

LOCAL

LINES

From 1A

According to Testa, these people are already paying taxes for schools. "I would support it (moving the line)," Testa said in a telephone interview.

Kings Mountain's Mayor Rick Murphrey agrees. Murphrey also said he would like to see the line moved for the sake of the children.

"That would be great," he said. "We support that."

Representative Debbie Clary would not speculate on how she would vote.

"You've got a whole ladder to climb before you get to the level I'm at, Tim's (Moore) at," she said.

Commissioners and school board members from both Cleveland and Gaston and City of Kings Mountain officials would have to agree before Clary and Dr. Bill Currant would take up the issue.

Currant is the representative-elect from the newly formed Crowder's Mountain State House district. Clary's district now includes Waco, Fallston, Lawndale, Cherryville,

Dallas, Bessemer City and Alexis. Currant did not respond to a phone message requesting comment.

Only after all of those people come to an agreement would the rest of the Gaston and Cleveland delegations be asked to get involved, according to Clary.

Clary is doubtful that commissioners from both counties would agree. Gaston currently takes in \$423,004 from its portion of Kings Mountain.

"I can't begin to imagine getting all these local folks to agree on a step of that caliber," Clary said.

If commissioners and school board members did reach an agreement the Department of Justice would likely have to give preclearance before legislators could take up the matter. Cleveland is one of many North Carolina counties covered under federal voting rules administered by the DOJ.

Representative Walter Dalton did not respond to an e-mail requesting comment.

Kings Mountain Herald Staff Writer Andie Brymer can be reached at abrymer@kingsmountain-herald.com or 704-739-7496.

RAIN

From 1A

Fire Chief Frank Burns.

The city continues to monitor the weather. If high winds follow the rain, weaker trees could blow over causing more problems.

Florida officials have contacted city electric crews about helping with recovery efforts there. No workers are leaving this area until the results of Hurricane Ivan can be assessed locally.

"Our first obligation is here," Hendricks said.

Ivan hit Grenada earlier this week and is headed north toward Jamaica, according to the Associated Press.

Over the weekend, close to 200 Floridians were aided by Cleveland County Red Cross volunteers as they fled Hurricane Frances.

Some 27 Kings Mountain area individuals joined with other county volunteers serving coffee, cold drinks and cookies at the North Carolina Welcome Center on Interstate 85. Volunteers opened the canteen at 7 a.m. Friday and closed Saturday afternoon when traffic was slower than expected.

"The numbers were not

great. That's the reason we closed early," said Alohma Falls, an area captain for the Cleveland County Red Cross Disaster Action Team.

Falls had a list of area motels with vacancies though no one requested that information. Most evacuees were staying with family in North Carolina or Virginia or had other destinations in mind.

"They knew where they were headed," Falls said.

While the Floridians were concerned about their homes and neighbors, no one was distraught, according to Falls.

The folks from Florida were not surprised to see the Red Cross set up at the visitors center though some other travelers assumed they were collecting blood. Falls said this is a common misconception that the Red Cross has only one function.

Falls and others from this area recently returned from volunteering in the aftermath of Hurricane Charley. Officials asked her to return to Florida in three weeks though she declined because of a grandchild due at the same time.

"I'm sure there will be some (volunteer) from this area," she said.

Corn Maze opens in Shelby

Once again, the Shelby Corn Maze is offering some fall fun.

A grand opening celebration happens Saturday and Sunday complete with a karaoke contest, R.O.'s Barbecue mobile restaurant and a visit by the Sundrop Hummer.

Hours are Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sundays, 1

to 8 p.m. and starting Sept. 16, Thursdays 4 to 9 p.m. and Fridays, 4 to 10 p.m. Admission is \$4 for kids ages five to 12 and \$6 for adults. The maze is six miles west of Shelby off U.S. 74 on Broadway Drive.

For more information, call 704-434-8187 or visit shelby-cornmaze.com

TURNER

From 1A

duty in Iraq on anyone, he does want others to see the contrast between here and the middle east.

"Go to a location like that and just see how good we have it," he said.

According to Turner, Kings Mountain's poorest resident is 100 percent better off than those in Iraq. Iraqi children are grateful for a piece of candy or bottle of water. The packaged meals soldiers eat would be considered a desirable meal by the locals.

"To us it's not the best thing but when you don't have anything, it's good," he said.

Because Turner is sta-

tioned in northern Iraq where the Kurds live, they've gotten a warm welcome. The ethnic minority was persecuted by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and many believe they see the United States as liberators. U.S. troops stationed in southern Iraq have not gotten the same response by an area that has more Saddam loyalists.

"Some people are glad we're there. Some don't want us there," he said.

Turner said he believes that if Americans were in the same position as Iraqis, some would welcome the troops and others would not.

The soldier believes television news reports are largely negative.

OBITUARIES

BOB BOYD SR.
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Robert "Bob" Boyd Sr., 74, 301 Scotland Drive, died September 5, 2004 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center, Shelby.

A native of Gaston County, he was the son of the late Ralph Lewis and Bessie Pearson Boyd and husband of the late Patricia "Pat" Jolly Boyd.

He was a member of Boyce Memorial ARP Church. His love for skeet shooting kept him working as manager of the City of Gastonia's Skeet and Trap Range for 23 years. His friends at the Skeet Range were his extended family.

He is survived by his sons, Robert L. Boyd Jr. and wife Lisa of Kings Mountain, Dale A. Boyd and wife Carol of Kings Mountain, and Walter L. Boyd and wife Ruth of Belmont; daughters Laura B. Tessenner and husband Jimmy Sr. of Lattimore, and Susan B. Walker and husband Rick of Kings Mountain; brothers Jim Boyd and Hazel Boyd of Gastonia and Terry Boyd of Kings Mountain; sisters Nancy McWhirter of Mint Hill and Lib Boyd of Gastonia; nine grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Doug Petersen at 4 p.m. Wednesday at Boyce Memorial ARP Church. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Diabetes Foundation, 1012 S. King Drive, Charlotte, NC 28207; or Boyce Memorial ARP Church, P.O. Box 1145,

Kings Mountain, NC 28086. Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

MARY WELLS

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Mary Ethel Sistare Wells, 82, formerly of 920 York Road, Kings Mountain, died September 3, 2004 at Belaire Health Care Center, Gastonia.

A native of York County, SC, she was the daughter of the late James H. and Veree Goforth Sistare. She was wife of the late Rev. Fred F. Wells and was also preceded in death by brothers John, Bill and George and sisters Jean and Angelene.

She was retired from the textile industry and was a homemaker. She was a member of Westover Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, and volunteered for Kings Mountain Hospital and Kings Mountain Baptist Association.

She is survived by her sons, Steve Wells and wife Patricia and Jerry Wells and wife Betty, all of Kings Mountain, and Frankie Wells of Clover, SC; daughter Mrs. Margaret Faye Wells Brittain and husband Kenneth of Cherryville; brothers Henry Sistare of Ravenel, SC, Ben Sistare of Kings Mountain, and Richard Sistare of Clover, SC; 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Curtis Bundy and James Billings at 3 p.m. Monday at Oak View Baptist Church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

TOWER

From 1A

tion. While the money is funneled through the state it originates from federal Homeland Security funds.

The tower will mean more channels for local fire, police, rescue and county Emergency Medical Services. This will keep radio interference to a minimum, according to Fire Chief Frank Burns. The range of radios will expand also because the new tower will be between 300 and 400 feet tall. The current tower is 60 feet, Burns said.

This grant will build towers in Kings Mountain and Shelby. Three additional towers are planned for Boiling Springs and upper Cleveland County, according to Joe Cherry, county electronic maintenance manager. Those will be built as federal and state money becomes available. The

VIPER system is expected to be operational by 2008 though local emergency responders can place their equipment on the tower once it is completed.

The new system means radios will use different channels which are not audible on many home scanners. This is often referred to as a "trunked" signal. The signals are not scrambled and can be picked up on newer scanner models, according to Cherry.

While there will be no cost to Kings Mountain, the city has the option of locating its communications equipment on the tower also.

The North Carolina Highway Patrol will locate its VIPER radio equipment on the tower as well. VIPER, which stands for voice interoperability for emergency responders, will primarily link troopers across the state.

VOTE

From 1A

The GOP head said he was not opposed to early voting at satellite locations if those were needed, however, he questioned spending the funds and the security of satellite polling sites.

County Democrat party Chairwoman Betsy Wells said she was extremely disappointed that the early voting satellite sites would not be available.

"I tried my best to make it easier for people to vote," she said.

According to Wells, the county is losing \$25,796 in technology grant money for computers. The money also would have provided jobs for 10 poll workers for 18 days.

She said the Republican party was "asleep at the wheel" on securing the

grant money and was reduced to opposing a Democrat initiative.

Residents still may vote early from Oct. 14 to Oct. 30 at the Board of Elections Patton Street office. Polls are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday through Oct. 29. Polls close at 1 p.m. Oct. 30.

The deadline to register to vote, make changes in residence, name, mailing address and party affiliation is Oct. 8. Registration and information change forms are available at area post offices, libraries and city halls.

Clients of the Division of Motor Vehicles, DSS and county health department may register there also.

For more information, call 704-484-4858 or visit www.clevelandcounty.com/public/boe/boehome.htm.

The general election is Nov. 2.

KING

From 1A

and one woman. According to King, the party's conservative social values, including its stand against abortion, draws a lot of southern Democrats.

King called Democrat Senator Zell Miller of Georgia's speech "very interesting." Miller angered his own party when he endorsed Bush. According to King, Democrats across the county have told him they didn't leave their party, it left them.

"I'm glad we as Republicans have reached

across party lines to Democrats, unaffiliated and Libertarians," King said.

The Kings Mountain man, who has heard the president speak on several occasions, said Thursday night's speech was the best he had heard from Bush.

In addition to advocating permanent tax relief and conservative social values, Bush championed a strong national defense.

King was impressed with Laura Bush who gave the personal side of what her husband went through in the days after the Sept. 11 attack on the United States.

"She knows better than anybody," King said.

A Gaston County communications dispatcher, King talked with several of the police officers providing security at the convention and around New York. Despite the city being heavily Democrat, King said many officers told him they were voting for the president.

"They believe George Bush has done a good job securing our nation," he said.

While most New Yorkers were polite and many helped convention-goers find their way around the Big Apple, there were protesters.

As North Carolina and Connecticut delegates ate breakfast together one morning, according to King,

protesters held signs reading, "We hope you choke" and "We don't just hate Bush, we hate all of you."

"People have a right to free speech but that's tacky," he said.

King has served as Representative Debbie Clary's campaign manager since age 18. She says he is as focused on a conservative agenda as someone with children, a business and property tax bills.

King isn't running for office now but says he has not ruled out the idea.

"Right now I enjoy what I'm doing. We're helping citizens."

Contact Andie Brymer at abrymer@kingsmountain-herald.com or 704-739-7496.

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