

LOCAL

Young faces get involved in politics

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Younger faces showed up in this year's election campaigns both as candidates and organizers.

Kings Mountain's Wayne King served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention. The chair of George Bush's Cleveland County campaign, King, 24, was sent to Florida to help out during the week before the election.

Patrick McHenry who is in his late 20s won the 10th Congressional seat vacated by retiring Congressman Cass Ballenger.

At Crest High School, both parties are represented. Justin Brackett, 17, heads up the Republicans and volunteered in Tim Moore campaign. At age 34, Moore himself is another example of younger people being in the thick of politics.

Brackett met Moore at party chairperson Wes Westmoreland's office.

"We just hit it off from the first time we met," Brackett said. "Tim's turned into one of my best friends."

Brackett says around party headquarters he is often jokingly referred to as Moore's son because the two share similar features and coloring. In a more serious vein, Brackett says

it's Moore's hard work and convictions which he admires.

"This is a man whose been strong in his beliefs since the beginning," Brackett said.

He points to Moore's sponsorship and co-sponsorship of 164 bills.

"Cleveland County's got to be proud," Brackett said.

On a national level, Brackett says he likes Bush's work on jobs, education, national security and social issues. He says Bush will not reinstate the draft, an important issue for Brackett.

On the other side of the aisle, Matt Potter is heading up Crest's newly formed Teen Democrats. He disagrees with Brackett's assertion on Bush and the draft. Potter calls Bush's foreign policy "militant."

Potter says many young people disagree with Bush's stand against abortion. He believes that and gay marriage are detracting from issues like jobs.

Potter fears many young people are merely copying their parents' politics whether Democrat or Republican.

"I'd like to change that," he said.

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Don Johnson addresses county board of adjustment at hearing on video poker machines last week

Johnson may appeal video poker decision

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

SHELBY - Unless an appeal is made to Cleveland County Superior Court, video poker machines will be out of an Oak Grove garage within weeks.

The county board of adjustment unanimously turned down an appeal by Don Johnson and James Fox last Thursday afternoon to keep the machines.

Johnson's attorney Rob Deaton said immediately after the meeting that his client will "probably appeal." Appeals to board of adjustment decisions must be made in superior court.

During the public hearing, neighbors questioned whether Johnson was running an auto repair business out of the building.

According to Keitha Reep, the front door opens only to another door and cars are there until 11 p.m.

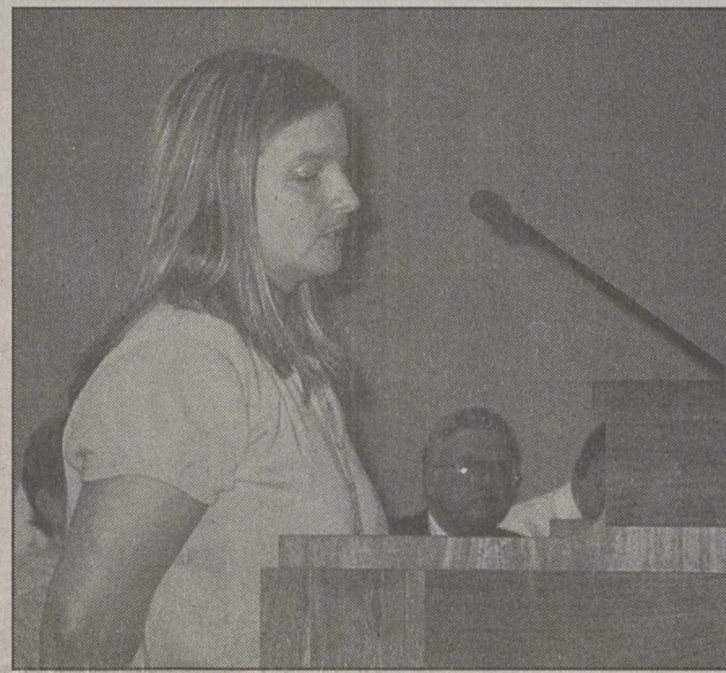
"That to me raises questions whether this is a legitimate business," she said.

She also said she could not find Oak Grove Auto in the phone book, there was no sign in front of the building and Johnson had been fined \$300,000 in the past for video poker violations.

"That most certainly tells me it's a gambling business," Reep said.

Jim Posey told the board that he had never seen the work trucks coming in or out that Johnson claimed were repaired at Oak Grove Auto.

"I don't know where all these trucks are," he said. "Nobody goes down there



Keitha Reep speaks in opposition to video poker machines in Oak Grove.

doing mechanic work I can see."

Posey has lived adjacent to Johnson's property since 1982, he told the board.

Gregory Reep testified that the doors on Oak Grove Auto are 10 feet tall.

"Have you ever seen a bucket truck that is less than 10 feet tall?" he said.

James Fox told the board that he did auto repair for Johnson's Bessemer City Express at the shop.

"It's just a simple little run of the mill business," he said. "It's really a raw deal for people to act like we're a blotch on the community."

According to Deaton, the machines are registered with the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office. North Carolina law allows up to three machines at one location, however counties and

municipalities may use zoning to limit where the machines are located.

The board of adjustment ruled that the machines at Oak Grove Auto substantially changed the nature of the business.

On the same day, the Kings Mountain Board of Adjustment postponed a hearing for Johnson to keep machines at his 501 East King Street location. That meeting began at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, however the Cleveland County Board of Adjustment did not end until 5:50 p.m. The Kings Mountain board will hear Johnson's request at 9 a.m. today. The hearing is open to the public.

During last Thursday's Cleveland County Board of Adjustment hearing the board approved a request by Merle Ruppe to keep her three video poker machines at her florist located behind her Meadow Brooke Subdivision home near Grover.

DEATHS

KATHLEEN WHITE

CONNELLY SPRINGS - Kathleen McMurry White, 80, died October 29, 2004 at Valdese General Hospital. Born July 23, 1924 in Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late W.Y. McMurry and Frances McSwain McMurry. She was also preceded in death by her brothers, Wilburn McMurry and Clifford McMurry, and sisters Laulie Bridges and Mary Helen Queen.

She was a homemaker and member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

She is survived by her husband, Arthur C. White of Connelly Springs; daughters Linda White Holzendorf of Connelly Springs, Norma White Chapman and husband James of Gastonia, and Teresa White Turner and husband Cobb of Wake Forest; son Stephen White of Shelby; brother Roy McMurry of Orlando, FL; sister Irene Barrett of Kings Mountain; 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by Bishop Chris Carpenter at 3 p.m. Sunday at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Hickory. Burial was in Catawba Memorial Park.

Catawba Funerals and Cremations, Hickory, was in charge of arrangements.

LOIS RANDLE

GROVER - Lois Rebecca Jenkins Randle, 87, 106 Buren Drive, died October 30, 2004 at White Oak Manor, Kings Mountain.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late John Sims Jenkins and Bessie Pysour Jenkins.

She was retired from J.P. Stevens, Rock Hill, SC, and was a member of First Baptist Church, Grover.

She is survived by her husband, Buren F. Randle of Grover; daughters Barbara Ann Gunter and husband Bobby of Polk City, FL;

Frances Louise Kahn and husband Bob, Keowee Kee, Salem, SC; grandchildren Michael Wade and wife Ellen of Easley, SC, Deborah Ralph and husband Dennis of Mauldin, SC, Niche Langdon of Alexandria, LA, Scot Gunter of Winter Haven, FL, Lorie Lee of Greensboro, Kathy Rice of Weston, FL; special niece, Cornelia Crawford and husband Alfred of Clover, SC; close friend, Jessie Cameron of York, SC; and 12 great-grandchildren.

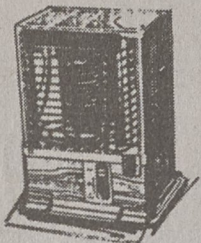
The funeral was conducted by Dr. Tony Fullbright at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel, Kings Mountain. Interment was in Mountain Rest Cemetery, Kings Mountain.

Memorials may be made to Grover Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 132, Grover, NC 28073.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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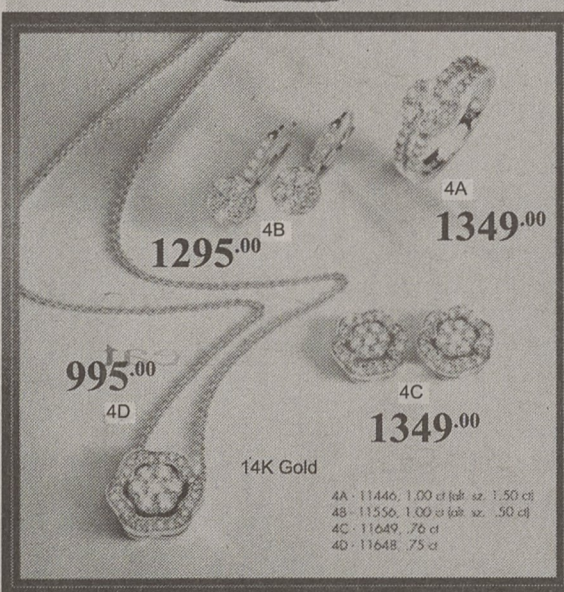
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