



**KM legion team beats  
Cherryville, Gastonia 6-A**

**Kings Mountain Schools  
hold awards day 2-6B**



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## Capital outlay money in proposed city budget

### Public hearing on budget set for Tuesday night

Public hearing on the city's proposed \$22,725,655 budget for 1997-98 will be conducted by City Council Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

The proposed budget reflects a \$1.3 million increase over 1997-98 but includes provisions for capital outlay for the first time in several years.

The budget reflects the same tax rate of 40 cents per \$100 of property evaluation with no increases in electricity, gas, sanitation and water and sewer un-

less the City of Gastonia ups the city's cost of wastewater treatment at the Crowders Creek plant. City Manager Jimmy Maney said if the city's cost of treatment of sewerage goes up that the sewer cost would have to be passed on to customers.

When City Council takes a look this week at the proposed budget they will see some changes to the traditional budget. For the first time planning and economic development will be itemized together; codes and

inspections will be together in a separate category; and the Moss Lake budget will be separate. Maney said expenditures and revenues will be identified in each of the individual budget categories.

The sanitation portion of the new budget has also been realigned with all expenditures reflected in one budget along with collection and disposal/tipping fees. Heretofore, sanitation has been grouped in

See Hearing 8-A

Money for a new fire truck and to start the building program for a new law enforcement center is included in the proposed 1997-98 city budget.

In addition, several department head requests for increased expenditures for capital improvements are expected to be approved for the first time in several years.

"For the first time in years the city is able to address the capital improvement needs and still maintain the fund balance required by the Local Government Commission," City Manager Jimmy Maney said this week.

Some of the projected expenses in the new budget year:

New communications equipment for the police tower, three new police cars and \$251,658 from the general fund to be applied toward costs of building the new law enforcement center are included in the police department budget of \$1.2 million up from \$1.1 million last year. Maney said the \$251,658 anticipated refunds from Duke Power Company has been allocated to start work on the new facility.

Included in the fire department budget is \$55,536, the first lease purchase payment for a

new fire truck.

Sandblasting and painting the 30-year-old water tank at the Public Works Building will cost about \$60,000 and other capital improvements in the water/sewer budget include \$15,625 for a water line on Floyd Street, \$24,000 for a sewer line on Jackson Street, \$70,000 for a sewer line on Floyd Street and \$200,000 for a Northside "30-inch project" which will enable the city to fill up storage tanks at night when electric rates are cheaper and use the water during the day to save on costs of electricity.

See Budget, 8-A

## After 52 years, KM Marine gets his canteen cup back

by ELIZABETH STEWART  
of The Herald Staff

After 52 years World War II veteran Lee A. Sellers, 75, got his canteen cup back which he lost when he was wounded on Sugar Loaf Hill on Okinawa April 1, 1945.

Sellers got the unexpected package containing the cup and a medal in the mail several days ago from Bill Pierce of Mount Pleasant, SC.

"This rusted aluminum hunk of metal might not mean much to anyone but me but it brings back memories," said the former Kings Mountain Marine who served with the Sixth Marine Division for 20 months during World War II.

"The enemy fired a hand grenade at us when three of us took cover in an artillery hole and I was hit in my neck and arms," said Sellers, who is called "Am" by his Kings Mountain family.

Sellers said the canteen cup was probably run over by a tank and was found on the northeast side of Sugar Loaf Hill by Marty Black, a US Navy Pilot and Squadron Commander whose hobby now is to explore all the hills, caves and battlefields and as a result of his efforts has collected numerous artifacts of the war.

Pierce traced Sellers through the Internet and contacted Sellers' daughter, Roxie Trammell.

See Sellers, 8-A



AM SELLERS

## Schools, library to get more county money

Local schools and Mauney Memorial Library got more money from county commissioners in the new \$79 million budget approved by the county commission Tuesday night.

Kings Mountain citizens will see a one cent supplemental tax increase, from 18 to 19 cents per \$100 of valuation, to give the KM District Schools \$94,743. In addition, commissioners raised the per student allocation from \$501.10 to \$516.13 per child that

gives the three school systems \$585,626.

Supt. Dr. Bob McRae and Librarian Rose Turner were among local people attending the commission meeting and public hearing on the budget. They took the occasion to thank the board for their budget consideration and approval of more funds.

Cleveland Community College was also approved for bond money voted by

Cleveland County voters recently and got a four percent funding increase.

Citizens will see a .007 of a percent increase in the tax rate, from 62 to 62.7 per \$100 of property valuation, to pay for the bonds. For a valuation of \$50,000, that means an increase of about \$4.

A four percent increase went to libraries plus \$26,000 for funding of books.

Included in the budget is a 3-

percent raise for county employees and money for step increases on the county's merit pay system. One-third of all employees will be paid on a scale of step four or higher.

The Cleveland County Sheriff's Department and county jail got an increase in funds of \$282,343 and the sheriff's department got 13 new vehicles, a 6.6 percent increase for Sheriff Dan Crawford's department

See County, 8-A

## Mayor says city's serious about closing Moss Lake

"It's no scare tactic," says Mayor Scott Neisler of the city's threat to Moss Lake property owners that city-owned Moss Lake will be closed to recreation if a majority of lake residents do not pay the increased user fees.

Neisler wrote to Rep. John Weatherly, with copies to other area legislators, that the lake user fees go up July 1 but he promised that the city would make an increased effort to collect back fees from delinquent property owners which could possibly see decreases in the 1998-99 budget.

"This is the most significant raise in many years and is fair because those who impact the lake will pay more," he said.

The mayor said the city has not had the manpower to push the collection of back dues in the past several years and is just now beginning to "get a handle on it."

"We've been told that some property owners put up piers without getting the necessary permits," he said.

"It's an economic situation, if

See Mayor, 8-A

## City, Ingles working on parking lot plans

Mayor Scott Neisler said Tuesday that city officials and Ingles Markets representatives are hammering out adjustments in the city's ordinance regarding trees in parking lots.

Ingles presented an amendment to the new ordinance at the recent Planning & Zoning Board meeting which the board delayed action on pending more negotiations between Ingles architects and the city planning staff.

"The intent in the ordinance is for parking lots to be landscaped nicely but we are working with Ingles on placement of trees so that we won't be making an exception and set a precedent," said the mayor.

Neisler did not indicate when the ordinance change would be on the agenda of City Council.

"We're trying to get things worked out so Ingles can build," he said.

## McGinnis glorified God in her music

Margaret McGinnis' goal in life has been to glorify God in her music.

The 20-year veteran choir director at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church retired Sunday but not before she directed her choirs in special anthems and the church sang for her the hymn, "When In Our Music God is Glorified."

A handmade navy, beige and burgundy quilt decorated with musical notes and embroidered with a cross design and her name and years of service was presented to McGinnis during the 11 a.m. service by Rev. James Dougherty. The quilt was a four month labor of love by churchwomen.

The widow of Dick McGinnis joined St. Matthew's on her wedding day in 1956. A music major at Appalachian State University and a graduate student of Peabody/Vanderbilt in Nashville, TN., she taught public school music in Kings Mountain before the consolidation of schools and joined the Gaston County System in 1961, retiring in 1992 after 30 years in education.

McGinnis says her whole family is musical thanks to her father, the late Dee Christopher Cole, band director of Cool Springs High in Forest City for a number of years.

Margaret and her three brothers and sister grew up on musi-

cal notes. Her sister, Helen Krause, retired from Shelby High School after many years as choral director and also retired recently at First Presbyterian Church in Forest City after many years as choir director.

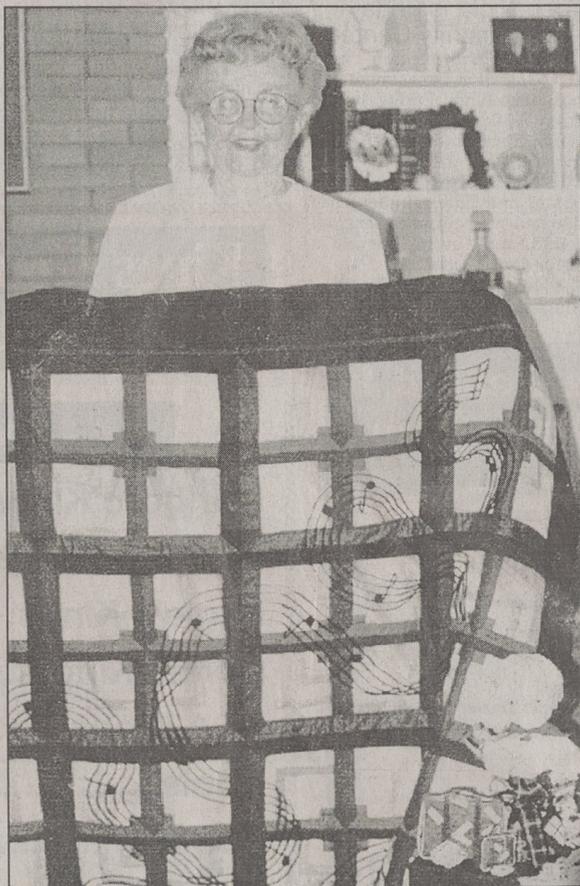
Now the two friends take to the road and enjoy traveling together. They visit their brother, J. Owen Cole, who has homes in Annapolis, Md. and Camden, Maine. Brothers Roger and Benjamin Cole of Forest City round out their close-knit family.

Margaret has two children, Myra Hamrick of Shelby, who is married to Rusty Hamrick and Greg McGinnis of Charlotte who is married to Karen Morton. McGinnis is a budget analyst for the City of Charlotte and Hamrick is executive director of Cleveland County Hospice. McGinnis has two stepgrandsons, Charley Hamrick, a junior at UNC at Chapel Hill, and Blanton Hamrick, a senior at Shelby High.

The musical family extends to a third generation. Chris Cole, nephew of Margaret, directs the band at Kings Mountain High School and is his grandfather's namesake.

"Dad could play almost any

See McGinnis, 8-A



CHURCH MUSICIAN RETIRING - Margaret McGinnis' love for music is reflected in the decorations on the quilt presented to her by St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. She is retiring after 20 years as the church choral director.

## Grover Council adopts a 'hold the line' budget

GROVER - Town Council adopted a "hold the line" budget for 1997-98 Wednesday night which reflects no increase in the tax rate of 29 cents per \$100 valuation and no increase in services.

"We expect a good year," said Mayor Ronald Queen who took the occasion to announce that a new police car had been purchased at cost of \$19,870 and paid for in last year's budget. He said plans for progressing for a Grover Library with land negotiations underway.

The city anticipates revenues of \$230,305, up from \$212,795 last fiscal year. Included in this projection is \$60,500 for ad valorem taxes, \$64,000 for state franchise taxes, \$40,000 in local sales taxes and trash truck proceeds of \$12,825.

Office operations are expected to cost \$28,360, down from \$31,780. The board approved a 401K retirement plan for employees. Salaries and wages will account for \$16,250. Expenses of elected officials total \$12,600, including salary for the mayor and the five commissioners. Town Hall supplies are expected to cost \$2,000 and legal fees are expected to cost \$5,000.

Office operations are expected to cost \$15,135, including salary for one employee of \$5,500.

The Police budget totals \$60,000. Salaries department will account for \$42,180 in the budget with \$1900 added for 401K fringe benefit plus \$2,390 for retirement benefits, \$82,050 for insurance and \$3,250 for FICA and Medicare. Telephone and police supplies account for \$900 and \$2,000 is budgeted for gas and \$1,000 for vehicle maintenance.

Water and sewer revenue is expected to be \$196,000 including \$68,000 for water and \$68,000 for sewer plus \$2500 for reconnect fees and \$3,000 for penalties. Water and sewer taps are estimated to bring in \$7500.

Salaries in the water and sewer department total \$16,250 plus insurance and benefits with \$26,000 budgeted for bond payment interest and \$9,325 budgeted for bond payment principal.

Water and sewer maintenance is expected to cost \$38,725, including salaries of \$25,500 plus benefits.

Grover is expecting to spend \$36,000 for water from Kings Mountain and \$12,500 for sewer testing. The water and sewer budget is expected to total \$83,035, down from \$103,000 last year with expenditures \$196,800, up from \$191,457 last year.