



Tree lighting ceremony  
Thursday night  
at library 2C

Basketball season  
opens Friday 7-A

City cleans up  
condemned property 9-A

# Kings Mountain Herald

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## Christmas parade Saturday

Santa Claus and the Charlotte Hornets Honey Bees will be the stars of Kings Mountain's 125-unit Christmas parade Saturday at 3 p.m.

The popular cheerleaders will serve as grand marshals for the holiday spectacle which traditionally opens the Christmas season in Kings Mountain. The jolly old man from the North Pole will be riding on McKenney Chevrolet's Santa float at the end of the line-up.

The parade route is reversed from last year. The parade will line up in the area of Carolina State Bank and will proceed west on East Gold Street, turn right on Battleground Avenue (at Minit Grill), turn right on King Street and disband near Highway 161.

For safety reasons, curbside

parking will not be allowed on Battleground Avenue. Parking will be permitted in the parking spaces along the Southern Railway tracks.

Pretty girls, dancers, church and business floats, the high stepping Kings Mountain High School marching band, the very popular Oasis Shriners Steel Drum Band, and a big parade entry from Greenville Neighborhood Group, also of Charlotte, are included in the line-up.

"We believe this parade will be our best ever," said Denise Leonard, interim recreation director for the sponsoring Kings Mountain Parks & Recreation Department.

City officials and law enforcement officers with the Kings Mountain Police Department,

Cleveland County Sheriff's Department and North Carolina Highway Patrol and Kings Mountain Fire Department will lead off the parade that winds down the main part of the business district. A color guard will precede the grand marshals followed by Mayor Scott Neisler and the seven members of City Council.

Other parade participants, in the order of their lineup in the parade: KM Junior High varsity cheerleaders, KMHS varsity cheerleaders, KMHS marching band, KM Middle School cheerleaders, Carousell Princess Jayda Biddix, First National Bank's Frosty, Homecoming float, Bethware Pack 95 Cub Scouts, KM Volunteer Fire Department 1985 truck, KM Rescue Squad, Bethware Fair

Queen Carrie Sizemore, Carolina State Bank, Spanish Club Homecoming nominee Christy Robbs, Art Club Homecoming nominee Cindy Robbs, Band Homecoming nominee Holly Paul, Dance Magic, Clevemont float, Bynum Chapel tutorial program, Kingstown Town Council, Little Mr. Cherryville Caleb Hughes and Young Miss Cherryville D Chapman.

Also: Baby Miss Kings Mountain and Shelby Chelse Moss, Baby Mr. Shelby Houston Phillips, KM Optimist Club, Belk/Thomas Petroleum float with Trinity Pre School, The Clogging Station, Cleveland Country Democratic Party, SPO Homecoming nominee

See Parade, 10-A



The Charlotte Hornets Honey Bees will be grand marshals for Saturday's Kings Mountain Christmas parade. Front row, left to right, Michelle Dearing, Ellen Smith. Second row, Stephani Christy, Kim Bailey, Lisa Weekly, Michelle Bagby. Back row, Angie Day, Michelle Lee, Debbie Caddell, Amity Flowe, Felicia Fritz, Melissa Marlowe, Holly Parham, Heather Jones, Nicole Price, Ramona Robertson.

## Arson suspected in fire

Arson is suspected in an early-morning high dollar fire Wednesday that destroyed four classrooms in a 1940 Sunday School addition and smoke and water damaged the 133-year-old sanctuary of Long Creek Presbyterian Church on Bessemer City Road.

Firemen from eight fire departments responded to a 911 call from a newspaper carrier about 3 a.m.

Firemen from Chestnut Ridge and Mary's Grove Fire Departments and Gaston County police and fire marshals were still on the scene at mid-morning.

Rev. James Welch said that some artifacts were salvaged from a historical room full of memorabilia but that four classrooms in the addition, including a Boy Scout meeting room built in 1940's, were razed.

The church fire was the fifth fire in the Chestnut Ridge fire district and neighborhood in recent

See Arson, 10-A



Arson is suspected in an early-morning fire Wednesday which destroyed four classrooms at Long Creek Presbyterian Church. The 133-year-old sanctuary was saved from the blaze but had water and smoke damage.

## Task Force presents violence proposals

All six proposals by a community task force against school violence have been adopted by the Kings Mountain Board of Education. Board Chairman Ronnie Hawkins said the tougher measures will be implemented quickly.

The approved recommendations:

- 1) At least 10 percent of students at the middle and high schools will be randomly searched by four hand-held or walk-through metal detectors during school at least once a week. The procedures will be set up so that students won't know when or where the searches will be conducted. The school board will hear a second reading of the new policy on use of metal detectors on December 12 and once that vote is taken the searches will begin.

- 2) A Crimestoppers hot line will be set up so that students can anonymously report their classmates who carry weapons to school. The calls will be fielded by Kings Mountain Police Department and then the police will notify the principal at the school in question.

See Proposals, 10-A

## Final reading set on policy

Final reading and vote on the use of hand-held or walk-through metal detectors in the schools is on the agenda for a special meeting Friday at 8:30 a.m. of the Kings Mountain Board of Education.

Board Chairman Ronnie Hawkins said that some representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union are questioning the search policy, saying it could violate a person's civil rights.

"We disagree," said Hawkins. He said that the policy is becoming necessary in view of the escalating presence of weapons in the schools. The detectors will be put in use at the first Kings Mountain High basketball game.

The policy reads: School officials or law enforcement officers may conduct metal detector checks of groups of individuals if the checks are done in a minimally intrusive, nondiscriminatory manner on all students in a

See Policy, 10-A

## KM hikes natural gas rates

The 2,669 natural gas customers of the City of Kings Mountain will see the first major increases in four years in their December 31 gas bills.

City Council, after a lengthy discussion Tuesday night, voted 4-3 to up the rates on a variable fluctuating scale depending on the market rate which could range from a projected increase of 12-25 percent for the city's five classes of customers.

At-Large Councilman Al Moretz softened the bad news for 280 citizens on fixed incomes who qualify for a lower utility rate in the social security supplement program. He suggested an amendment that will give a discount to those gas customers and reflect a rate increase depending on usage of 8.85 percent.

City Commissioners Norma Bridges, Elvin Greene and Jerry White voted against the rate increases. Commissioners Phil Hager and Jim Guyton's motions were approved by Moretz and Fred Finger.

Scott Heath, the city's gas consulting engineer, said even with the increased hike that Kings Mountain's gas rate is well below the City of Shelby, the City of Lexington, Public Service Company and Piedmont Natural Gas Company.

The increased hike would mean an increase of 12 percent to residential users; a 14 percent increase to small commercial users; a 24-25 percent increase to schools and

See Gas Hike, 10-A

## Patrick Yarns plans expansion

Kings Mountain City Council okayed an agreement Tuesday with Patrick Yarns and Cleveland County Commissioners that will aid a \$1.5 million industry expansion that could create 10 to 20 additional jobs and add almost \$10,000 per year to the county tax base.

Sam Tesenair of Patrick Yarns told City Council that the county board recently passed a resolution of support for the plan that would have the county pay for \$20,000 in water line improvements by the City of Kings Mountain to Patrick Yarn Mill.

Tesenair thanked City Manager George Wood and Planning Director Gene White for their co-

operation in the venture. The mill will need an eight-inch water line extended 500 feet and a hydrant installed to meet fire insurance codes, said Tesenair. The 30,000-square-foot expansion will be completed in about six months and will be used primarily for warehouse space, he said.

"We are ready to add a 20,000-square foot addition now," said Tesenair.

The county has a policy of paying for water and sewer service projects when costs can be recouped in the four tax bills after the improvements are complete.

County Economic Development Director Steve Nye said that the

See Patrick, 9-A



Peggy Childers puts ornaments on a unique memory tree at Peggy's Restaurant on Piedmont Avenue. The tree branches are full of photographs of deceased Kings Mountain residents.

## MEMORIES

### KM restaurant's tree decorated with photos of deceased friends

The memory Christmas tree with 50 pictures in star and bell shaped molds and twinkling lights evokes special memories of Christmases past.

"I could hardly put up the pictures without getting a lump in my throat," said Peggy Childers, operator of Peggy's Restaurant, who got the idea to begin a holiday tradition in Kings Mountain with a memory tree decorated with pictures of deceased residents.

Peggy's sisters, Loretta Owens, Sherry Short and Sue Rhea, give their sister the credit for the unique idea. They helped her decorate the seven feet tall green tree with memory ornaments and another 10 feet tall tree with hundreds of traditional decorations that Loretta collected over the years from near and distant places.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at the Piedmont Avenue business where the two trees decorate the dining room.

The proprietors, more familiarly known in Kings Mountain as the Chaney sisters, have decorated every Christmas since they opened the business in 1972 in what used to be C.J. Gault Grocery. Before that, the sisters worked at Piedmont Lunch and the old B&B Restaurant and before that they cooked in the home of their parents, the late Rev. and Mrs. R.L.

Chaney, in a family of seven girls and four boys.

"It was just natural for us to get in this type of business," said Peggy, whose son, Kevin, has also joined the kitchen staff.

Peggy's has earned its reputation as a 'homey' atmosphere, say the people who dine there frequently. Childers wants the hometown flavor to remain.

Loretta picked the angel for the top of the remembrance tree. It is so angelic that when you look at it the angel's wings move and give the visitor what Sherry calls an "eerie feeling."

It took Childers hours to cut the tiny ceramic molds and back them with red paper, then cut out the photographs in the shapes to trim the tree. Pictures of young and old alike adorn the tree and there are numerous pictures of husbands and wives who ate at Peggy's over the years and who the waitresses say they could have their food ready even before they sat down with a menu.

"I knew exactly what former commissioner Jim Dickey wanted to eat and what former seamstress Irene Medlin wanted to eat," said Sherry. "Irene always ordered a grill cheese sandwich with fries but she had to change her order after

See Memory, 10-A

Shop Downtown Kings Mountain this Christmas.....See Pages 4 & 5A