

County's first female 11-A detective enjoys her work

KM Juniors eye Area IV playoff

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4th celebration Tuesday

The annual Kings Mountain Independence Day celebration will be held Tuesday beginning at the Parks and Recreation Department.

Activities begin with a street dance featuring the band, Mink, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. which will be broadcast live over WKMT Radio. The official opening ceremony will be held at 11:30 a.m.

There will be special games and activities throughout the day. The big climax will be a fireworks show at 9:30 p.m. which will be broadcast live over WKMT Radio.

Other activities include:
12-12:30 - Registration for horseshoes, volleyball and 3 on 3 basketball.

12:30-1 p.m. - Enter pool free.
1 p.m. - Pool events, including relay races, big splash/little splash,

dive contest, inner tube race, greased watermelon, coin toss. (Pool will close after these events and re-open at 3 p.m.)

1:30-5:30 p.m. - Field events, including horseshoes, volleyball, 3 on 3 basketball, water balloon contest, egg toss, bubblegum blowing, and more events which will be added later.

3-7 p.m. - Public swim, \$1 for city residents and \$1.50 for outside city residents.

6-6:30 p.m. - Hydrant shower.
7-9:30 p.m. - Home run derby. \$10 per entry, prize money depends on number of entries. First 20 entered will receive T-shirts.

For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 734-0449.



KM employees get erroneous OT pay

City Manager Chuck Nance said four department heads received overtime pay in error for weekend work during an emergency fuel spill at Moss Lake recently.

Councilwoman Norma Bridges questioned Nance after she received time cards of 12 employees who worked at the lake a total of 135 hours during a dredging accident and were paid \$1,486.40. The city was to be reimbursed by Delta Aggregates, the John Jenkins firm which is dredging sand from the lake.

Nance said four department heads - Finance Officer Maxine Parsons, Interim Police Chief Bob Hayes, Water/Wastewater Supt. Walt Ollis and Fire Chief Frank Burns are exempt from overtime pay by virtue of their status with the city. The city's personnel policy states that department heads are exempt.

Nance wrote Mrs. Bridges this week that the error was based on his communications with the finance director.

See Overtime, 10-A

Paying overtime nothing new in KM

Overtime pay to department heads is apparently nothing new to the City of Kings Mountain.

Finance Director Maxine Parsons said that Kings Mountain Police Department personnel received extra money from the Governor's Highway Safety Program for special projects relating to the DWI Task Force during the period October 1, 1990 through September 20, 1991.

According to financial records, See Pay, 10-A

Weathers named KMHS principal

The Kings Mountain Board of Education filled two vacant administrative positions Monday night and in doing so created two assistant principal's jobs and an athletic director's position.

Phil Weathers, who has served Kings Mountain High School as an assistant principal since 1990, was named new KMHS principal to replace Jackie Lavender, who recently was transferred to Grover School.

Lynda Stewart, who has been serving as interim principal at Kings Mountain Middle School for most of the past year and a half, was officially named assistant principal. Stewart had served an interim for Mary Accor during the 1993-94 school year while Accor served as interim principal of Bethware, and Stewart served as interim for most of the 1994-95 school term when Accor was named principal of Parker Street Alternative School. Accor was recently named principal of Bethware.

Both Weathers and Stewart received two-year contracts which become effective July 2.

The Board of Education still must fill a pair of assistant principal's vacancies at KMHS - one created by Weathers' promotion this week and the other created earlier when Mike Rhoney was named

See Principal, 10-A



WEATHERS STEWART



Reliance Electric welder Allen Wright, student welder Travis Slycord, supervisor Richard Turner and Gary Hammer, of the N. C. Department of Labor, left to right, are pictured in the welding department at Reliance where Slycord has gone to work as an apprentice.

Apprenticeship programs giving students head start

Two area industries - Spectrum and Reliance Electric - have hired local students in the first two high school apprenticeship programs in the area registered by the North Carolina Department of Labor.

Gary Hammer, apprenticeship consultant for the Department of Labor, was at both firms Tuesday commending the local industries for giving Robbie Dalton and Travis Slycord a head start on their chosen careers.

Dalton, son of Mike and Vicki Dalton, is working in the electronics department at Spectrum and Slycord, son of Gloria and Larry Slycord, is working in the welding department at Reliance.

"These two companies have taken the lead in providing an early opportunity for two students to be-

gin learning a skilled trade in the Kings Mountain area," said Hammer. He said high school apprenticeships appears to be the wave of the future. In the past two years high school apprenticeships have risen over 300 percent.

Both Dalton and Slycord are rising seniors at Kings Mountain High School and plan to take post high school technical training.

At Spectrum Dalton is learning from the ground up how to build parts for machinery and equipment and is working a 40-hour week. This fall he will work 20 hours each week and continue his high school education.

At Reliance Slycord welds in a full-time job under the supervision of Richard Turner and Allen Wright. A welding student since

ninth grade, he will be working part-time at Reliance in the fall and returning to high school to finish his senior year.

"This program is designed for kids who want to go from high school into skilled trades and gives them exposure to industry," said Spectrum plant engineer Hubert Johnson. Both students came highly recommended for the positions by KMHS vocational apprenticeship coordinator Dianne Hollifield.

"I think we have begun to realize that the time to start training our youth is while they are in school and not necessarily wait until they graduate," said Hammer.

"This program provides a means to accomplish that goal."

City Council adopts \$18.9 million budget

City Council adopted a \$18.9 million budget Tuesday 6-1 but not without comments from Mayor Scott Neisler who said the city falls short of what it needs to do for citizens.

Councilwoman Norma Bridges voted against the budget, saying after the meeting that she supported the mayor's stance.

Both said the city would be raising taxes to citizens by retaining the same tax rate based on the county's new revaluation of property and said the city was moving backwards by not approving the suggested pay plan.

"We take our employees for granted and the exodus of city employees from the city police department proves my point," the mayor said, noting that Kings Mountain has become a training ground for city employees who go elsewhere to make more money.

"We have \$1 million in the bank and our bills are paid," said the mayor who said the city doesn't need to spend three quarters of a million dollars for capital outlay next year.

But Councilman Jim Guyton disagreed, saying that the city will spend one half of the capital outlay funds to put in a basin at Pilot Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Prior to the budget adoption, the city amended the 1994-95 budget ordinance by 6-1 vote with Councilman Guyton voting "no." He wanted to know how much money was left in capital outlay after the amendment and said he was dissatisfied with the answers he received from Finance Director Maxine Parsons. He also questioned the recreation department budget.

"If there is extra money why not put it in the fund balance," he said. Parsons said that extra money would go to the fund balance.

Two-year terms now official

City Council made it official Tuesday night that the new two-year term for City Council and Mayor is effective with the upcoming fall election.

City Attorney Mickey Corry called for the resolution to amend the city charter to shorten the terms from four to two years. The new ordinance deletes staggered terms.

In year 1997, all seven seats on City Council will be up for grabs.

Corry reminded Council that the state statutes require the adoption of the ordinance.

Before the unanimous vote was taken, Councilman Dean Spears questioned retired city planner Gene White about the cost to the city for the special election.

"I had thought when Mr. White brought the petition before us he said there would be no cost," he said.

White, who was in the audience, stood to respond to Spears but Mayor Scott Neisler called for the vote.

In other actions, the board: Accepted the \$9100 bid from Dr. Everett Thombs for city property at the corner of West King and City Streets. Thombs plans to use the property for medical offices.

Appointed Councilman Jerry White, Ralph Grindstaff and Dean Spears to the audit committee.

Appointed the mayor, Al Moretz, John Reavis, Jim Childers and Valerie Boyd to the thoroughfare review committee to discuss socioeconomic projections for the Kings Mountain planning area.

Appointed Councilmen Rick Murphrey and Dean Spears and Councilwoman Norma Bridges to

See Council, 10-A

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE



WINK RUSSELL

Wink Russell enjoys being friend

Wink Russell grows a bountiful vegetable crop every year and gives it all away.

"That's the secret of my success in my 35x50 foot back yard garden," says Wink, who says The Lord blessed him with more years after his successful cancer surgery and he's doing his part to help others.

His neighbors on Henry Street say Wink is more than a good neighbor. They are already enjoying squash, cucumbers and green beans and it won't be long until vine-ripe tomatoes and other yummy home-grown foods are on the tables of Wink's friends and kinfolk.

Wink also cuts grass and offers other free help to the disabled.

"I just like to be a friend," he says.

A good cook, Russell enjoys preparing food for his family and friends to enjoy. He has been cooking Thanksgiving and Christmas feasts for his family every year for 42 years and anyone who has ever tasted his spaghetti sauce returns for more.

"I just love to cook and years ago I cooked for hundreds of people at the American Legion," said Wink, who retired from Reeves Brothers in 1989.

Last week he and a neighbor canned 48 jars of beans they picked off two rows in the bean patch and

this week they plan to do more canning and freezing. A seven pound cabbage head was chopped up for three chums of kraut which Wink promptly gave away. When the beet crop is ready he plans to can beets to present to his neighbors and friends.

The Russell garden requires very little labor, he says. Wink covered the entire garden area with leaves which accounts for very little plowing and no hoeing, he says.

But Wink says he leaves the flower gardening to his wife, Mildred, who has a green thumb as evidenced by their yard blooming with summer flowers.

The family includes Wink's daughter, Elaine Grigg and son, Dale Russell and four grandchildren.

Wink, 69, admits that when he's the chef he likes the kitchen to himself.

Most any time he isn't at the stove he's at his picnic table in the back yard from where he can oversee his crops.

The backyard picnic spot is the meeting place for Wink to preside and a few of his retired neighbors to reminisce and to plan what to do next in the garden.

"This is just the perfect place to live and to enjoy life," says Wink.