

# Bob Hayes named interim police chief

# 6-A

# Alternative school

# 7-A

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# City Council, state to discuss audit

## Nance has optimistic outlook for 1995

The city's cash flow is improving, according to City Manager Chuck Nance, who is optimistic about the city's financial outlook in 1995, he said this week.

Mayor Scott Neisler said he hoped that 1995 will see a restoration of faith in city government and called for citizens to take a positive outlook, rather than negative.

"I still say and will continue to say that our city financial position is better than has been

stated and I will continue to speak out on issues that we are all concerned about," said the mayor.

Neisler said he hoped that citizens will get behind a beautification effort and praised those who are taking more interest in beautifying the city. He praised the recent efforts of a committee to upgrade the holiday decorations and said that 500 day lily plants are being donated to add to a city-wide beautification effort.

The mayor said that a prison work crew will be helping in the beautification effort as well as working with Public Works crews on clearing of sewer line rights-of-way.

"We have a lot of positive things going on and we will see more in 1995," he said.

Nance says the city's financial picture will improve, as is already indicated by cash flow reports.

See 1995, 10-A

Two representatives of the state treasurer's office, Craig Barfield and Vance Holleman of the Local Government Commission, are being invited by City Manager Chuck Nance to attend the January 31 meeting of City Council to respond to questions by Council on the 1993-94 audit.

Nance presented Mayor Scott Neisler and seven Council members copies of the audit on Friday.

A special meeting of City Council is set for Thursday at 7 p.m. for City Auditor Darrell Keller to give a presentation on the audit. The board will take

no action until possibly January 31.

Nance said that he had not had time to study specifics of the audit report, which under law was sent to the LGC under due date of October 31, 1994.

Nance said since the faxed copy of the LGC's tentative approval of the audit accountants there have made several changes and that it would have been premature of Keller to have released the audit until all the changes were made.

Keller has been criticized by several members of the city board for not releasing the audit earlier. But Nance said Council is receiving the audit earlier this

year than last. He said Council took its first look at the 1992-93 audit on January 11, 1993.

City officials have been anxious to see the audit so questions regarding the city's financial condition could be cleared up.

Mayor Scott Neisler has maintained for some months that the city's financial picture is not as bad as it has been painted. The audit is expected to give an independent picture of the city's financial condition for fiscal 1993-94.

Representatives of the LGC came to Kings Mountain last

See Audit, 10-A

## 32-cent stamp popular item

Thousands of new U. S. postage stamps were sold at the Kings Mountain Post Office Tuesday as five postal clerks at all three windows were kept hopping all day on the first day of the increase.

Way back when, a stamp cost 3 cents. That's how much the price went up January 1- from 29 cents to 32 cents for a stamp for a first-class letter.

Quay Moss, KM Post Office Customer Services Supervisor, said that 50,000 of the "G" stamps for "Old Glory" plus 30,000 more 3 centers and plenty of books of self-adhesive stamps were available to customers when the doors opened Tuesday after the New Year's Day holiday. By mid-afternoon the lines were still long and the Post Office was running low on the 3 cent stamps.

The parking lot at the facility was full almost all day, according to Moss, who said that the third of the month is also Social Security check day for many residents who flock to the Post Office.

The increase in the cost of a postcard went from 18 to 20 cents and bulk rate and second class postage also went up. The cost of a second ounce on a first class letter is the same, 23 cents.

Moss, who joined the local staff in 1973, recalled that 20 years ago the cost of a stamp was 8 cents and he recalled nine increases during the period, from 8 to 10 cents; 10 to 13 cents; 13 to 15 cents; 15 to 18 cents; 18 to 20 cents; 20 to 22 cents; 22 to 25 cents; 25 to 29 cents; and 29 to 32 cents.

"A stamp is really the best buy in town," says Moss, who said a first class letter can go as far distant as Hawaii and can be returned to the sender for the same 32 cents.

"When you compare the postal increases to other in-

See Stamps, 10-A

## Sex ed report is due Monday

A report by the Kings Mountain Health Council on a revised Middle School family life curriculum will be presented to the Kings Mountain Board of Education Monday night.

Wanda Ammay, chairman of the Health Council, will make the report following weeks of study by the committee.

Supt. Bob McRae said the board will not consider adoption of the curriculum until after a community meeting is held in February for parents to attend and give input into the discussion.

McRae said the report to the board is for information only.

McRae said the report is the major item of business on the agenda for the January meeting.

The board meets at 7 p.m. at Central School.



Kings Mountain Hospital has contracted with Dr. Walter Minor to keep the old McGill Clinic open for six more months. Members of the Clinic staff from left are Ann Green, Avis Morrow, Minor, Sissy Glass and Sandi Patterson, a new nurse on the staff.

## Doctor to stay six more months

Kings Mountain Hospital contracted this week with Dr. Walter Minor to staff the old McGill Clinic for six more months.

Minor, who came to McGill Clinic in October after Drs. Charles Adams and Dr. Frank Sincox left the family medical practice, was also given hospital admitting privileges and will be admitting patients to Kings Mountain Hospital, according to Assistant Administrator Alex Bell.

There had been rumors that the hospital was closing the McGill Clinic permanently, now called KMH Medical Services, on December 31.

"This practice is building up and we are taking new patients," said Minor, a retired family physician and US Army flight surgeon from Fuquay Varina who lives in Kings

Mountain five days a week and commutes on weekends to his home in Eastern North Carolina.

Minor also announced that Sandi Patterson has joined his staff as a registered nurse. Other members of the staff are Ann Green, Avis Morrow and Sissy Glass.

Minor said that he is seeing patients on a full schedule from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday and that walk-in patients are welcome.

Trustees of the hospital were meeting in executive session Wednesday to hear recommendations from a consultant for solving problems of the doctor-short, financially strapped institution.

Bell said trustees are also meeting in executive session with Cleveland Memorial Hospital trustees on January 9. Bell said that one of the rec-

ommendations of Alex Scott of Growth Activation of Atlanta is possible merger with another facility and the closest facility is Cleveland Memorial Hospital at Shelby.

Scott's report will describe the available forms of merger, discuss criteria for acceptable partners and list health care networks that fit the criteria, said J. C. Bridges, chairman of the KMH trustees.

Jim Rose, chairman of the Cleveland Memorial Hospital board of trustees, contacted Bridges several weeks ago about the January 9 meeting with his board.

Rose and Bridges said that the two boards have a common goal - to deliver better health care to the Cleveland County community.

"We may talk about merger and it may never come to the

See Doctor, 10-A

## Teen allegedly killed after argument at game

An argument before a basketball game ended in the shooting death of a Shelby man last Wednesday night and the arrest of five young Kings Mountain men on murder charges.

Cleveland County Sheriff Dan Crawford said Barry Cornelius Lynch, 18, a former student at Shelby High School, died in the arms of a friend while others smashed two windows in doors at the front entrance of Kings Mountain Hospital, unaware that the emergency entrance was at the rear of the building.

Lynch died in the parking lot of the hospital, according to police reports.

Chad Strong, 16, a student at Crest High School, Jock Degree, 20, a graduate of Shelby High School, and Anthony Allen, 18, a student at Shelby High School, were all treated at the hospital for gunshot wounds and released.

Arrested were: Shedrick Lashon Crosby, 21, of Carolina Garden Apartments in Kings Mountain. Crosby is an employee of Beverly Knits.

Eric Germaine Hunter Jr., 17, of 41 Carolina Gardens Apartments. He is a student at Kings Mountain High School.

Henry Allen Moore, 23, of 521 Harmon Court in Kings Mountain.

Sheldon Jaron Thompson, 20, of 1906 Alpine Drive in Kings Mountain.

David Lee Bell, 18, of 42 Pine Manor Apartments in Kings Mountain. Each of the men is charged with one felony count of murder and two felony counts of shooting into an occupied vehicle. They are being held in the

Cleveland County jail without bond.

Crawford said investigators don't know what started the confrontation before the Shelby Star Holiday Classic, the second night of a three day basketball tournament at Kings Mountain High School.

Crawford said the group of suspects allegedly followed the other group out of the gym and parking lot at the high school. Crawford said a white 1989 Volkswagen carried five Shelby teens and a gray 1985 Nissan Maxima carried three or four others from Shelby from the high school gymnasium.

About two miles from the gym, Crawford said a 1984 burgundy Oldsmobile Cutlass carrying the suspects passed the caravan of Shelby teens on Crocker Road and gunfire erupted.

"The car carrying the Kings Mountain teens passed the two cars, opened fire and sped fast," he said.

Crawford said there is no evidence that the Shelby teens returned fire on the passing car. He alleges that all five suspects fired weapons.

He said which gun fired the fatal shot is not a factor in the murder charges. Firing into an occupied vehicle is a felony and when death occurs all alleged participants are charged.

Crawford said Lynch was seated in the left rear of the Volkswagen when he was shot three times with bullets from different guns.

Both of the Shelby cars had injured people.

"The panicked Shelby teens

See Death, 10-A

## Kings Mountain People



RUTH B. WHITE

## Ruth helps heal with hugs

Ruth Blanton White, 73, is a staunch believer in angels and hugs.

After surviving three serious wrecks without a scratch in four years, she credits the good Lord for sending his angels to look after her.

Her philosophy is that everyone needs an angel and a hug and she hugs her patients at Greenfield Manor at least once a day.

"Sometimes I think the hugs and kisses do more than the medicine," said the licensed practical nurse who went back to school at age 53 at the urging of former Kings Mountain Hospital head nurse Edna Childers.

"Edna told me that my calling was in nursing after I completed a nursing assistant's course at the hospital," said Ruth. White returned to the local hospital and worked for 10 years.

After the wrecks that injured one of her passengers seriously, Ruth developed a philosophy to live each day to the fullest. "I decided that God wasn't ready for me yet when I walked away from four wrecks and I've tried to help others as much as I can."

Three years ago Ruth went to work at the nursing home in Gastonia. She was a Hospice volunteer for a number of years.

White said that her career choice and the career choices of her three daughters grew out of their desire to help someone else. Sandi Blanton Packard of Shelby is a Cleveland County Home Health nurse; Rita Ann Blanton Stratton works with abused children in the Portland, Oregon Court System, and Tinker Blanton of Kings Mountain is a computer specialist in Charlotte. The four grandchildren are Vic and Paul Allen Packard and Lindsey and Nicky Stratton.

Ruth Reep Blanton White quit school in the 10th grade in Lincolnton when the family moved to Kings Mountain. Ruth took her nursing assistant's course before graduating high school but Edna Childers encouraged her to finish her high school education and get her practical nursing certificate.

When her youngest daughter was in college, Mrs. White went back to school herself at Cleveland Community College.

White is a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church and is active in Senior Citizen clubs in the area.

Her activity belies her age. She danced the old year out and the new year in, she said, and loved every step she took.