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WATER WOES



Debris washing into the water from recent heavy rains is causing boater safety concern at Moss Lake (top photo). Below, Junior Henson, Water Treatment Plant Operator, checks water which is being treated by carbon to clear up foul taste and odor.

City continues to work on algae problem, debris washed into lake is safety concern

By ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Over 40 inches of rain since January has resulted in foul smelling and tasting drinking water, diminished crops and leaking basements for Kings Mountain residents.

Kings Mountain has received 41.85 inches of rain this year, according to Kenneth Kitzmiller who keeps statistics for the Herald. During an average year, this area receives 52 inches.

City Water Resource Director Walt Ollis said Monday that taste and odor problems with the city's water supply should be cleared up by today.

Workers are using activated carbon to clean the water. The carbon is filled with microscopic holes which fill up with algae. A filter then catches the offending algae-filled carbon, removing it from the drinking water.

On Monday, water at the city's plant on Moss Lake was "almost like it is suppose to be," Ollis said. City crews spent the earlier part of the week flushing water lines to remove left over algae.

Water customers who are at the end of lines may need to run their water until the offending particles are removed.

"If it's not cleared up by that time (Thursday), they need to run their faucet," Ollis said.

Dennis Wells, director of city distribution and collection systems, was not as optimistic with his time frame for correcting the problem.

"I don't want to speculate on that," he said.

The carbon is costly at \$640 a day. The City of Gastonia has loaned the water plant a hopper which is used to put the carbon into the water system.

"We certainly appreciate them," Ollis said.

Water plant workers are housing the borrowed hopper in a truck bed for safety reasons. Carbon, in its powered form, is highly flammable. The new hopper will be housed in a permanent location which requires explosive-proof motors, fans and lights.

Workers will use Gastonia's hopper along with one the plant had on hand until a second unit arrives in approximately two weeks.
See Water, 3A



ANDIE L. BRYMER / HERALD

County Board considers small budget increase

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

On Monday evening, Cleveland County Commissioners held a budget presentation at the Kings Mountain City Hall, followed by a time when citizens could ask questions and make suggestions for the commissioners' consideration.

"We wanted to take the budget around to explain it to citizens, so that people can't say, 'I didn't get a chance to' or 'I didn't understand the big books,'" said Willie McIntosh, chair of the Board of Commissioners, of the reason behind the board's taking the budget from town to town this year.

The budget has to be adopted before June 30. Probably, the commissioners will vote on it again next Monday after the Boiling Springs and Lawndale citizens have had a chance to ask questions about the budget.

"We need people's input. We can't do that if people don't participate. We'd like to have it where nobody can say they didn't have the opportunity," said McIntosh.

The total budget will be increased by 2.63 percent

this year. The tax base will increase 2,814 percent for a total of \$5,115,000,000. The general fund budget for the coming year is \$50,498,456, which represents a 2.76 increase over last year.

The state's budget problems will continue to affect the county's spending and revenue for the next two fiscal years. The tax revenue projected for April was 20 percent, or \$300 million, below projections, which means that the current year will experience a widening shortfall unless spending is reduced or revenue is increased.

Two Kings Mountain organizations requested grants from the commissioners. The Kings Mountain Historic Cabin Project committee requested \$5,000, and the senior center requested \$25,000. Both requests were new to the Board of Commissioners. In total, county groups requested \$89,800 for various projects. Unfortunately, the grant fund only has \$13,500 in it currently.

The proposed grant budget for the coming year holds only \$8,500. The grant account held \$104,400 in 2001-2002. The account has decreased 92.47 percent since then.

See County, 3A

Harris Welco to shut down June 27

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

With the poor economy, many businesses have been forced to close or consolidate, causing unemployment to become a serious issue. Kings Mountain has not been immune to the country's problems. Several businesses have closed in the past couple of years. At the end of the month, the city will lose another.

Harris Welco in Kings Mountain will be closing its

doors for the last time on Friday, June 27.

Approximately 150 jobs have been lost since the business first began to scale down.

The business first began the process of closing its doors a year ago. The company is consolidating its business and moving the functions that take place at the Kings Mountain branch to the company's headquarters in Mason, Ohio.

See Harris Welco, 3A

KINGS MOUNTAIN FATHERS

White Oak Manor dads share family memories

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

Howard Green, Gene Jeffries, and Willie Poole have raised 17 children altogether between the three of them: 13 girls and four boys. Currently, the three of them live at White Oak Manor, where they share their memories of lives full of children.

Green raised eight children in Kings Mountain: six girls and two boys. He, his wife, and their children lived on a farm in Oak Grove. The whole family contributed to running the See Dads, 3A



Howard Green, Willie Poole, and Gene Jeffries are three of the fathers currently residing at White Oak Manor. Between the three of them, they have raised 17 children.

Butch Raines is simply giving back to his dad

By ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

When Butch Raines was a little boy, his dad George Raines carried him everywhere he went. Today, the middle-aged man is returning the favor for his 89-year-old father.

Since George Raines had to give up driving several years ago, Butch Raines has made sure his father gets where he needs to go. He also spends most days at George Raines' Fairdell Street home.

"Him and Mama, they raised me when I wasn't See Raines, 3A



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