

KM's Michael Jolly
State High School
Golf Champion

6A

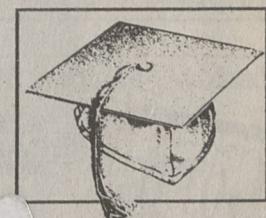


Mother's Club
book gives history
of past

4A



Class of 1998
Kings Mountain
Graduation Section



Vol. 110 No.21

Kings Mountain H

Thursday, May 21, 1998

105 MOUNTAIN NC 28086-2901
BONNIE POLETTI 956-06-03-98

SUN-RT 20P L65
SOUTHERN 165

Kings Mountain, NC • Since 1889 • 50¢

Police investigate alleged assault

A 15-year-old Kings Mountain High School student was suspended from school for fighting May 13 and his teacher is on leave pending an investigation by police, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Ronnie Wilson confirmed this week.

"This is school policy," Wilson said.

Kings Mountain High School Principal Phil Weathers said he could not comment on the incident. He said the teacher named in the complaint had taught at the high school for over 20 years and questions about personnel would have to be referred to the district office. Weathers confirmed the suspension of a student.

Telephone calls to the teacher by The Herald were not returned.

"There have been conflicting statements made to police about the incident but we are continuing the investigation to get all the facts to present to the District Attorney who will review the case," said Chief of Police Richard Reynolds.

Reynolds said the parent of the student filed a complaint of assault on a minor May 14th after the boy came home from school May 13th and reported that he was suspended for fighting. In the incident report the boy claims his teacher "slammed him on the floor."

Resource Office Maurice Jamison said the incident happened in the hallway near the water fountain at the high school about 2:30 p.m. on May 13th. He said the incident was reported at 4:40 p.m. on May 14. Jamison was interviewing students and teachers this week and was to present his findings to Reynolds.

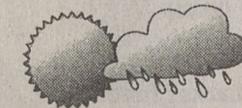
According to Reynolds, State statutes on "simple assault" GS 14-33 reads, "As a general rule, the person who is in charge of a child, a parent or school teacher, for example, is not criminally liable for inflicting moderate punishment to correct the child. Moderate punishment is punishment that does not cause lasting injury, allows teachers to use reasonable force, including corporal punishment, to restrain or correct pupils. Force is unreasonable if it is motivated by anger or malice, or if it causes permanent injury."

INSIDE

Birthdays 2B
Church News 4-5B
Classifieds 7-8B
Lifestyles 1B
Obituaries 2A
Opinion 4A
Police 5B
Sports 6-7A

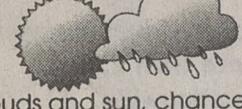
OUTSIDE

THURSDAY



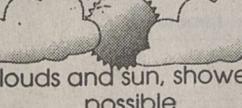
Partly sunny; chance of a thunderstorm
High 88°, low 64°.

FRIDAY



Clouds and sun, chance of a thunderstorm
High 82°, low 62°.

SATURDAY



Clouds and sun, showers possible
High 82°, low 62°.

FUN IN THE SUN



Joseph Schneider, one-year-old son of Kevin and Dawn Schneider, wasn't too concerned about all the baseball games going on around him Monday night at Deal Street Park. He was content making up his own games in his playpen.

No tax, utility hike in proposed budget

City Manager Jimmy Maney is proposing for the second year a city budget with no increase in taxes or utilities.

The proposed \$24.5 million budget, an increase of \$808,685 from last year, includes a 4 1/2 percent across-the-boards raise for the city's 160-plus employees. This includes a 1 1/2 percent cost of living raise and a 3 percent pay plan adjustment.

The budget provides for the city to continue to pay 100 percent health coverage for employees, retirees, the mayor and city council and for 30 percent of dependent coverage.

Maney told the full council during a four-hour marathon work session Monday night that the budget accounts for all mandates and capital outlay projects including the proposed \$1 million law enforcement center and for the remainder of funds needed to pay for a \$1 million plus recreational complex at Deal and Davidson Parks and for a new swimming pool.

Several "ifs" could mean some changes in the budget, however.

Maney said if the City of Gastonia ups the cost of pretreat-

ment of sewage at its Crowders Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant that those costs—estimated to be a 7 percent hike—would be passed on to the 10 industries who use the service. "Council would review to see what impact the extra costs would impact on the revenue side and make a decision," he said.

"I know it's a hard pill to swallow when the sewer costs go up but it's still a good deal," said Mayor Scott Neisler. He credited the city's partnership in the Crowders Creek project a direct result of the buildup of industries along I-85.

And, Maney said if the North Carolina Department of Revenue imposes, as expected, a 3 percent sales tax on the eight North Carolina cities, including Kings Mountain, which sells natural gas, that those costs would have to be passed on to customers. Maney said Kings Mountain won't receive a penny of revenue from the sales tax and the costs to Kings Mountain could run up to \$200,000 a year.

Maney did not propose increased cemetery fees but Council, by vote of 6-1 with Jerry

Mullinax casting the dissenting vote, decided to change the fee structure. The new fees would raise the cost of a lot for a resident of the Kings Mountain School District from \$300 to \$500 and would, for the first time, give those people living outside the school district the option to purchase a lot for \$1200 at Mountain Rest Cemetery. The cost of a lot for inside city residents would remain \$150.

Council, also by vote of 6-1 with Mullinax dissenting, voted to up fees for opening and closing of graves. The new fees are \$225, up \$25, for opening, and \$350, was \$300, for closures.

The Moss Lake budget prepared by Maney agrees almost totally with the budget prepared by the Moss Lake Commission with exception of personnel. The lake commission is recommending that only two people work at the city-owned lake but Maney says three people are needed to keep the lake open seven days a week. Maney is proposing that two part-time employees would free up the codes officer and the administrative clerk when they

See BUDGET page 8A

New water line a priority for city manager

Animal control, ABC board topics

The questions of who will handle animal control and who will sit on the ABC Board may be decided by City Council at Tuesday night's 7:30 p.m. meeting at which members will be asked to adopt a \$24.5 million plus budget.

Although the budget workshops have been time-consuming for staff and Council, the budget item may take a back seat.

The subject of animal control came up again at Monday's budget workshop and Council indicated it is ready to consider asking the county to take over the job.

The idea was shelved by

Council last year after members questioned the salary and equipment and how officers could serve the residents of Kings Mountain living within Gaston County.

"If we're moving in that direction I need to know about it by Tuesday," said City Manager Jimmy Maney who said the budget has to be before the public June 1.

Although the budget workshops have been time-consuming for staff and Council, the budget item may take a back seat.

The county can do all the record keeping and our police will be out of it and I think we need to give the county a shot," said Councilman Rick Murphy.

Both Council members Norma Bridges and Clavon Kelly

See COUNCIL page 8A

By 2003, City Manager Jimmy Maney hopes to see construction of a new water line that runs from Moss Lake to town.

That's one of his priorities, he told City Council Monday night as he presented the budget proposals for 1998-99.

Maney envisions that in the next 12-18 months that the city can begin engineering and procuring right-of-ways for the project and be ready to start construction in five years.

"We should be able to pay the \$1 million plus by designating the profits from the Peak Generation plant after we get it paid off in three years," he told the board.

Maney said electric deregulation should be in full swing by that time and the city will be in a position to start the project in earnest. He said the city should be able to budget \$400,000 each year beginning about 2000 for the project he called "very badly needed."

Another upcoming project is gas expansion to serve the greater Dixon School Road area. Mayor Scott Neisler called for a "more aggressive approach" to gas expansion during the budget meet-

ing and Council gave the go-ahead for Maney to upgrade a feasibility study.

Capital outlay projects totally \$2.5 million okayed by the Council included:

Finance Department - \$33,895 for equipment, furniture and hardware and software.

Human Resources - \$1,000 for a typewriter and file cabinet.

Garage - \$76,000 for equipment and fuel tank upgrade.

Police - \$105,000 for equipment, furnishings for the new building and vehicles.

Fire - \$60,483 for equipment, lease purchase payment of \$49,483 for the new fire truck.

Public Works Administration - \$8,250 for computer software, communication system and security system.

Powell Bill and Streets - \$13,000 for a new leaf trailer and upgrade of radio.

Sanitation - \$116,088 for a knuckle boom loader, roll off truck lease payment, commercial containers, lease purchase for a commercial truck and two residential trucks.

See WATER LINE page 8A

POW/MIA flag raised Friday

John Henry Caldwell, who spent time behind enemy lines during World War II as a prisoner of war, helped local postal officials and members of the American Legion and Amvets Posts fly the POW/MIA flag over the Kings Mountain Post Office Friday.

"I wonder where the rest of the veterans and POW's are," said Caldwell after Postmaster Bob Howard led the 9 a.m. service of remembrance of those captured and missing in military action.

"As one of the nation's largest employers of veterans and a concerned member of the community, the Postal Service and its employees are proud to participate in this remembrance," said Howard.

The POW/MIA flag, which features the picture of a man against a white background surrounded by black, was created by the National League of Families in 1971.

The Postal service first recognized the POW-MIA issue by creating and producing a 6-cent commemorative stamp in 1970, followed by a 32 cent commemorative postage stamp in 1995 featuring

dog tags with the inscription "POW-MIA -Never forgotten."

The POW/MIA flag was hoisted by Caldwell, American Legion Post Commander Claude Pearson, Amvets Commander Jackie Barrett, and Mayor Scott Neisler. Rev. Reg Alexander led the invocation.

The mayor said Armed Forces Day was the first time the flags would be flying around the nation and the local flag beside the American flag would make people more aware of the POW-MIA issue.

Neisler said the recent front page stories about the mother who wanted the Tomb of the Unknowns opened in Washington, DC opened to find out if her son was entombed there is a stark reminder of the tragedy of war and the numbers still missing in action including 2,100 from the Vietnam War added to 8,800 from the Korean Conflict and 88,000 never fully accounted for from World War II.



IN REMEMBRANCE- The POW/MIA flag flies over the U.S. Post Office in Kings Mountain in remembrance of those still missing in military action. From left, Postmaster Bob Howard, Amvets Commander Jackie Barrett, Mayor Scott Neisler, POW and World War II veteran John Henry Caldwell, American Legion Post 155 Commander Claude Pearson and Rev. Reg Alexander.