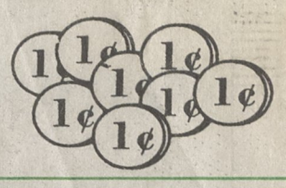
Mounties host
Byrd Friday

First Presbyterian
on the Internet
10A

Your 8 cents
could cure cancer
4A



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Questions & Answers

City Manager talks about wastewater treatment issue

By WES GROOMS

Since the article on water rates appeared in the Herald several weeks ago there seems to be confusion in regards to how this breaks down and what it actually means. We sat down with City Manager Jimmy Maney in a question-and-answer session to go into full details of the issue.

Q - Please explain the 7% water increase.

A - There was never a 7% water increase discussed. The City of Gastonia passed on a 7% wastewater increase to Kings Mountain. The city sends wastewater to Crowders Creek Wasterwater Facility owned and operated by the City of Gastonia.

MANEY

Q - Why does the city send wastewater to Crowders Creek?

A - The city of Kings Mountain entered into a 30-year contract with the city of Gastonia in 1988 for the Crowders Creek project. There is a minimum monthly contract demand associated with this contract whether you send 1 gallon or millions of gallons each month. This contract was entered into after the State of North Carolina basically shut down the McGill treatment plant. The state also issued a moratorium (stop order) on all new wastewater taps which included residential, commercial and industrial. This meant no new growth. The city spent millions of dollars of bond money to upgrade the Pilot Creek plant and infrastructure. The state indicated they would not issue a permit to upgrade the McGill Plant, a facility over 50 years old; therefore the Crowders Creek project became the only option at the time for the city. The city could have spent eight to ten-million dollars to build a new plant but financially could not afford it. Improvements were needed on the system infrastructure as well as the treatment facility.

Q - Why doesn't the city own its own wastewater treatment facility?

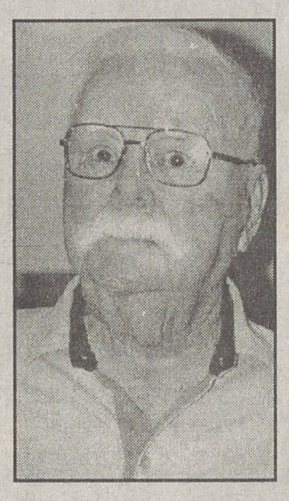
A - The city has two wastewater treatment outlets. We own capacity in Crowders Creek and we own Pilot Creek wastewater treatment facility.

Q - What about sending flow to Pilot Creek from this side of town?

A - There are problems associated with this concept. Pilot

See Questions, 12A

Copula salvaged by firemen



Retired fireman Red Ware and other KM firemen spotted planes from copula during World War II

Ware spotted planes from dome

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Of The Herald Staff

The 1937 wood and copper cupola lifted Wednesday from atop the old city hall has special memories for retired fireman Red Ware, 90.

Ware, who has been homebound for several years due to illness, said he won't ever forget how he and the late fireman Red McKee used to spot airplanes during the war from that high vantage point overlooking Kings Mountain.

"...We kept watch 24 hours a day."

-Red Ware

"We had a special call number and code name and we called to the Charlotte Airport and gave the information," said Ware, who said the years had diminished some of his memory of reporting of the activity.

Ware said the late Mayor Glee A. Bridges closed in the cupola with glass so that firemen could sit inside after they went up to the top in a ladder to watch from all four sides any activity in the skies.

"Firemen volunteered for this duty during the war years and we kept watch 24 hours a day," Red said.

Ware said firemen received no money, enjoying their contribution to the war effort. He said every plane that went over Kings Mountain was seen by firemen.

"At City Hall we called our operation Plane Spotting Headquarters and John Floyd, Sarah Simpson's uncle, was in charge," recalled Ware.

"If we could identify the planes we did but if we could not we would say an unidentified plane was going over the city," said Red who said the city took the emergency measures during the war years and the project was continued for some years after World War II ended.

After all these years, Red remembers the call name and number: Juliet Foxtrot three one black.

Ware's son, Bud, who followed in his father's footsteps with long service to the Kings Mountain Fire Department, said he was a plane spotter for a number of years after the war.

See Ware, 10A

New 5-6 school approved

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Of The Herald Staff

Although it's four to five years away from opening its doors to students, a new 5-6 School will be built in Kings Mountain following a 3-2 decision of the board of education Monday.

No site has been chosen and no timetable for completion has been set. The next step is the hiring of an architect to assist in the planning.

"It doesn't make much sense to look for the land before you decide what kind of school you want to build," said Supt. Dr. Bob McRae who pledged the support of the staff whatever the decision.

Chairman Ronnie Hawkins said board members had wrestled with the decision for over a year after public hearings were held inviting input from the community.

"From those public meetings I learned that Kings Mountain parents want a 5-6 school," he said.

Creating a 5-6 school will also mean the board won't have to deal with redrawing Kings Mountain elementary school attendance lines and Hawkins said that was a big concern of parents.

But Larry Allen, who agreed that redistricting would not be pleasant for anyone, said a a new k-5 elementary school would be in the long term best interest of local students.

Allen said children would benefit from the continuity of attending the same school from kindergarten through fifth grade, rather than changing schools after fourth grade and again after sixth grade.

Melony Bolin agreed with Allen. "Transition is transition," she said. "Will we be benefiting the kids in the long run irregardless of what it means for parents who may have to move their students out to another school."

Shearra Miller said beyond space considerations the fifth through sixth grade school has advantages. She said sixth graders would do better socially with fifth graders, than they do currently with seventh and eighth grade students.

Hawkins agreed, saying that parents had told him they preferred their students not attend a middle school with older students.

"I think they can be served well in a school that is almost like a transition school," said Miller.

Board members recently visited a 5-6 school in Clover,SC and were pleased with the arrangement.

B.S. Peeler, who made the motion to approve the 5-6 school, said the 5-6 school would eliminate crowding at the Kings Mountain Middle School which would then house grades seven and eight.

Peeler said Kings Mountain Middle School had 964 students on opening day of the 1998-99 school term Monday.

See School, 11A

KM Schools' ABC Report: Straight A's

Teacher Susan Denton reads to students at West School on first day of class Monday morning

Kings Mountain District Schools led the county in the state's ABCs with West School near the top in the state as a School of Excellence and Bethware a School of Distinction.

An overflow crowd of parents and teachers celebrated at Monday night's August board meeting which included presentation of banners and plaques to all seven schools. Eligible personnel will also get bonuses.

"Results such as these don't come by accident," said Supt. Dr. Bob McRae who cited the dedication of students and staff over the past two years of the ABC program in 119 school systems in the state.

"We focused on instruction," he said.

The state ABC report card was announced last Thursday by the Department of Public Instruction.

All elementary schools in Kings Mountain and the Middle School met expected growth. Five schools were exemplary schools, meaning they exceeded expected growth.

East and North Elementary Schools and Kings Mountain Middle School received exemplary ratings.

Both Grover Elementary and Kings Mountain High School met expected growth. This was the first year that KMHS was included in the rankings. Grover narrowly missed the expected growth status by a small percentage.

By having more than 80 percent of students reach proficiency, Bethware was named a School of Distinction.

See ABC, 2A

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