

VACATION GIVEAWAY

Coming June 28th
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Remember Dad This Sunday!

ROTARY CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS

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Voters say yes to two-year terms

Kings Mountain voters sent a message to its elected officials Tuesday

By a margin of 115 votes they shortened the terms of City Council from four to two years and set in motion the election of a mayor and all seven council members every two years.

Only 825 citizens or 18 percent of the city's 4500 registered voters went to the polls in a light turnout in the special referendum which changed the city charter.

The vote was 485 to 340 to approve the change in the charter from a four year to a two year term for mayor and seven Council members effective with the 1997 city election.

Retired city planner Gene White, who started the petition effort six months ago to call for the special election because of citizen dissatisfaction with City Hall, applauded the decision of voters.

"A four year term is great but the alternative is two years when you have no motivation of people to take charge in political leadership," said White.

White has maintained ever since he retired as a city employee after 21 years in December that the change to two year terms was necessary to bring credibility back to city government and restore the confidence of the people.

White said he has no qualms about exposing

Council to what could result in a complete turnover of leadership in two years.

"The last time all commissioners were ousted was 38 years ago in 1957," he said.

"If people do a good job they will win reelection."

White said his goal in circulating the petition was for the city's leaders to get their act together.

"They need to act like managers and political leaders and on the behalf of the taxpayers for a change," he said after Elections Board Chairman Becky Cook posted the results of the election about 8:30 p.m.

Cook said she was pleased with the voter turnout.

"I wish it had been 100 percent but I was predicting

about 15 percent," she said.

Cook praised voters for marking their ballots correctly so that the electronic voting machine turned out only about nine votes that were not readable.

"It's the first time that we have had so few mistakes," she said, also praising the work of the election registrars and judges.

Hilda Dixon, registrar at the West Kings Mountain precinct, said that workers had cautioned voters to use the marker correctly in marking their choices so they would be readable.

See Election, 5-A

Man faces rape charge

Kings Mountain Police and county officers arrested a rape suspect Tuesday afternoon minutes after he released a convenience store clerk he allegedly abducted from her job at gunpoint.

Chief Deputy Bob Roadcap said that Terry Anthony Ruff, 35, of 133 1/2 Greystone Ave. in Kings Mountain, faces charges of first degree rape and first degree kidnapping in the reported attack of a 20-year-old woman.

First appearance hearing is slated Thursday in Cleveland County District Court. Ruff remains in the county jail.

"I've got a gun," the suspect reportedly told a woman clerk as he entered the Lutz Oil Company about noon Tuesday.

The woman told officers she was working alone in the store while other employees were at lunch and was abducted at gunpoint and driven by the suspect in his truck to Oak Grove Road where she was raped.

"The woman was let out of the truck across the road from the store about 12:45 and headed in the direction of Kings Mountain on US 74," said Roadcap.

Roadcap said the woman saw the suspect's name on his shirt and also got the tag number of the vehicle and called the Sheriff's Department.

Deputy Mike Brown was the first officer on the scene. He radioed the Kings Mountain Police Department a description of the truck and the suspect and officers stopped the vehicle as it came into Kings Mountain. The suspect was arrested in the parking lot of Bridges Hardware near the city.

Roadcap praised the fast work of officers.

Ruff didn't resist arrest and cooperated with detectives during questioning, Roadcap said. Ruff had no previous criminal record.

The small convenience store doubles as a gas station and office for the Lutz heating and oil business. It is located on a four-lane stretch of Business 74 near Mountain View Farms



This bridge on Bethlehem Road in the Love Valley community was declared unsafe by a Highway Department inspection team, and it appeared Kings Mountain school officials would have to make special arrangements to get over 30 children to school since anything weighing over six tons - including school buses - could cross it. But through the determined effort of Shirley Melton and Love Valley residents, the project was declared an emergency and will be repaired beginning no later than Monday.

Love Valley resident's persistence gets bridge approved for quick repair

By GARY STEWART
Editor of the Herald

When Shirley Melton talks, people listen. And the 150 to 200 residents of the Love Valley Community near Kings Mountain are glad.

Residents of that community faced a cut-off of school bus transportation for their children as well as commercial services after the State Highway Department inspection team recently declared a small bridge on Bethlehem Road unsafe for vehicles weighing in excess of six tons. Two weeks ago the Highway Department placed signs advising motorists of the weight limit and residents learned it would be 1997 before the bridge was repaired or replaced.

Melton began making phone calls last Thursday, beginning with the local division of the Highway Department, and it seemed each official referred her to someone else higher up the chain of command. Melton's name is now a household word with key Highway Department officials from the local office in Shelby to the district office in Newton to the state of-

See Bridge, 10-A

School video security proposed

The Kings Mountain Board of Education Monday night authorized Supt. Bob McRae to present a formal proposal on installation of a video security system for Kings Mountain High School at next month's board meeting.

McRae said a system, which would probably cost around \$6,000, is needed to monitor spots which are difficult to supervise at all times and provide better safety for people and equipment.

McRae said he has seen an increase in vandalism and student disrespect for teachers. "It's simply impossible to be all places at one time."

McRae said he visited a school with a security system late last year, and suggested putting video cameras with audio and tapping capabilities in strategic locations, with monitors in the office. Twelve cameras would require three monitors, he said.

See Camera, 10-A

Only three speak at budget hearing

Only three citizens - Gary Joy, Joe Champion and Johnny Reavis - raised concerns about the city's proposed \$20 million budget Monday night as City Council conducted public hearing.

"I was surprised that no more people were present to speak on the budget," said City Manager Chuck Nance after the meeting.

Only a handful of people were in Council Chambers for the 30-minute public hearing and the majority were city department heads.

"Stay where you are in the budget until the city is over the hump," said Reavis, calling for the board not to reduce taxes and utility rates as Mayor Scott Neisler has pushed for in previous meetings.

"I realize that this will cost taxpayers more money but we need to get over the hump first," said Reavis.

Champion, chairman of the Moss Lake Commission which is an advisory board appointed by City Council, charged that the city should be taking in more money on leases at Moss Lake than is budgeted in the 1995-96 budget. He compared the current budget with previous budgets and asked why the expected revenue had decreased in the budget projections.

Finance Director Maxine Parsons said that bills went out in April to every resident of the city owned lake and this week the city staff sold 344 leases. She said that the city attorney is working to collect back bills.

"Every lease has an issue number and will be collected," she said.

Champion said that he had offered for six months to work with city officials on the proposed budget for the lake since he felt that was one of the responsibilities of the lake commission.

Champion said he wasn't "pointing fingers" but that he got no answers to questions and the lake budget has been an overriding concern of lake commission members.

See Hearing, 2-A

Capital outlay budget \$893,000

More than \$893,000 is designated in the proposed 1995-96 city budget of \$20 million plus for capital outlay with the bulk, \$300,000, earmarked for basin repairs at Pilot Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Funds were also allocated for a rate study, with the electric, water/sewer and gas departments sharing in the cost of the approximately \$45,000-\$55,000 study to be conducted next fiscal year.

No capital outlay was authorized for the electric department, which has a \$12 million budget.

Department by department the allocations included:

Administrative, \$34,350 for a copier, indexing of minutes, laser printer, City Hall improvements, software and computer equipment.

Human Resources, \$5,520 for computer software, trekker disc drive, document scanner, safety committee and employee appreciation event.

Garage, \$8,500 for two vehicle post lifts.

Police, \$52,000 for two patrol cars, a dog truck and building improvements.

Fire Department, \$6300 for hydrant maintenance and four air packs.

Streets, \$1500 for a storage building.

Planning, \$21,400 for ETJ signs and subdivision and zoning ordinance revisions.

Aging, \$9,925 for a sign, office equipment, roof repair, wall insulation, duct system cleaning and a grant match.

Library, \$11,115 for renovation of Phase II and office equipment.

Parks & Recreation, \$29,200 for flooring, receipt printer, tractor and lawn maintenance equipment.

See Budget, 2-A

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE



After 62 years of marriage Lena and John McGill, above, still hold hands. The couple was honored at an anniversary party at Peggy's Restaurant last week. Loretta Owens, center, holds the decorated cake.

STILL HONEYMOONERS

John and Lena McGill celebrate 62nd wedding anniversary

The years have not dimmed the love that Lena Ware McGill and "Mr. Johnny" share.

On their 62nd wedding anniversary Thursday the couple held hands like newlyweds.

McGill, 91, doesn't write love letters to his wife, 89, but he passed around their bridal book frayed with age and filled with love letters he started writing Lena during their courtship.

The bridal book contained pictures of their wedding day, newspaper clippings from The Kings Mountain Herald which called their nuptials the social event of the year, and mementos from friends.

"I just never did turn Johnny loose from the time I met him in the seventh grade and we've been good friends since," said Mrs. McGill, who taught home eco-

nomics in South Carolina several years before they were married and then took a job for Farm Security and worked in Cleveland, Gaston and Rutherford Counties for a time.

A Kings Mountain native, Lena Ware McGill is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Alexander Ware. She chose her family garden on West Gold Street as the setting for the nuptials and the McGills have lived nearby all their married life.

Mr. McGill, son of Mrs. Lona W. McGill, was born in the Bethany Community and moved to Kings Mountain as a young boy. He graduated from Central High School and attended Pharmacy School and took a job with Summers Drug Store.

His partnership with the late C. D. Blanton at the former Kings

Mountain Rexall Drug Store were among the happiest years of his life, he said. McGill said he met so many people at the soda fountain that he counts many friends in the Greater Kings Mountain area.

He is a longtime Kiwanian and past president of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club and is that club's only living charter member. He joined that civic club when it was called the Men's Club.

Mrs. McGill graduated from Central High School and Erskine College. She served two six years terms on the Kings Mountain Board of Education. She recalled her long service on the school board as "fun."

"Now you remember that we got married during the depression, 1933, said Mrs. McGill," who held hands with Mr. McGill at a lun-

See McGills, 2-A