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Kings Mountain, NC • Since 1889 • 50¢



BILL JOHNSON

Lake board to tackle fee issue

Their first agenda item December 19 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall will be the issue that brought the newly-organized Moss Lake Commission into being - lake permits.

Both Bill Johnson, the newly elected chairman, and city Planning Director Steve Killian said December is not too early to begin preliminary budget planning.

Johnson, Operations Training Officer in the Engineer Brigade for the North Carolina National Guard and a 29 year veteran of the Guard, brings to the new

commission expertise in engineering construction projects here and in foreign countries. He is a resident of Linwood Road.

Both Johnson and former Park Yarn Mills executive Jim Potter nominated themselves to chair the commission Thursday night. After Johnson's election by vote of 4-2, the commission unanimously elected Moss Lake resident Mike Bolt as vice-chairman and Killian as secretary. Other members are Danny Parker, Rick Shaffer, Larry Patrick and Jane Dixon. Mrs.

Dixon was absent due to illness. Also attending the meeting were City Attorney Mickey Corry, newly elected councilman Gene White and Joe Smith.

Johnson said the commission has a three-fold short term objective: to prepare recommendations to the city council for initiation of a Moss Lake operational budget for 1998-99; recommend to city council the establishment of Moss Lake usage fees; and conduct a review of the existing city owned facilities and services at Moss Lake. Johnson said members will con-

duct the review during a tour of the facility prior to the December meeting. Johnson said the review is necessary before the commission can determine how the lake can and should be upgraded.

Johnson said he was pleased at the initial enthusiasm of the full committee, saying that each brings much expertise to the committee. He noted that Assistant District Attorney Shaffer will bring legal expertise to the board while Bolt, also a resident of Moss Lake and active in the Moss Lake

Properties Association, will detail property aspects and land leases. Parker, Mrs. Dixon and Potter will be able to devote ideas on the business and operational focus of the lake and Patrick will give input on environmental issues. Johnson says his contribution will be toward the "engineering side" of the program.

A native of Kings Mountain, Johnson attended Kings Mountain High School and graduated from Cleveland

See Lake, 2A

FOOTBALL FEVER...CATCH IT



Kings Mountain High's cheerleaders proclaimed a muddy, foggy Saturday night the Mountaineers' day to blow away East Rowan in the second round of the state football playoffs Saturday in

Salisbury. The Mountaineers go after their third straight playoff win Friday night at home against Ragsdale. Complete details on last week's and this week's opponents are on page 1B.

Kristen Miller KMHS Carrousel Princess

Kristen Heather Miller, 17, who ranks third in her class of 242 seniors at Kings Mountain High School, will represent the city as Carrousel Princess in the Thanksgiving Day Carolinas Carrousel.

The 100-plus unit holiday parade with 24 bands, 30 floats, assorted novelty units and celebrity guest ssteps off at 1 p.m. and will be televised live by WBTV Channel 3.

The East Burke Cavalier Marching Band will lead the parade as the 1997 Honor Band and Queen College President Dr. Billy O. Wireman will be grand marshal for the 50th anniversary parade.

Miller will also join 50 other Carrousel Princesses from the two Carolinas for the four-day celebration which includes an



KRISTEN MILLER

Ambassador's Luncheon, a hospital tour, rehearsals and the

Carolinas' Pepsi Coronation Ball. The event's highlight is the Thursday parade, the largest Thanksgiving Day parade in the Southeast.

The daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Roger Miller is a hazel-eyed blonde who stands five feet eight inches tall and weighs 130 pounds. At Kings Mountain High School, she competed with 11 other young women and was selected on the basis of interviewing ability, academic activity ranking and personal presentation.

A Morehead Scholarship nominee and recipient of the Dean B. Westmoreland Excellence in History Award, she has been a member of the KMHS tennis team for four years and the KMHS swim team for three years. She is

president of the French club, vice president of the Art Club and a representative of the senior class in the Student Participation Organization. She has been actively involved in the National Honor Society, Beta Club, Earthwatch Club, Future Business Leaders of America, Students Against Violence Everywhere, Lettermans Club, Key Club, Marching Band, Concert Band and Pep band. She is active in her youth group at Central United Methodist Church and plans to attend UNC-Chapel Hill and major in physical therapy or psychology.

A Candystriper at Kings Mountain Hospital, she also volunteers to help prepare meals at homeless shelters. See Miller, 2A

Bikers make annual toy run

Bikers played Santa to crippled children Saturday in the third annual Shriners benefit bike run in Kings Mountain.

Fifty bikers gathered at Murphey's Scooter Shed on Camelot Drive in the Bethlehem Community for the 45-minute run covering the Bethlehem El Bethel and Oak Grove Communities and onto US 74 and Phifer Road at Masonic Temple where gifts were delivered to the White Plains Shrine Club for distribution this Christmas.

"We have such a good time doing this every year," said John Murphey, who organized the run.

Bikers came from near and

far to ride their bikes and collect gifts for children. Cars filled with gifts donated by the bikers and their families followed the entourage who strapped other donated gifts onto their bikes.

Threat of rain didn't dampen the spirit of the bikers who, after the successful run, returned to the home of Buffy and John Murphey and their daughter, Lindsey, to enjoy barbecue and turkey slow-cooked on a big cooker by Tom Canipe, John Murphey, his father-in-law, Johnny Hutchins and John's uncle, Mike Hutchins and John Grant. The meats were compliments of Bridges Meat Market

See Ride, 2A



RIDING FOR KIDS - Bikers led by John and Buffy Murphey rode for kids who can't ride Saturday and played Santa for their annual toy benefit for crippled children at Shriners Hospitals. Fifty bikers participated in the toy run.

Guyton's election protest dismissed by county board

Complaints by former Ward 2 Councilman Jim Guyton of alleged November 4 election irregularities and a request for a new election were unanimously dismissed by The Cleveland County Board of Elections Monday but Guyton has the right of appeal to the state board.

In their findings of fact and after a public hearing last Friday, the board on Monday afternoon found "no substantial evidence of violations of the state election laws or other irregularities or misconduct."

The findings of fact were signed by Chairman Pat Spangler Tuesday with a copy to the state board of elections for their review and determination and a copy to Guyton.

If Guyton appeals the findings of the local board, the state board could hear the the complaint at its December 2 meeting in Raleigh.

Board Attorney Julian Wray said that Guyton has five days to appeal to the state.

Guyton was out-of-town Monday and was not expected back for several days.

Incumbent Councilman Jerry Mullinax, who defeated Guyton two years ago by a one vote margin, squeaked out another one vote victory November 4 and again at a recount on November 10.

Guyton had asked for explanations from both the county board and state board on how irregularities could occur, he said at Friday's hearing. An initial recount made by a computerized voting machine on November 10 declared Guyton the winner by one vote. But after three hand counts, Mullinax emerged as the winner by one vote.

Phil Baker, a county employee who maintains the voting machines, testified under oath,

explaining the discrepancy between the election total and the first recount was due largely to mismarked ballots.

"The machines can't read handwriting," said Baker. He said one ballot was inadvertently counted twice for Guyton while a ballot cast for Mullinax couldn't be read by the machine. A closer examination by election board personnel revealed the errors, he said. The Guyton vote was counted first by the computer and the ballot ended up in the outstack file, those labeled by the computer as unreadable because of a write-in vote in a completely different election.

This would not affect the machine reading the vote for Guyton but Baker said election workers added it back to the total anyway.

The second disputed ballot was marked for Mullinax but the voter also wrote in Mullinax's name. The computer read this as overvoting, Baker said, and discarded the ballot. However, he said the vote was added to that total in both the original election and the second recount because poll workers were able to determine the voters intent.

Once these corrections were made, Mullinax once more had a 164-163 victory.

Buy Guyton, who testified under oath, said that in addition to the confusion at the East KM precinct several voters were given the wrong ballots on election day. Lori Holland, Guyton's daughter, testified under oath that she was given the wrong ballot, realized the problem and asked for the correct ballot.

Peggy Gladden, who also testified under oath, said she was also given the wrong ballot but

See Guyton, 3A

United Way celebrates success

More than 200 Super-heroes gathered in the Kings Mountain National Guard Army on Thursday to celebrate the victory of caring to Cleveland County.

Super men and wonder women - members of the Cleveland County community - worked together this year to raise \$2,150,350. The campaign total is a 5.3 percent increase over \$2,041,043, the 1996 combined fund raising total of United Way of Cleveland County and Kings Mountain United Fund.

This year's campaign - the first under the alliance between United Way of Cleveland County and the Kings

Mountain United Fund - was a rallying point for all sectors of the community.

John Young, CEO of Cleveland Regional Medical Center, served as chairman of the 1997 effort and spoke of this unity in his address to the gathering.

"The root of the word community is unity and in Cleveland County we are fortunate to have both," Young said. "The achievement of our fund raising goal is evidence of this community's commitment to caring for each other. Residents of Cleveland County from all walks of life have shown that they are committed to the con-

See United, 2A



Chris Camp KMHS student of month

See Page 4A



90-year-old Essie Carroll still driving & selling Avon

See Page 3A



Mountaineers host Ragsdale in playoffs

See Page 1B