

The Herald

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NC passes lottery

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Local reaction to North Carolina getting the lottery is mixed.

Lt. Gov. Beverly Purdue cast the tie breaking vote Tuesday in the Senate. The measure passed the House April 6.

Lottery proponents had considered voting on the measure earlier this month but were rumored not to have enough votes. Tuesday's vote came with two House members who

opposed the lottery absent. One was hospitalized and another on his honeymoon.

County Commission Chairman Ronnie Hawkins, a Republican, said North Carolina can do without a lottery. Hawkins objected to calling the lottery "educational" as well. Profits from the lottery are slated to benefit North Carolina's public schools but many opponents dispute that.

Betsy Wells, chair of the county Democrat Party and a retired educator with 33 years in the

classroom, was happy to hear about the bill passing.

"I'm glad North Carolina is getting the money which has been going to South Carolina for schools," she said.

Wells, who lives minutes from the state line, says she has watched upstate South Carolina construct new schools while many in North Carolina are "antiquated."

While some opponents have cast the lottery as a moral issue, Wells disagreed.

"I don't believe in legislating

morality," she said.

Mary Accor, a county commissioner and administrator with Cleveland County Schools, called for common sense among people who play the lottery.

"We cannot dictate morality. I can only hope they'll put their priorities in line," she said.

Representative Tim Moore, a Republican who voted against the lottery when it was in the House, said he hopes since the lottery is now law, the money will be used for education.

See Lottery, 7A



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
Kings Mountain Police Captain Jerry Tessner talks with Kings Mountain High administrators Dave Greene and Dianne Dooley Friday after the school was evacuated in the wake of a bomb threat.

Bomb threat dismisses school early

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

A bomb threat caused the instructional day to end sooner than normal Friday at Kings Mountain High School.

The threat was called in to the school after lunch, according to Principal John Yarbrow. The school followed its crisis plan.

Because most bus drivers work on campus, routes could be started when students evacuated. Students who drive a vehicle to campus also were allowed to leave when the evacuation occurred. Car riders waited to be picked up in a lower parking lot away from the building.

Yarbrow praised the students for their behavior.

"The kids did outstanding," he said.

The principal thanked parents also.

"I appreciate everybody's patience and willingness to work with us," Yarbrow said.

Because a police investigation continues, Yarbrow could not release many details. Both the Kings Mountain Police Department and the Kings Mountain Fire Department responded.

Yarbrow said the school has a good working relationship with the departments.

School went smoothly Monday morning, according to Yarbrow.

This is the first bomb threat the school has received in several years.

SAT scores up 105 points at KM High

Kings Mountain High School's SAT scores are up 105 points over the previous year.

School Superintendent Dr. Gene Moore called it "quite a remarkable increase."

The increase is probably the largest in the state, Moore said.

At KMHS, combined average scores jumped to 1035. That is higher than the state and national average. Verbal scores improved 52 points to 504, and math scores rose 53 points to 531. Fifty percent of the seniors took the SAT.

Across the system, SAT scores rose 30 points from the previous year.

At Crest High School, combined average scores rose eight points to 1012. Verbal scores improved one point to 491 while math scores increased seven points to 521. At Crest, 59 percent of the seniors took the SAT.

At Shelby High School, combined average scores rose seven points to 1007. Verbal scores rose 5 points to 503 and math scores rose two points to 504. Some 70 percent of the senior class took the SAT.

At Burns High School, combined average scores dropped seven points to 938. Verbal scores dropped 16 points to 452 while math improved 11 points to 486. Some 53 percent of the seniors took the SAT.

Across the county, the combined average mathematics and verbal scores for the Class

See SAT, 7A

HERE WE GO (UP) AGAIN



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
Linda Roberts pumps \$10 worth of regular grade gas on Tuesday afternoon at the Shell Station.

Hurricane blamed for latest round of gas hikes

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Rising gas prices aren't keeping customers away from the pumps.

"They're complaining but they're buying," said Donna Short, manager of Mike's Food Store.

The "biggest majority" are buying regular grade gas, Short said. It costs typically a dime less per gallon than mid-grade.

Some of the store's largest purchases have been \$107 to a customer filling up a conversion van. Another customer bought \$98 for an SUV.

Customers who used to buy \$3 or \$5 at one time are purchasing

more because the small purchases aren't getting them as far, Short said.

At Wade Ford, customers are trading in larger vehicles for smaller ones. The new Focus with its highway gas mileage in the mid-30s is the top seller right now, according to Ralph Grindstaff, assistant sales manager. The Ford 500 car is doing relatively well. Buyers are also interested in used small cars and trucks.

Grindstaff predicts manufacturers will change the types of vehicles they make.

"I think the SUV market is so weak. I would anticipate smaller cars to come out," he said.

See Gas, 2A

Huffman's zoning request dies again for lack of second

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Rezoning requests by property owners Calvin Huffman and Clyde Huffman were rejected by Grover Town Council Monday night.

Calvin Huffman/Grover Land Development, LLC asked to rezone 47 acres located off Locust Street from light industrial to restricted residential. Council member Jackie Bennett made a motion to approve the request but it did not receive a second meaning no vote could be taken.

Town Commissioner Bill Willis said he opposed rezoning because he feared the town would have to pay for water and sewer lines and a road. Huffman disputed this, saying that the county zoning ordinances which Grover follows require developers to install their own roads and provide water and sewer lines.

Commissioner Max Rollins advocated that the town write its own zoning ordinances instead of relying on the county.

Commissioners voted down a request by Clyde Huffman to rezone a 15-acre tract divided by Maple Avenue and Locust Street from light industrial to residential. They say the request is spot zoning.

In other business, the council voted unanimously to decrease its own pay and take some money from other funds to pay for \$3,700 in additional expenses associated with police salaries and benefits. Some \$500 will be redirected from the office equipment purchase fund; \$1,000 from building maintenance and repair; \$500 from equipment purchase and \$500 from town hall equipment maintenance and repair.

Commissioners will make \$25 less each month with

See Huffman, 7A

Kings Mountain gives approval to rezoning

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain City Council rezoned property, tabled a vote on appointing a new member to the Tourism Development Authority, voted to purchase a new boat for the police department, honored citizens and heard remarks from former council member Gene White during Tuesday night's meeting.

The council voted unanimously to rezone property near the intersection of King Street and Edgemont Road from residential to office. The request was made by Burton Engineering

Associates (Wanda Fuller).

Councilman Rick Moore was not at the meeting. Mayor Rick Murphrey said he was out of town on business.

In other business, council agreed to appoint Martha Withers and Don Pandya, managers of local hotels, to the Tourism Development Authority. However, they hit a snag on who should replace Shirley Brutko. She is a Chamber of Commerce employee whose term on the board has ended.

Councilman Rick Moore has applied for the position and Jon Brewer has been recommended. The council

See Rezoning, 7A

Bus director changes stop for safety

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

A Kings Mountain parent believes Cleveland County Schools' bus stop policy places children in danger. School officials say they are following state recommendations.

Parent Casey Gallarini told officials Friday that the Bennett Street and Chestnut Avenue intersection bus stop was dangerous. Gallarini said her two intermediate school-age children wait there along with another KMIS student, two elementary-age students and a student in either middle or high school. There are no sidewalks and yards are fenced leaving lit-

tle room for students to stand. Don Byrnes, director of transportation for CCS, visited the bus stop Friday and said Gallarini has a "legitimate concern."

He recommended students use a nearby location. Gallarini says that location is not safe either.

Gallarini said ideally she would like buses to pick students up in front of their own homes. Officials say that is logistically impossible.

"We couldn't get everybody to school," Byrnes said.

Gallarini says if that isn't possible, she wants a safe bus stop which is closer to students' homes. According to Gallarini,

her neighborhood is used by motorists as a cut-through. There are no sidewalks, many yards are fenced and cars often park on the sides of streets making it unsafe for children to walk.

It is unsafe for children 14 and under to walk any distance, according to Gallarini. She fears they are at risk of abduction given the neighborhood's proximity to U.S. 74 and Interstate 85.

Gallarini said she does not let her children walk alone in the same area they must wait for the bus.

"I don't think it is fair for the school system to demand I do that," she said.

For now, Gallarini is driving her children to school. Her work place was recently closed and she is job hunting. Gallarini fears that she will not be able to drive her children when she gets another job.

The state recommends that superintendents not plan bus stops closer than 0.2 miles unless safety factors require otherwise. A route may not deviate from a general path of direction for a distance of less than one-half mile and then return to the original path except for groups of 10 or more pupils, unescorted pupils in grades kindergarten through third grade or special education pupils.