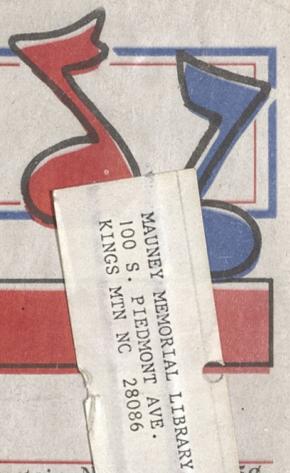


Awards Day held  
at KMHS

1-B

Underwood to emcee  
LIFE cancer benefit

2-A



# Kings Mountain Herald

VOL. 104 NO. 23

Thursday, June 4, 1992

Kings Mountain, N.C.

## Cleveland County voters clean house

Voters ousted two incumbent county commissioners Tuesday and nominated challengers Cecil Dickson of Shelby and Sam Gold of Earl in a run-off in which only 13 percent of the registered voters went to the polls.

Gold led the race with 3,184 votes followed by Dickson with 3,144. Joe Cabaniss, the incumbent county commission chairman, ran third with 1,965 votes and two-term incumbent Jack Spangler was fourth with 1,785.

Gold and Dickson join E. T. Vanhoy on the November ballot and face Republicans Charlie Harry, incumbent; Robert Williams, and Glenn Short in the general election.

The runoff was marked by last-minute tactics from both incumbents and challengers, including advertisements from Concerned Citizens of Cleveland County calling for

"change" and distribution of letters to county employees saying if challengers won that it would mean a hike in taxes and less benefits for employees.

Gold, a carpenter for Duke Power Company who like Dickson sought election for the first time, said, "I'm tickled to death."

In Kings Mountain the incumbents carried both city boxes, falling behind the challengers at Grover and Bethware boxes. The two challengers scored easily in other areas of the county.

At Bethware precinct the vote was Gold, 51; Spangler, 49; Cabaniss, 48; and Dickson, 44.

At Grover precinct the vote was: Gold, 47; Dickson, 47; Cabaniss, 30; Spangler, 25.

Cabaniss led the West precinct with 118 followed by Spangler with 107. Dickson

received 63 and Gold 56.

At East King Mountain Cabaniss led with 59 votes followed by Spangler with 52; Gold with 22, and Dickson with 15.

The county also sided with Teena S. Little in her contest with Vernon Robinson for the Republican nomination for Superintendent of Public Instruction. However, the county vote totals were not as overwhelming for Little as were the Democrats in their choice for commissioner nominees. Little faces incumbent Bob Etheridge on the November ballot.

A total of 41,000 people are registered to vote.

Election officials called the turnout Tuesday somewhat better than expected for a second race, citing the heat-up in recent weeks in the commissioner race for the increased activity.



CECIL DICKSON



SAM GOLD

## DyeTech to build near KM

DyeTech Industries Inc., a commission dyer and finisher of tubular knit goods, is building a \$2 million plant on Countryside Road and expects to employ 60-70 people initially by late October.

The partners in the industry, John Gage, Mike Hawkins and Cecil Robinson, made the announcement at a press conference Friday morning at Governmental Facilities Center.

Gage said the majority of the fabric processed by DyeTech will be used in active wear such as golf shirts and T-shirts.

DyeTech has begun construction on a six acre tract on Countryside Road, the former Plonk property, near the intersection of Highway 74 Bypass and Business 74. Metrolina Builders is contractor for the 40,000 square feet metal building which will be enhanced by a portico. At full capacity the plant is expected to employ 100 people.

Gage said that DyeTech has been in the planning stages for over one year. "After looking at various locations in North and South Carolina we decided on Kings Mountain because of the extra effort and assistance provided by city and county governments," said Gage. Funding for the operation has been provided by First National Bank of Cleveland County and Region C Development Corporation Inc. of Rutherfordton, a Small Business Administration-backed small business lender.

Gage said the plan will cater to cut and sew companies and knitting companies with in-house dye houses. He said he and his partners got the idea for a business of their own after working in industry for many years. Hawkins and Gage sold chemicals. Robinson was associated with a local dyeing and finishing plant for many years.

"It was our dream to start a business of our own. Textiles are com-

See Dye, 8-A



Ptl. Wayne Thomas, left, takes a bite from Tank, a K-9 handled by Ptl. Rene Rikard, right, who teams up with Thomas and German Shepherd police dogs Tank and Joker to form KMPD's first K-9 patrol. Rikard is the county's first and only female K-9 handler.

## KM cop county's only female K-9 dog trainer

Ptl. Rena Rikard, 27, a Kings Mountain police officer for nearly five years, is Cleveland County's only female K-9 handler.

It's a tough assignment. Rikard passed 14 weeks of strenuous training recently with flying colors as did her four-footed partner.

When the five feet eight 130 pound woman tells seven months old "Tank" to "sit" and "heal" the 100 pound shiny black German Shepherd does just that.

Rikard teams up with Ptl. Wayne Thomas and "Joker" as the Kings Mountain Police Department's effective K-9 team. Thomas stands six feet tall and weighs 200 pounds. His four-footed buddy is a 120 pound white German Shepherd who joined the K-9 squad two years ago with its beginning.

Rikard was taught to train her dog she calls her "baby." She is ribbed by her fellow officers when she talks to the dog and refers to herself as "mama."

"She treats him like a baby," says Thomas, who explains that K-9 officers love their animals and take great care of them. They want the dogs to be ready and alert at all times and see them as a big deterrent to crime. Trainers/owners won't send their dogs into a 'no win' situation. The dogs are protective of their masters and listen to them exclusively.

Physical training for both master and dog is hard, says Rena, who said dogs and their owners learn

agility and strict obedience. Dogs are trained by their new owners to perform building and box searches, sniff for drugs, track suspects through woods and buildings, and they soon become an integral part of their lives and homes.

"All the guys laughed at me when I called Tank mama's boy but I tend to him just like I would a child," said Rikard. Tank responded as Frank to his former owner Brian Hawkins, a deputy with the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department. It was a real tongue-twister for Rena to say "fetch it Frank" so Frank soon became Tank and completed his training with Rena as Tank. Joker's real name is Joseph Gavin Thor and he and his master finished K-9 training together two years ago when the program started here.

Police dogs must maintain proper diets, just like humans, and their kennels must protect them from rain or hot sun.

Police dogs are trained to bite one time and hold a suspect until the officer arrives. With 42 teeth in their mouth, the animals put 900-1200 pounds of pressure on their jaws. Officers in training feel the bite even through a protected sleeve.

When police use a dog to make an arrest, they exert the same amount of force as a night stick, a PR 24, explained Rena.

See Rikard, 9-A

## Grover Board plans budget

GROVER - A preliminary budget of \$238,855.00 is on the table for consideration by Town Board which anticipates formal adoption June 15 at public hearing.

The budget, up \$41,618 from last year's budget of \$197,237, holds the line on expenses, according to Mayor Ronald Queen, and includes a merit raise for the town's four employees: clerk Sheila Camp, full-time police officers Paul Cash and Robbie Sides, and maintenance worker Dean Causby.

The budget sets the same tax rate: 20 cents per \$100 valuation for the general fund and .09 cents per \$100 valuation for the water and sewer fund. The town will receive \$31,720 from Powell Bill funds for street improvements, down \$18,081.00 from last year.

Revenues of \$141,480 are projected from the utility fund. Included in the budget are administrative costs of \$54,641 up \$10,262 and including cost of a copier; Town Hall expenses of \$10,255, and a police budget of \$49,542 plus \$17,180 for operational expenses of the police department; \$14,750 for park improvements at Brice Harry Memorial Park, and professional fees of \$11,850, including maintenance agreement on computer software.

"Money will be tight this year and we need to stick closely to the budget," said Queen, taking the occasion to praise the town clerk for her assistance in preparation of the preliminary budget. The budget is open for review at town hall until June 15.

In other actions, Council:

■ Approved purchase of a 1992 Caprice Classic police car, including "rocker" lights new to county law enforcement and other safety features of the four-door, white vehicle. The car, purchased on state contract for \$11,900, is to be delivered Friday. The mayor said the \$15,000 cost for the car and addi-

tional equipment was budgeted last year.

■ Approved purchase of bush hog at cost of \$525 for use on the \$7500 tractor mower the board bought last month.

■ Paid Carl Champion \$7,525.42 for seeding, engineering fees, and repair work at Brice Harry Memorial Park open from 6:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. daily. The mayor said the walking track is in good shape, the ball field diamond is fenced and seeded but no lights are up yet. He reported that back stops have been added in addition to reseeding. The board expects to receive nearly \$7,000 from the county for a recreation grant to pay for the park improvements.

■ Authorized the mayor to buy a new pump for the waste treatment lift station at cost of \$4,862.

■ Approved street paving on several downtown streets, including Poplar and Briarcliff Roads and designated commissioners to tour the streets and look at sidewalks which need repair. Before the end of June the town will spend up to \$40,000 for street improvements paid for in last year's budget.

■ The Mayor reported that a grant application for recycling had been turned down by the state and asked board members to help search for a big trailer or cotton wagon for the town to use for deposits of plastic. Currently, the town has containers for clear, brown, and green glass, aluminum, and paper. "We can't fuss at our people for not recycling until we get something to put it in but something must be done or the town will have to charge a tipping fee similar to other towns," said Queen.

■ Approved \$258 per year for listings and advertisement on the Grover Lions Club community calendar which features a front page cover picture of the Town Hall.

See Grover, 2-A

## Kings Mountain People



HAZEL FRYER

## Fryer walking history of KM

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Of The Herald Staff

When Thomas Wolfe wrote 'you can't go home again' he didn't know Hazel Herndon Fryer.

The popular and versatile former Mauvey Memorial Librarian did come home again 22 years ago and hopes she has returned to the community some of the treasures it has given her.

Fryer, now retired from the Library, hasn't retired from reading nor from collecting historical items that speak of her roots and those of her Kings Mountain neighbors. Her keen interest in the Kings Mountain Historical Society is legend. She was one of the organizers

and the first president of the Kings Mountain Historical Museum Society and is still pushing for the city to soon renovate the old Post Office building so that she can display more than 2,000 artifacts and historical pieces in the police department building downtown.

When the city fathers started work on the 1974 Centennial Celebration in town they looked no further than Mrs. Fryer who they asked to co-edit with Lynn Mauvey the "Second Fifty Years," in the Centennial historical booklet sold during the Celebration. During her tenure on the library staff she helped update the library, adding two new Junior Rooms and a Carolina Room and saw visitation

to the library grow.

Her avid interest in reading made her the perfect second coordinator of the Library Literacy program, following in the footsteps of Martha P. Bridges. Matching up students and tutors is a rewarding role, she says. Hazel also volunteers at the Crisis Ministry and stocks shelves and distributes food at the food bank. While serving as president of the Women of the Church at First Presbyterian Church she helped Martha Bridges of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church organize the present successful annual dinner of KM Council of Church Women.

Hazel also volunteers at the

See Fryer, 8-A



RECEIVES DIPLOMA - Jonathon Blalock receives his diploma from KMHS Principal Jackie Lavender at Friday's graduation exercises at B.N. Barnes Auditorium. 207 seniors received diplomas in the first KMHS graduation held indoors in 16 years.