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Four incumbents file, one decides to leave



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD
Mayor Rick Murphrey goes over the new Kings Mountain voting wards (post-redistricting) with Debra Blanton director of the Cleveland County Board of Elections.

Mayor Rick Murphrey and three incumbent city councilmen - Howard Shipp, Ward I, Rodney Gordon, Ward IV, and Rick Moore, Ward V - filed Monday for four more years at city hall.

The fourth incumbent councilman - At-large commissioner Houston Corn, is "walking away," he said, adding that he's ready for discretionary "time out".

Corn, who is completing his

eight year on council, retired as Chief of Police in 2002. He says he's enjoyed his service on the board but he's ready to enjoy grandchildren.

Murphrey is running for his sixth term in the mayor's chair - a total of 18 years in city government. He previously served six years as a council member, four of those years as mayor pro tem.

"I want to thank our citizens for the pleasure of serving them," said

the mayor. In a filing statement he said, "One of my primary goals is and will continue to be to position our city to attract new industry and jobs. Our location, maintaining competitive tax and utility rates, safe streets, productive workforce and a quality family oriented lifestyle makes Kings Mountain a wonderful place to work and live."



SHIPP



MOORE



GORDON

See FILING, 4A

Prospective drivers face tuition hike

EMILY WEAVER
Editor

Although motorists are now paying two cents extra for fuel taxes in North Carolina, a restricted highway fund in the state has fueled legislators to pass on an extra cost to teens wanting to learn how to drive.

Beginning this year, Cleveland County teens will have to pay \$38 to enroll in driver's education classes.

David Pless, Cleveland County Schools' director of transportation, told the Board of Education Monday night that these changes are trickling down from the state legislature.

"In the past, all monies from driver training have come from the (state) highway fund," he said. "In the 2011-2012 budget, driver training funds were cut drastically and for the first time students will be required to pay a fee to take driver education."

"The General Assembly decided this year to allow local boards of education to charge \$45 to offset the costs of providing this training," he told the board.

"They decided to drastically cut the funding. Last year, each student was funded at \$236.31. This year they'll be funded at \$198.66. That's a difference of approximately \$38 (per student)," Pless said. "We've decided to - for the first time - charge students who take driver's ed."

The charge, he added, will cover the difference in funding - \$38. Speaking to transportation officials from other school districts, Pless said, "Many other LEA's are planning to charge the full \$45. We decided if we made last year on that amount of funding then we can make it on that amount of

See STUDENTS, 6A

Clock is ticking on debt ceiling

Failure to act may cause pain to those on federal aid in county

KYRA A. TURNER, EMILY WEAVER
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The clock is ticking as the White House stares down an August 2nd deadline to raise the debt limit or face national default.

"It's a dangerous game we've never played before and we can't afford to play it now," said President Barack Obama in a national televised address Monday night.

If Congressional Party members fail to sheath their swords and reach a peaceful consensus about how to handle the nation's debt, political pundits and economists predict a capital calamity.

The president warned that if the nation loses its AAA credit rating, interest rates on car loans, mortgages and credit cards could sky-rocket; the stock market could take a dangerous dip. But the aftermath of this financial fiasco could also be felt in the purses of more than a quarter of Cleveland County residents depending on government aid.

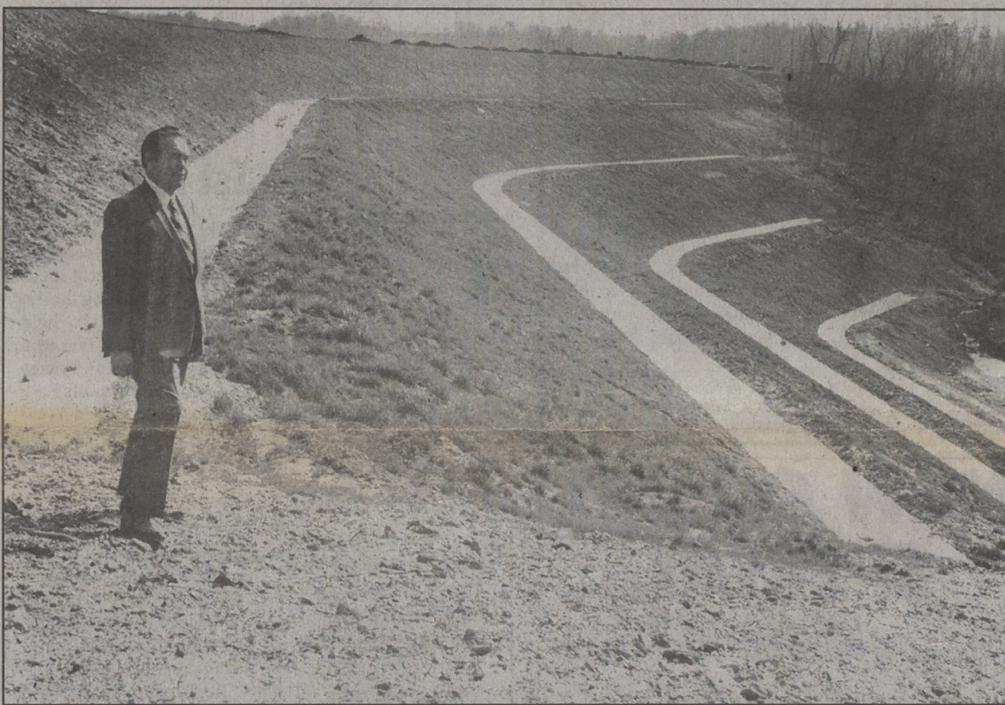
Not only will this have an impact on our country but also on our county.

In talking with the Social Security office and the Cleveland County Department of Social Services, it will have an impact on the Food and Nutritional Services, the Medicaid services, and Social Security services.

See CITIZENS, 6A

City fights for water

One man's vision leads to passionate debates



Contributed by REG ALEXANDER

In this 1960s photo, the late John Henry Moss looks out on the site of what was soon to be Moss Lake.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Herald looks at the history, current status and future of our water supply in this four-part series.
Part 2 of 4

ELIZABETH STEWART
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A person trained in the craft, had he the knowledge, could fabricate an interesting, intriguing and exciting novel on Kings Mountain and water, final chapters yet to be written.

In the early 1920's drought-plagued Kings Mountain spent \$100,000 abortively digging wells. In 1927-28 a pro-

Quenching Our Thirst for WATER

A crystal clear stream gave birth to a gold rush in Kings Mountain. Now the water itself is gold and Moss Lake is the gold mine. Over the next four weeks we'll look at this potent resource and how it affects how we work, play and live. This week... The fight to realize one man's vision. Next week... A rich source, indeed.



gressive city administration built the Deal Street Filter Plant and York Road reservoir over strident opposition that found families split over water. The 1928 project, it was thought, would assure Kings Mountain a potable water supply for generations.

But 15 years later Kings Mountain was in water crisis again. The recom-

mendation by engineers and the State Board of Health was to go to Buffalo Creek.

Long-term the professionals were right. Opponents questioned the cost. The City of Kings Mountain's budget in 1954 was less than a half million dollars.

See MOSS LAKE, 6A

MPI unveils design plans for downtown walkways

EDITOR'S NOTE: In this four-part series, The Herald is looking at the Mountaineer Partnership's Design Committee's proposals to revamp the pedestrian spaces and pocket parks that line the backs of businesses from Gold Street to Wachovia bank. Designs and ideas are the results of input from many downtown property owners, city leaders and other professionals volunteering on the MPI board. No plans have been certifiably "set in stone".

EMILY WEAVER
Editor

Mountaineer Partnership's Design Committee recently outlined its three focus projects for improvements to

downtown pedestrian corridors.

A group of six panelists representing a diversity of professionals unveiled its plans at a well-attended Design Summit on April 28.

The three focus projects cover three phases of improvements to back alleys running from Gold to King Street. Chairman of the committee, architect Ken Pfeiffer, described the plans, which include improvements to sidewalks, the addition of trees and potted pergolas, screening walls, a revamped Senior Citizens Park (with a possible covered walkway) and an "Artists' Row".

Plans also call for pedestrian-level lighting, decorative archways, and a possible water wall in the Senior Citizens Park beside Griffin's Drug.

The design committee has worked

closely with city officials and municipal service district property owners to craft their plans. They hope to move forward with city support and begin renovations by the end of the year.

Building on recommendations from the state's Main Street Center, which the city joined nearly two years ago, panelists looked at ways to make downtown alleyways and pocket parks more pedestrian-friendly. Both are currently considered to be "underutilized" in downtown.

See MPI, 6A



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