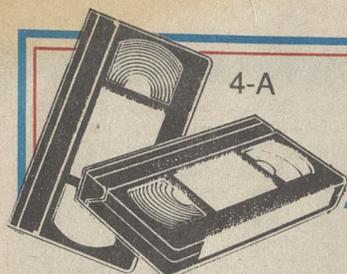


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4-A

Video policy needs attention

Wrestlers win county title



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Get in line for Elvis stamp

Fifteen years after the death of Elvis Presley the legend remains very much alive for fans like Kings Mountain banker Juanita Cloninger.

Cloninger readily admits that she has been an Elvis "nut" since she watched the super star perform on The Ed Sullivan Show in 1956 in a show which launched his career to stardom.

Cloninger's grandmother, the late Bessie Dellinger, contributed the first piece of memorabilia, Elvis bookends, to the Elvis Room at the home of Mrs. Cloninger on Ellenwood Drive.



That gift started a collection that has grown over the years to include albums of pictures Juanita took during three trips to Graceland in Memphis, TN, tapes of all Elvis' movies, wall hangings, doll look-a-likes, Christmas ornaments, tags, stamps, and a day bed decorated with an Elvis coverlet and pillow shams, to name a few of the items in the collection.

Her newest item will be the just-released set of Elvis Presley postage stamps. She will receive the first set of stamps issued at Kings Mountain Post Office Friday. The United States is issuing only one Elvis stamp--the younger Elvis, based on the outcome of the national vote taken by the postal service. More than 300 million U. S. stamps have been printed. However, fans are sure to want a set of nine different stamps showing Elvis in every stage of his career and just issued by the tiny island nation of St. Vincent, British West Indies. Cloninger says that each of the nine stamps is about four times the size of the proposed U. S. stamp, and each stamp has a face value of \$1.00.

"They are really quite stunning with all the colorful images printed together on the same commemorative sheets," added Cloninger. She says she is excited about adding the new U.S. stamps and the St. Vincent limited edition to her collection.

See Elvis, 8-A



Juanita Cloninger, an Elvis Presley fan, has filled an Elvis Room of her home with Elvis memorabilia.

City eyes good year

No major increases for city services are projected in 1993 by city officials but utility customers could see an inflationary increase of two percent in water and sewer costs in July.

City Manager George Wood said that City Council will take a hard look at the overall financial picture at the third annual retreat to be held in March at Cleveland Community College.

Council had indicated that a two percent increase in water/sewer rates may be necessary by July 1993.

"The major increases are behind us," said Wood, who said that the new year will find the city still making improvements in the utility systems and doing street repaving but the major work will be in getting easements and overseeing the construction of the big Bridgestone/Firestone Plant in Kings Mountain Business Park. Gaston County is paying the cost of the water/sewer lines that Kings Mountain is constructing and Kings Mountain is also running natural gas extensions in the area.

All bond projects were completed a year ago and all have been dedicated. "Modest improvements

will continue," said Wood.

"It's that time of year to talk about budgets and the city staff will begin preparation for presenting budget requests to Council," said Wood, who said the budget will be ready for Council's adoption by June 1.

Wood said the city has been receiving more requests from developers interested in building in the city and he hopes that is an indication that the economy is on the upswing.

He said the addition of the new Firestone plant, expected to crank up in May; the new DyeTech firm in West Kings Mountain which begins operations next month; and the new Burke Narrow Fabrics opening in the old Sadie Mill this month will boost the economy.

Hardee's Restaurant is building a new restaurant on Cleveland Avenue and a new laundromat is under construction off Ridge at 161. Little Dan's No. 4 has extensively renovated the former Caveny Fabric building on York Road to house a modern convenience store, washerette and restaurant. Danny and Roger Goforth have opened the business and plan a grand opening and ribbon cutting later this month.

Pulpit challenge for Mitchell

The new minister in the pulpit at First Presbyterian Church is a former college president, educator, and former missionary teacher.

Dr. Donald Mitchell, who became the church's interim pastor last month, finds his role challenging.

In fact, the 65 years of his life have been rewarding and never dull.

Although he has served only two interim pastorates, here and at Carmel Presbyterian in Charlotte 19 months, the retired educator finds the ministry a calling that he wishes could have come earlier in life.

One of the joys of his new job is

visiting the shut-ins of his congregation. They are priorities, he says. He says they give him a blessing every time he sees them.

Mitchell's versatility as a speaker enhances his sermon delivery and he brings some of the joys/reflections of his long academic career and his experiences in Peru as a teacher to his listeners.

A native of South Ireland, New Zealand, Mitchell retired from King College, Bristol, TN, in 1989 after a 10-year tenure. Twenty-two years of college teaching also included Academic Dean at Montreat Anderson College for six years and six years as Academic Vice President at Wheaton University,

Illinois.

It was in Lema, Peru that he met and married his wife, Grace Spradling. She taught at a Methodist Girls School and he taught at a Scottish Presbyterian Boys School. From Peru, they moved to Princeton Seminary and he earned his Bachelor of Divinity Degree and later his Doctorate in Theology. Mrs. Mitchell has taught 36 years and is currently Spanish teacher at East and West Elementary Schools.

The couple's love of the Spanish language has taken them to South American countries. They have traveled in Spain three times and to

See New Pastor, 8-A



DR. DONALD MITCHELL

KM School Board to meet Monday night

How Kings Mountain Schools rate on the state report card may be on the agenda for Monday night's Board of Education meeting at 7

p.m. in the School Administration Building.

"We've been told we may get those results on Monday from the

State Department of Public Instruction," said Supt. Dr. Bob McRae.

McRae said other business of the

January meeting will be routine.

The board will probably set a

See School Board, 8-A

Schools to look for additional revenues

No school building projects are in the works for new year 1993 but Supt. Dr. Bob McRae said that officials will be looking at ways to get additional resources.

He cited the increases in mandated programs as the reason that systems will be looking for more money to reach goals.

"I see no dramatic improvements in the local economy," he said. "I hope that things will improve but I think it will be slow."

McRae said that the school staff is currently doing the paper work to ask the Justice Department and

N.C. General Assembly to designate Priscilla Mauney's inside city seat as an at-large seat effective with the November school board election in which terms of Mauney, Ronnie Hawkins and Billy Houze are expiring.

The Board of Education went to

a three inside city, two outside city arrangement after school consolidation went into effect in the fall of 1961. In recent months, the board has discussed how to better reflect the population of the school system in its seating arrangement. The board approved the at-large seat at the December meeting.

New Economic Director ready to promote county

Cleveland County's new Economic Development Director Steven Nye toured Kings Mountain on his second day on the job Tuesday and liked what he saw.

He was accompanied by Larry Hamrick Sr. and City Councilman Al Moretz, both members of the nine-member EDC board.

Nye says he plans to be highly visible to the people of Cleveland County and is excited about working with local people.

"We plan to give him a fast-track introduction to Cleveland County during his first week on the job," said Hamrick, who introduced the former High Point resident to a wide section of the community.

Before moving to Shelby, Nye was associated for four years with the High Point Economic

Development Corporation and before that worked in Florence, SC with the EDC.

His wife, Linda Nye, is allocations director of High Point United Way and will join him in Shelby at the end of February.

Nye said he will be meeting with the EDC board in January to firm up the group's direction for the new year. The EDC will host a drop-in at which Cleveland County residents are invited to meet the new director on January 26 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Cleveland County Office Building on Marion Street in Shelby.

Nye says he looks forward to helping the local board build the program and to compete region-wide for economic development across the United States.



Al Moretz, left, and Larry Hamrick Sr., right, welcome Steven Nye, the new director of the Cleveland County Economic Development Commission to Kings Mountain.

Business leaders see better 1993

Will the euphoria after the election wear off or will it sustain Kings Mountain and the country during a sluggish economy?

"A good question," say local business people who say they are hopeful that new year 1993 will be better for Kings Mountain.

John McGinnis, partner in McGinnis Department Store, thinks the change in U.S. administration will have a positive affect on the economy nationwide and business will be better. "I've seen an attitude change that is good and I see no reason why business won't be better because of that attitude," he said.

"Leaders nationwide are anticipating a stronger business climate and customer attitude is great. I don't hear negative talk in Kings Mountain."

McGinnis said that local people can't expect to see the terrific business activity that the community received in the 1980s. "That won't return soon," he said.

City Manager George Wood says the city has seen some positive signals in the last several months that the economy may be on the upswing. "We've had more requests from developers about

city services and that means there is more interest," he said.

Larry Hamrick Jr., past president of the Kings Mountain Association of Realtors, thinks Kings Mountain citizens will see a turnaround in the economy. "We have a positive outlook and think things will progress."

Steven Nye, the new director of the Cleveland County Economic Development Corporation, looks forward to many more good things happening in Cleveland County in 1993. On his second day in the new job, he said he wants to be highly visible to every citizen of the county and is excited about working with the nine-member board of directors in charting the county's future.

Supt. Dr. Bob McRae says he is also hopeful that the economy will turn around in 1993 but he doesn't predict a pronounced change and he thinks it will "take a while." He said that the costs of state mandated programs have sent school boards scurrying for funds to meet goals and increased insurance costs worry many citizens of the community.

"I hope that 1993 will be a better year for everyone," he said.

Trees will stay

GROVER - Parking won't be permitted along the tree-lined side of Main Street but the memorial trees still stand, in spite of pleas by property owners on Main Street that the trees pose a danger to shoppers at night and should be moved and replaced by more lights.

Council voted Monday night to trim the trees and to paint lines on the street outside the shops so that big trucks would not block entrances and pose a traffic problem.

C of C banquet set

The annual Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce banquet is scheduled for January 25 at Kings Mountain Middle School.

The social time will begin at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m.

Tickets will go on sale soon at the Chamber of Commerce office.