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MOORE BILLS

KM Representative backing amendment defining marriage, tax break for soldiers

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

A tax-break for soldiers, closing a loophole in sex offender registration laws and a Constitutional amendment banning gay marriage are on Rep. Tim Moore's agenda for this year's legislative session.

Moore, who represents Cleveland County, learned about the gap in the sex offender law last year while working on a child abuse and neglect study committee. Under current law sex offenders who move into North Carolina are not required to register with the state, unlike individuals convicted in North Carolina.

If the law passes, new residents who fail to register will face felony charges. The legislation calls for "appropriate funds" to notify affected individuals. While Moore said there is no way to know exactly how many people are unregistered, he believes it's not a large group of people. Moore said the cost will be minimal. He doesn't anticipate any opposition.

The Defense of Marriage legislation would allow North Carolina voters to decide if the current legal definition of marriage should be given constitutional status. At present the law which defines marriage as between one man and one woman is only an ordinance. It could be overruled by a judge. Giving it constitutional status would mean only the General Assembly could reverse the law.

Moore said without the amendment marriage could include three or four people.

"It undermines the fabric which defines society and familial relationships," he said.

Moore said he fears the legislation will be buried in committee by the majority party. He has received calls and emails from local folks who are opposed to it.

The amendment would not affect contracts between individuals.

Another bill would exempt active duty military personnel including National Guard soldiers

See Moore, 5A

VALENTINES FOR LIFE



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
 James and Ruth Hollifield, above, have been married for 61 years. Willie and James Cable, below, have been married for 70 years.

Cables wed 70 years ago, Hollifields married 61 years

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

While many of today's marriages don't last, two area couples have made it well past the 50 year mark.

James and Ruth Hollifield have been married 61 years and Willie and James Ira Cable, 70 years.

The Hollifields married April 17, 1943 in Gaffney, S.C. She was 17 years old and had just graduated from high school. He was 18 or 19.

James Hollifield was delivering papers for the Greenville News when he met his bride. Her father also worked for the newspaper's circulation department. She had accompanied him on a delivery that fateful day. Their paths continued to cross.

"Everywhere I went I saw her," James Hollifield said.

The couple believe God meant for them to meet and marry. Faith is central to the advice they give young people.

"Let the Lord find a mate for you," James Hollifield said.

Continuing to allow God the lead role, enduring love and not taking on excessive debt round out their philosophy of marriage.

The couple had two children, both of

whom died soon after birth. They raised a boy who was orphaned. Today he works as a chef in Washington state.

Before retirement, Mrs. Hollifield worked in the office at the Lilly Mill. Her husband worked at J.P. Stevens and then at Esther Mills repairing looms.

They have traveled with senior citizen groups to Florida, Upper Reuben Falls in Chattanooga and Williamsburg, Va.

The Cables married April 21, 1934 in Kings Mountain after a year-long courtship.

They were introduced by his brother who was married to her sister.

The couple and their four children, Glen, Betty, Barbara and Phyllis, lived in Gaston and Cleveland counties and also western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee.

Mr. Cable worked as cook for a year while the Fontana Dam was built. The family lived in a cabin near the construction site. He also worked for Alcoa Steel in Tennessee.

Daughter Betty Lewis says she learned stability and give and take from her parent's marriage.

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Bush speech brings mixed reaction here

Social Security, Iraq focus of State of Union address

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

President George Bush's recent state of the union address is getting raves from area Republicans though local Democrats aren't so impressed.

Republican Cleveland County Commissioner Ronnie Hawkins said the speech was well thought out and well delivered. Hawkins was happy to see Social Security addressed. He believes the program has been an issue during every presidential election.

"We can work together to see if it works (Bush's plan) and be big enough if it isn't to look in another direction," he said.

Hawkins believes the United States is doing more good in Iraq than news reports indicate.

"We've got a right to be proud of the troops and the Iraqi people with elections," Hawkins said.

Cleveland County Republican Party Chairman Wes Westmoreland called Bush's speech "strong."

"It's obvious why he got more votes than anyone in history," Westmoreland said.

He praised Bush for wanting to simplify the tax code and change Social Security. Westmoreland liked the idea of associational health care plans. These would allow different companies within an industry to purchase health insurance for employees at a less expensive rate. The associational plans would not require more money just a change in the law, he said.

Bob Maner, a Kings Mountain Republican, liked the speech especially the part about the future of freedom in

See Bush, 5A

Grover to pay \$5,000 for revitalization plan

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Grover Town Council voted unanimously Monday to spend \$5,000 in hopes of a revitalizing the town.

Grover will contract with CMR Services to look for infrastructure grants. Officials hope this will attract industry.

"They can give their professional guidance on where we can best focus our energies," said Bill Willis, a town commissioner.

Commissioner Barry Toney likened the grant to an investment.

Commissioner John Harry agreed.

"If we don't spend this \$5,000 we know what we're going to get," he said.

Commissioner Max Rollins questioned if the services were the same as the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce's

20/20 economic development program.

Earlier in the meeting chamber officials pitched their program to the council. The chamber is asking municipalities for their support. One portion of the program is a data base of available commercial and industrial properties.

"We know towns are strapped. At least pass a resolution supporting an economic development strategy," said Scott Darnell, senior vice-president for economic development.

While the chamber has asked the City of Kings Mountain for \$90,000, no amount was specified at the Grover meeting.

In other business, council unanimously approved a one-year contract with the Grover Women's Club to run the concession stand at the town park. Club mem-

See Grover, 5A

Thomasson is retiring

After 52 years of practicing law in Kings Mountain, George Thomasson is retiring.



THOMASSON

Thomasson officially closed his office on West Mountain Street on January 31. A Kings

Mountain native, Thomasson's goal was always to become a lawyer. After two years of study at Davidson College, his education was interrupted by World War II, but after the war he returned home and completed his education at Duke University.

During his professional career in Kings Mountain, he not only served citizens in all types of law matters but also served at times as

See Thomasson, 5A

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

Retirement not in Bennett's plans

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Turning 80 isn't a good reason to retire from full-time employment, according to Dorus Bennett. The octogenarian has worked for the City of Kings Mountain for 19 years. He has no plans to slow down despite reaching his eighth decade last week.

Bennett retired from his first career at Bennett Brick and Tile at age 60.

"I found out it (retirement) wasn't all it was cooked up to be," Bennett said. "I had to be doing something."

Bennett took what he thought was a summer job at Moss Lake in April, 1986. In July city officials asked him to work at Mountain Rest

Cemetery. He's been there ever since.

Call it a job and Bennett will quickly correct that.

"What I do is a service."

While Bennett doesn't believe in ghosts, he was apprehensive about the job. It was the prospect of dealing with grieving people which made him nervous. He turned to three ministers. They all gave him the same advice - be a good listener.

"That's what I try to do. I listen," Bennett said. "I've cried with lots of them. I've prayed with lots of them."

While Bennett accepts death will come to everyone, working with families who have lost a child is never easy, he said.

See Bennett, 5A



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
 Dorus Bennett, supervisor of Mountain Rest Cemetery, recently turned 80 years old but has no plans to retire. He tried it one time and didn't like it.