

Chamber tree planting project begins in KM

3-A

Ski patrol KMPD's latest crime fighting tool

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Domestic order served KM Mayor

A hearing is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. Friday in Domestic Violence Court in Shelby in Courtroom II on a 50B Domestic Order served against Mayor Scott Neisler by his wife, Janice Cetan Neisler.

Judge James Bowen issued the order Friday after Mrs. Neisler claimed she "is in danger of acts of domestic violence from the defendant."

The Judge ordered that "the defendant shall not assault, threaten, abuse, follow, harass or interfere with the plaintiff. A law enforcement officer shall arrest the defendant if the officer has probable cause to believe the defendant has violated the provision."

The court order did not banish Mr. Neisler from home but he said he left the house after the argument and returned home this week.

Mrs. Neisler was not available for comment Tuesday night. She and her mother were having dinner together, according to Mr. Neisler.

Police records state that on February 26 Ptl. Penny Fulton responded to an alleged simple assault incident at the mayor's home. Fulton said the telephone call was from the mayor.

See Mayor, 8-A



Five of the 12 candidates for county commissioner in the May 7 Democratic Primaries are pictured during a Cleveland Chamber-sponsored candidate forum attended by 11 of the candidates Monday night. From left, John McBrayer, Willie McIntosh, Jack Spangler, Ray Thomas and Robert Williams respond to questions.

Candidates forum held in Shelby

With only 13 days remaining until the May 7 Primaries, 11 of the 12 candidates for three seats open on the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners made few promises to a sparse audience Monday night at Cleveland Community College.

The May Primaries will whittle the number to six, three Democrats and three Republicans, for the November general election.

The forum was sponsored by the Cleveland Chamber.

Although they were asked such controversial questions as their opinions on county wide consolidation of schools and what areas they would increase or cut for funding, none of the candidates were specific.

All 11 agreed that the major problem facing the county today is crime and most said the county government could strengthen Cleveland County families by giving more money for law enforcement and putting more county officers on the roads.

Taking part in the forum were Ruby Alexander, Joe Cabaniss and Ray Thomas, all Republicans, and Democrats Frank Cloyd, Ken Cook, Cecil Dickson, John Goforth, John McBrayer, Willie McIntosh, Jack Spangler, Ray Thomas and Robert Williams. Republican Carl Hasty was absent.

Dickson, the only incumbent commissioner offering for reelection, said the county must push for economic

See Candidates, 4-A

KM Hall of Fame banquet Monday

3 individuals, softball team to be inducted

The ninth annual Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame dinner and induction ceremony will be held Monday, April 29 at 6:30 p.m. at Kings Mountain High School.

The dinner will begin at 6:30 in the school cafeteria. The induction ceremony will follow immediately in B.N. Barnes Auditorium.

Tickets are \$10 and are available at Carolina State Bank, Town and Country Barbecue, Kings Mountain Herald, McGinnis Department Store, and Champion Contracting. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Bobby Richardson, former All-Star second baseman with the New York Yankees, will be the guest speaker.

Inductees include former KMHS football player and coach Bill Cashion, former KMHS baseball coach Fred Withers, former KMHS football player and college coach Pride Ratterree, and the Second Baptist Church men's softball team which dominated the local slow-pitch scene in the seventies and early eighties.

Jackie Houston, a KMHS junior



BOBBY RICHARDSON

who has won three straight North Carolina high school tennis championships, will receive the Special Achievement Award for 1995.

Hall of Fame President Carl Champion said this year's event is shaping up to be one of the best ever. In the past, the banquets have been held at the Kings Mountain Community Center but the high school was chosen because of spacious and more comfortable seating in the auditorium.

Bobby Richardson is one of the most sought-after motivational

See Hall of Fame, 8-A

Brown plans new businesses

JP Cloth going into Belk's building

Pat and Jim Childers have purchased the old Belk Building downtown and will begin renovation this week for JP Cloth Company.

Mr. Childers said target date for opening the new store is June 1.

Mrs. Childers will manage the store and the couple plan to hire three full-time and two part-time employees.

The Kings Mountain couple bought the business from Max Rainwater who had previously operated Factory Mattress Company in the 5,100 square foot building.

Major interior renovation will include painting, carpeting and lighting improvements. Mr. Childers said he plans to refurbish the exterior of the building at a later date.

JP Cloth Company will offer a complete inventory of dress materials, piece goods, chintz, polished cotton and some lightweight denim. Mrs. Childers said that all notions that a dressmaker needs to fashion a garment will be available, including thread, scissors, hemming tape, needles, buttons and a wide assortment of patterns, including Simplicity, New Look, See and Sew, Butterick, Vogue, McCall, Vogue Easy and How To books.

The store will be open six days a week.

A grand opening and ribbon-cutting will be held in June.

Jim Childers, a former city councilman, has been associated

See Childers, 8-A

Kings Mountain developer Mike Brown will present a sketch plan to the Kings Mountain Planning & Zoning Board Thursday night detailing his plans for a major development of commercial property on West King Street.

Brown is asking the board to rezone from R-8, two family residential, to General Business the front side of King Street or a total of eight lots. Seven lots on the back side of the property (East Ridge) are not subject to rezoning but are included in the sketch plan which the Zoning Board will take a look at for the first time Thursday.

The area that Brown wants to develop for commercial uses is located between the two rock houses fronting King Street and owned by B. M. Green and P. M. Medford.

Brown said he plans to operate at least two new businesses in the

See Brown, 8-A



Developer Mike Brown looks over building plans he will present to the Planning Board Thursday for a rezoning request.

Peak station, Ingle's rezoning request on City Council agenda

City Council will take a look Tuesday at a proposal for a Peak Generation delivery station on Gaston Street which could cost \$1.8 to \$2 million to build with a pay back time of 4 1/2 years but which could ultimately mean big savings for the city and users of electricity.

Utilities Director Jimmy Maney said detailed bids and drawings would be presented to City Council along with an overall projection of cost which would include maintenance.

"The bids look good," Maney reported to the city utilities commission Monday night.

Maney said the engineers have run the preliminary numbers on cost but Councilman Dean Spears wanted to know how the city will pay for it.

"We're trying to beat the six percent interest rates but the first payment won't be due until March of

1997," said Finance Director Maxine Parsons.

Construction could begin the last of September if the board gives approval.

Spears asked if the current linemen would operate the high tech equipment and Maney said that at least one person would have to be hired but all his staff would be trained on the new equipment which would be electronically tied into the city's state of the art SCADA system.

"It sounds great but it may be too good to be true," said Spears.

"I hate to be skeptical."

But Councilman Rick Murphrey said the proposal sounded like a good investment for the city and Councilman Phil Hager said that warning signals would be built into the system.

Bob Thomas of Progressive Engineering is expected to respond

See Council, 8-A

'Hootie' is KM Police's first narcotics dog

The new four-footed cop on the narcotics beat at the Kings Mountain Police Department is a friendly 62-pound Labrador Retriever his K9 trainer has named Hootie.

The friendly, beige-colored female went to work with Ptl. Andy Berry Monday and his job is to sniff out drugs, search vehicles and buildings and conduct article searches of luggage or whatever his master tells him to do.

"Hootie has moved in with my wife and me in the Dixon Community and the city has built a kennel and provides his food," said Berry, who also took special training for the new K-9 patrol.

Unlike the two previous four-footed animals on the force, Hootie is not on aggressive patrol but will just be used to sniff out drugs.

Hootie has just completed 10 weeks of training for her new job and is skilled to sniff out a variety of narcotics, including marijuana and cocaine. She is 14 months old.

Berry plans to take the animal to the elementary and middle schools and offer programs for children.

Berry loves animals and thinks he and Hootie will get along fine.

He has a pet St. Bernard at home but that animal won't be housed with the new member of the family.

Berry joined the Kings Mountain Patrol division last June and before that worked on the Reserves crew for about a year. When he learned about the opening for a trainer for a narcotics dog, he applied for the job and was picked by Chief Bob Hayes for the new job.

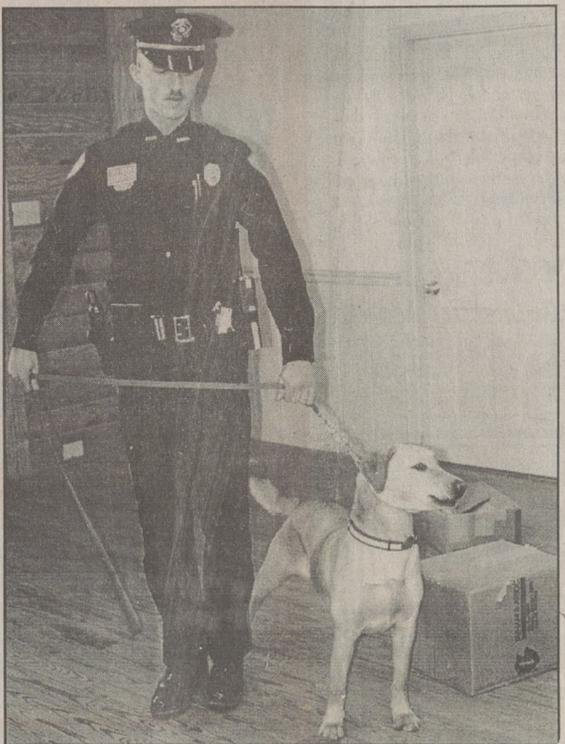
"Andy and Hootie will make quite a team," said the Chief.

Hootie is the local department's first narcotics dog and Chief Hayes says she will be a valuable addition to the entire force, including the Detective division.

Hootie is in line for a badge and soon Andy hopes to enroll her in a tracking class and what he calls scent discrimination.

"If she can learn to follow the scent of a suspect she will be very valuable to us," he said.

Berry also hopes to enroll the dog in search and water recovery training so that in event of a drowning at the city-owned Moss Lake that the animal could assist in the search and rescue efforts.



Hootie, the new four-footed cop on the narcotics beat at the Kings Mountain Police Department, is pictured with his K-9 trainer, Ptl. Andy Berry.

Potter wins Excellence in Teaching Award

Dan Potter, Kings Mountain High School government and economics teacher, won the Excellence in Teaching Award at the annual Academic Awards Banquet Tuesday night.

Potter is Teacher of the Year at the high school for 1995-96.

Ann Bennett, 1995 Teacher of the Year, made the presentation as the highlight of the program.

The award cited Potter for his leadership and innovativeness in the classroom.

Prior to the awards program, Supt. Dr. Bob McRae took the occasion to congratulate students

who had attained a 3.75 grade point average during their high school careers and recognized special guests, including administrators and members of the board of education.

A musical highlight of the program was the performance of Kings Revue under direction of Gene Bumgardner.

Prior to the awards presentations in Barnes Auditorium a large crowd attended a reception in the school cafeteria.

Twenty-five seniors were hon-

See Potter, 8-A

Payne found guilty of poker machine charge

The first of nine people arrested in a big gambling sting at eight Kings Mountain businesses December 23, 1995 was found guilty in Cleveland County District Court Monday of gambling and possession of gambling devices.

Chief of Police Bob Hayes said James Larry Payne, 52, operator of Houston's on Cleveland Avenue, was given a 45-day suspended sentence on payment of \$1,000 on each of the two counts plus court costs.

Hayes said Houston's is closed and the 12 machines confiscated by police will be destroyed under law. Hayes said monies confiscated in

the raid were forfeited.

Det. Sgt. Melvin Proctor was prosecuting witness for KMPD. Undercover ALE officers testified that gambling operations were paying cash to customers who won on the machines which by law are for amusement only.

Hayes said trial of a second defendant, Danny Goforth of Little Dan's on York Road and Grover Road, is slated for Thursday in Cleveland County District Court.

Goforth, 37, faces 10 counts including one count of operation of slot machines or video poker, gam-

See Guilty, 8-A