

KINGS MOUNTAIN

The Herald

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Grover adopts budget

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

GROVER - With budget questions looming on a state wide level, none of those were present at the Town of Grover's monthly Commissioners meeting Monday.

The Town of Grover passed a \$550,575 budget with increases in the town's water and sewer fund.

Currently the town has a minimum water charge of \$5.36 for usage of 2,000 gallons and under.

With the increase, the new minimum charge will be \$6.64.

The new charges are in response to a 43 percent increase from the City of Kings Mountain, who has been providing the town water.

The new cost will be an increase of sixty cents per 1,000 gallons.

No proposed increases were made for sewer and trash service.

Water and sewer issues were evident in other parts of the meeting.

The town passed a motion to offer a contract to Lee Hayes, current manager of the Town Of Bessemer City's Wastewater Treatment plant, to replace Mike Church, who had resigned recently.

Because of a state law requiring upgrades to wastewater treatment plants, Bessemer City will be closing its plant and will use the City of Gastonia's plant.

Town of Grover Mayor Bill Favell put a strong emphasis on finding the replacement for Church.

"We've got to have a manager of the operation," Favell said.

Mayor Pro Tem Max Rollins said the issue should be discussed more.

Hayes, who will be working as a contractor for the town, has asked for approximately \$20,800 a year.

If Hayes is hired, the town will pay for testing of its samples which it did not do previously, and he will have to provide his own insurance.

"I think we can work these other things out," Favell said.

The new operator of the town's wastewater system is scheduled to start July 1.

In other business:

- Library Committee Chairperson Robert Hunt will

See Grover, 7A

THE BRITISH ARE COMING



BEN LEDBETTER / THE HERALD

Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey will don Revolutionary War attire and an American flag and ride into the City's Fourth of July Celebration on a horse Wednesday at Jake Early Field.

KM's Fourth of July celebration Wednesday

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

The City of Kings Mountain will open its Fourth of July festival Wednesday at the YMCA.

Festival activities will start at 4 p.m. at the city swimming pool with games, contests and other activities.

At 6 p.m. Harvest, a band from Oak Grove will perform and will play until approximately 9 p.m.

City of Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey, who will dress in Revolutionary War era Patriot's costume will ride in to an area on Jake Early Field.

"We thought we would do the theme of the battlefield," Murphrey said about his costume.

Murphrey had previously dressed as Uncle Sam the past couple years.

After the mayor's entrance and a

brief speech, a fireworks display will follow.

Food vendors will be available.

Along with Kings Mountain, Moss Lake will be holding Independence Day activities.

A pontoon parade will start at Snake Island at 2 p.m., and the decorated boats will parade the perimeter of the lake.

Other festivals in the area:

- Cherryville's Fourth of July Celebration will start at 6 p.m. on Main Street with music by the Fantastic Shakers. Fireworks are scheduled to start at 10 p.m.

- Cleveland Mall will celebrate the Fourth of July on Tuesday.

The band Sugarfoot will play from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Ocean Boulevard will play from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Other activities at the mall include face painting, a magic show and a slide.

Council allocates quarter-million for kids playground

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

City Council Tuesday night adopted an ordinance establishing a capital fund of \$250,000 for a new kids playground at Jake Early Field behind the YMCA.

Councilman Gene White cast the lone no vote, saying he was not against a playground but would have preferred more specific information about plans and actual cost.

City Manager Jimmy Maney and members of the playground committee said the project must proceed quickly to meet the targeted September 4 construction date.

The committee is holding several public fund-raising events to help raise money for equipment, which will be constructed by some 400 volunteers.

Mayor Rick Murphrey, who said the park will be designed similar to the Martha Rivers Park in Gastonia, said the playground will be "unique" because it will be "designed by the kids." Murphrey and members of the committee went to all elementary schools in Kings Mountain to seek input from children as to what type of equipment they wanted.

"This is a wonderful quality of life project for the city of Kings Mountain," he said. "I had looked at all of our playground equipment in Kings Mountain and had only found a small amount at the walking track that wasn't in very good condition. This is something we need for the city."

Councilman Dean Spears also applauded the project, noting that City Council is responsible for looking after the needs of all age groups from youth to senior citizens. He pointed to the new senior center and downtown activities as major projects that have been put in place for middle and older age groups.

"I think we'd be doing the kids an injustice if we didn't do this," he said.

"We're elected to provide representation and money for all three age groups."

Several parents said the park is needed to keep them from having to take their children to Shelby or Gastonia to play. In fact, Murphrey said, when he first visited the Martha Rivers Park in Gastonia he saw a lot of Kings Mountain residents there.

"This would benefit all of the children of Kings Mountain," said Margaret Gilliken. "This would be a place for children to meet and play and not be divided by where they live or go to school. It would be an asset to the community."

Wanda Connor, a local realtor, said the park would be a "real drawing tool for Kings Mountain." Mayor Murphrey agreed, saying that several industrial clients he has talked to recently were excited to learn about the plans and said they would support the project if their

See Park, 2A



GARY STEWART/THE HERALD
Councilman Gene White with handful of nails he picked up out of his driveway

Councilman offers reward for persons who threw nails in his driveway

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

City Councilman Gene White hit the nail on the head Tuesday night at the monthly Council meeting at City Hall, hammering out a brief speech that would have made the Washington politicians' speech writers envious.

White is enraged about an incident last week in which someone threw roofing nails in his driveway and those of other Council members, Mayor Rick Murphrey and City Manager Jimmy Maney.

White came to the meeting intending to ask Council to offer a \$2,500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators; however, he said he wasn't sure if that would be in accordance with the laws of the State so he offered his own personal reward of \$300.

White said he has no proof "as to who committed this silly and fruitless act" other than to say a couple of people have said they know who did it.

Some of his comments, though, seemed to indicate he may have been referring to owners of video poker establishments who have been under close scrutiny by the city police over the past several months.

See Nails, 7A



Brooks McAbee has some of the biggest and best watermelons and cantaloupes in Kings Mountain. He was selling them yesterday from the back of his truck which was parked beside the Kings Mountain Depot.

Parent voices concerns to KM School Board

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

A parent whose daughter was denied access to a ninth grade English honors course at Kings Mountain High School because of her end-of-grade test score says the school should consider other factors when assessing a student's potential for success.

Charlotte Pettis' daughter, Jennai, was a Straight A student in elementary and middle school but was not accepted for the honors course because her EOG test score fell below the recommended 85th percentile.

Mrs. Pettis voiced her concerns to the School Board at a meeting earlier this month; and Tuesday night she appeared before the Board again in closed session. A friend of the family, John Jones, Director of Institutional Research at Johnson C. Smith University, also took part in the discussion along with Board members, KMHS

Principal John Yarbro, Assistant Principal Dianna Bridges, and KMHS teacher Jewel Kendrick.

Mrs. Pettis said there were extenuating circumstances that may have played a part in her daughter not scoring in the 85th percentile on the EOG test and that other factors such as past academic success, motivation to succeed, and recommendations by teachers and parents should have been considered. She said the State Department of Public Instruction encourages consideration of such factors.

KMHS and the School Board agreed to allow Jennai to take another test that is approved by the DPI. It will not change her EOG test score, but Supt. Larry Allen said it could show whether or not the Jennai had unfair distractions when she took the earlier test.

Mrs. Pettis said her daughter did not score as well as she could have because they had experi-

See School, 7A



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