

up Transportation from work to the  
ive facility will also be provided.  
Maintaining a job will be manda-

process for all applicants. NO violent  
criminals will be allowed at the  
See **HELP, A12** ►

## ELECTRONIC BINGO

# Guin: Other bingo halls don't want tough rules

Attorney hopes  
'status quo' will  
extend to March rules

By **ED HOWELL**  
Eagle Senior Writer

State Rep. Ken Guin, D-Carbon Hill, one of the lawyers for Walker County Bingo, denied charges that the bingo hall wanted to create a monopoly with the now-rescinded March rules, saying other bingo halls are not wanting tougher rules to follow.

He also hopes that the judge in the bingo legal case will say his status quo order includes preventing the county commission from rescinding their rules passed March 24, days after the "status quo" order. The county rescinded those rules Aug. 4.

Guin responded to allegations made Thursday by attorney Herbie Brewer, who says he represents three bingo halls in the county. Brewer said Walker County Bingo attorney D.W. "Bubba" Grimsley Jr. wrote most of the county's March rules, some of which he said only



*Ken  
Guin*

Walker County Bingo could pass inspection on and which would essentially create a monopoly and violate anti-trust laws. He said the bingo hall "duped" the county into passing the rules.

On the drafting of the rules, Guin said Friday the intent was not to create a monopoly.

"Bubba has told me when they first started...they gave a proposed set of rules to the county commission," he said. "It was over a year later before rules were ultimately adopted.

"Hank (county attorney Hank Wiley) — I know personally because I was involved by the time the county commission adopted rules — Hank made extensive revisions and made significant changes. They frankly did not look in a lot of ways like the rules initially proposed, which was just a starting point," he said.

Guin said the Walker County Bingo lawyers were surprised the commission rescinded the rules. He said the commission had the constitutional authority to implement rules, adding they are needed to regulate the local bingo industry. Many of the charities, such as fire departments and the Humane Society, want stronger rules.

"From day one, my clients have always asked for rules and asked that it be regulated. Unfortunately, the lack of regulation has caused it

See **GUIN, A12** ►

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## Shelley Skinner running for

# Guin

From A1

to be out of control," Guin said.

He said he thought it was good the body wanted to pass rules, such as depositing funds in Walker County banks.

"I don't know why Mr. Brewer would oppose that. I don't know why his clients would oppose that. It frankly makes it easier, I think, to make it certain that people are operating legally and above board," he said.

He said the requirement to hire local accountants is important and said he didn't know why Brewer would be opposed to that practice, explaining that he apparently does based on his comments.

"Unfortunately, there are many people operating bingo, such as Mr. Brewer's clients, in this county who don't want any regulations. We think it is important that if this industry stays that it is done in an above-board, legal manner. The books ought to be on the table for anyone to inspect. They should have an appropriate number of

charities to operate for the number of hours they stay open. I think Mr. Brewer's client doesn't have enough charities right now," Guin said.

Guin said while many have called for clarifying the status quo issue before Kittrell, no one did until his clients filed for the motion Thursday.

"We think that if the judge's status quo order went as far as to include county commission rule making authority, their action of two weeks ago (to rescind the March rules) is null and void. The status quo order would have prevented them from changing their rules. What we're hoping the judge will say is those rules are in effect until such time that the county commission implements further rules in their place," Guin said.

He noted commissioners have indicated they felt they might have violated status quo in March.

"Well, they may have violated it in August. I don't know, but we're

going to ask the judge to search through that," Guin said. "He's either going to do one of two things, I think. He's either going to say, 'County commission, go pass you some new rules,' or he's going to say, 'These rules from March are in effect.' Either way, we're happy. We want some rules."

Guin is also concerned the license fee went back down to \$500 because of lost opportunity for the commission. Under the \$1,000 fee in March, the county had designated several needs, including road and bridge projects, county debt, educational capital needs and industrial development. Guin said he thought the commission had done an "excellent job" with this area of the rules.

"I hate to see it rescinded and they're losing all that revenue that I thought was going to some good purposes," he said.

He was also concerned losing the March rules ended restrictions on playing on Sundays. He said the

bingo halls should not be open Sundays, but that now the sheriff "could do one thing" if anyone opened that day.

Guin also said there are ways the machines are supposed to be certified.

"I think some of the people who have objected to the rules the county commission put in place are people who are probably — if the sheriff could go in and Randy Fielding could do his job and look at those machines, I think he would find some places in this county operating with illegal devices," Guin said. "But at this point, the sheriff has not been allowed to do his job."

Guin said Kittrell seemed willing for rules to be enforced at an earlier hearing, but noted the issue was not before him at that time. He said recent theories that the commission, not the sheriff, is constitutionally in charge of enforcing bingo rules is not true — adding that is an example of how people are "trying to muddy the water to keep

rules from being enforced" on bingo.

"The county commission does not have an enforcement arm," he said. "The sheriff of Walker County is the one invested with enforcing the laws of this county ... He wants to go out and enforce this, but his hands have been tied."

On the status quo order, Guin said he understood it is limited in nature, applying only to permits, to keep from continually adding defendants to the current legal case while it was progressing in court.

"But you've had all these other lawyers argue that it applied to rule making authority, and apparently the county has believed that because they rescinded their rules, and that it applied to the sheriff in not being able to enforce anything," he said. "When I read Judge Kittrell's status quo order, I don't read that, but you've got so many people arguing that, we've put it in front of him so that he can give a definitive ruling."

... Baptist Church.

people. were a Christian fam- Health and Rehabilitation ties, I just became interested some way," he said.