe and eased over the North Sea, where an engine went out. The six people aboard made ready for a wet landing as the plane lost altitude. The pilot turned around but couldn't find the airfield. Tyner was involved in helping find Skulthorpe.

"That was an accredited official safe," says Wade of the flight. Tyner testified before an aircraft investigation board when a jet fighter crashed into an English hospital after the pilot bailed out. The air controller job required a cool head and sound body. Tyner passed the test. Wade became Sales Manager and then General Manager for Young Motor Co. in Shelby where he worked from January 1957 until May 1970 when he purchased the Kings Mountain Ford dealership and property from Bob Southwell. He opened Wade Ford Inc. here on June 3, 1970. "I have sold thousands of vehicles over the years and still love to sell, primarily because I love people," said Tyner. "I went into this dealership with plenty of work experience and background," hesaid.

See Tyner, 4-A



Ford Motor Company officials Jack Glass, left, and W. Fred Dunn, right, present Ford Motor Company's 25-year achievement award to Wade Tyner, who will celebrate his silver anniversary in business in Kings Mountain Saturday. The plaque, which includes a picture of Tyner and Ford leaders, was given by Ford Motor President Edsell B. Ford, III.