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Senior Center, water contracts awarded

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

In a special meeting Monday, Kings Mountain City Council awarded contracts for two capital projects amounting to almost \$4 million.

Council awarded a \$888,092.48 contract, including 10 percent contingency funds, to Ronny Turner Construction for the 36" north side water

line, which is Phase II of a 10-year program to completely replace the main water line from Moss Lake to the city.

Council also awarded contracts totalling almost \$2.8 million for the construction of the Kings Mountain Senior Life and Conference Center.

City Manager Jimmy Maney noted that Phase I of the water project had been completed during the past fiscal year, and

Phase II will be completed in this fiscal year's budget. Phase III will be included in the 2001-02 fiscal year budget and should be completed by Christmas 2001.

Phase I included some 3,600 feet of line from the water plant at Moss Lake across Muddy Fork Creek.

Phase II is a 36" north line coming out of the Public Works facility on North Piedmont,

down Cansler Street. Phase III will extend that project to Oak Grove Road across the Highway 74 bypass.

Maney said approximately \$1 million is available in the budget to cover the project, thus allowing the city to go ahead and begin design work for Phase III even though it is not included in this year's budget.

Bids were awarded contingent upon rights of way being

secured, Maney said. Negotiation on one right of way is not complete, and if it's not secured an alternate route will be considered.

By going ahead and awarding construction bids, materials could be ordered but actual construction could not begin until the right of way issue is settled, Maney said.

An alternate route could require additional money, Maney

noted.

General construction for the Senior Center project was awarded to Pinnix Inc. of Gastonia, which offered a base bid of \$1,483,452. Eleven alternates were included in the plan, bringing the total cost to \$2,088,177.

Site work was awarded to J.W. Tedder Construction in the

See Contract, 3A

KM Board discusses new school

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

Architect Roger Holland gave the Kings Mountain Board of Education an update on the design of a new 5-6 grade school at Monday night's meeting at Central School.

The project is scheduled to go out for bids in late October, and the Board hopes to award contracts by early December.

Kings Mountain plans a facility on the new Kings Mountain Boulevard to house all of the system's fifth and sixth graders.

However, because their funding position is not clear at this point, the Board asked Holland to draw the plans so that two of the four classroom wings could be bid as alternates.

The estimated cost of the original plans was around \$11.75 million. Each classroom wing deleted could save about \$1.5 million in construction cost, but the system would have to install mobile units at the site to take care of the student population.

The school system would have about \$9 million available through saving its share of state sales tax revenue over the past several years. The system recently asked Cleveland County Commissioners to back loans for the remaining amount necessary, but they refused to take action.

School officials are still hopeful that funds can be found to finance the entire project.

Holland told the Board very few modifications have been made to the original plan. If classroom wings are deleted, some modifications would have to be made to walls and doors, he said.

"In case the prices are not within the means to fund the two classroom wings, they can be deducted and one or both put back in at a later date," he said. "There's a lot of flexibility with what we can afford to do."

Board member Ronnie Hawkins was optimistic the entire project can still be funded, and said it needs to be stressed to the public that this is Kings Mountain's first new school since 1974 (when the Middle School was built).

"When we do this, we want it to be for the future," Hawkins said. "In the year 2020 I would like to say this is still a state-of-the-art school."

Holland said he is optimistic that the system will get some good bids

"Based on other jobs we're doing, it appears the market is very good now," he said.

"We're very pleased with the bids we've received on other jobs. If the market stays like it is, and with this project coming along just prior to the bond referendum for universities and community colleges, we

See School, 7A



Kindergarten students from Springmore Elementary in Bolling Springs paid a recent visit to Killdeer Farm for a morning hayride. Admiring the Killdeer pumpkins were, from left, Timothy Gossett, Kayleigh McDaniel, and Sierra Akers.

ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD

Roll 'Em No More KM's new automated garbage truck in use

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain Public Works officials got their first test run of their new \$147,000 automated refuse collection truck Thursday morning, and they look forward to putting the truck in service this week.

Maxwell Taylor, Vice President of Sales for Carolina Environmental Systems, Inc., gave a thorough training session on the easily, conveniently operated one-arm pickup system behind the Public Works Building on North Piedmont Avenue.

Public Works Director Jackie Barnette said as soon as paper work is completed on the purchase, the truck will be put in service.

The vehicle should more than adequately serve the needs of the city's over 4,700 residential customers, Barnette said, and will make sanitation pickup more efficient and less expensive in the

See Garbage, 3A



Maxwell Taylor, right, of Carolina Environmental Systems, Inc. shows Mayor Rick Murphrey how easy it is to operate automated garbage truck.

GARY STEWART / HERALD

Huge crowd attends KM battle celebration

BY ALAN HODGE
 Staff Writer

Saturday saw a veritable battalion of history buffs descend on Kings Mountain National Military Park for the 220th Anniversary celebration of that Revolutionary War battle. Dignitaries, Revolutionary reenactors, the Overmountain Victory Trail marchers, and hundreds of folks interested in our nation's past filled the park visitor center and grounds to overflowing.

"This is the most people I've ever seen at the park," said superintendent Erin Broadbent.

Sunny skies and cool temperatures made a perfect day for ceremonies commemorating the October 7, 1780 Patriot victory at Kings Mountain. The battle, often called a turning point in

the American Revolution, saw buckskin clad mountaineers and local militia fight against Tories led by British army Major Patrick Ferguson. Fighting Indian style, the Patriots destroyed their enemies and killed Ferguson to boot.

One aspect of the event that was especially interesting was an encampment by members of the Guilford Militia and Locke's Militia. Dressed in 18th century garb, the men, women, and children reenactors had set up a living history camp in the woods with canvas tents and stew boiling in iron kettles over open fires.

"We enjoy doing this because it helps educate the public about how people lived back in the time of the Revolution,"

See Battle, 3A

ELECTION 2000

Dalton, Neisler in Senate race

(First of a three-week series on the important local races in the November 7 general election. This week: NC State Senate District 37. Next week, NC State House District 48).

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

Both candidates for the 37th State Senate seat - incumbent Walter Dalton of Rutherford County and challenger Scott Neisler of Cleveland County - list education as one of their top four priorities, but have different ideas on what they consider the other three most important issues facing the state during the next two years.

Dalton, a two-term Senator, listed education, the economy, fiscal responsibility, and protecting children and families as his main goals.

Neisler, former Kings Mountain mayor, listed, in no particular order, taxes, spending money for its intended purposes, education, and reducing restrictions that the state puts on local government agencies.

"In a nutshell, I'm for cost versus benefit analysis," says Neisler. "If the cost is worth the benefit do it; if not, leave it alone."

Neisler said the main reason he's running for State Senate is because, when he was mayor "the state government was not real responsive to the things we needed here in our area."

And, that brings us to his first priority:

He spoke specifically of a KM request for a 3-cent state occupancy tax at hotels on I-85 which he said would have put an additional \$75,000 a year in



NEISLER DALTON

the city coffers.

"We've had local bills opposed for the last three years," he said, "and our local delegation has not been able to grant those to Kings Mountain. For some reason the Democratic-controlled General Assembly hasn't seen fit to grant Kings Mountain what the other municipalities in this county have."

2 - Spending money for its intended purpose:

"As mayor I was not fond of taking money out of one fund and using it for another project," he said. "We ran into difficulty here, because by doing that a lot of our systems let go. I'd like for things to go to their specific causes."

As an example, he said, the state gasoline tax is supposed to go to the highway fund, but he charged that over the last three years the General Assembly "has robbed that fund of \$153 million." He said local projects, such as the 74 bypass around Shelby, would have been farther along if the gas tax had gone to its intended purpose.

3 - Schools: Even with the improvements made in education, Neisler said "it's still a shame that we are

See Senate 3A



Beverly McIntyre helped cooked some vittles for the Revolutionary War camp Saturday at Kings Mountain National Military Park. McIntyre and her friends slept outside in canvas tents.

ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD



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