

# KING

From 1A

become a reality.

"The dreams of Martin Luther King back in 1963 are the same as those of the young people today," said Brooks. Young people dream of a time when his and their ideals will also be fulfilled, she said.

Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey also addressed the crowd at the event. He stressed the spirit of the people who fought the Battle of Kings Mountain, saying that the same spirit that motivated them, motivated the civil rights activists.

"Dr. Martin Luther King worked to improve the quality of life for all people," said Murphrey. "Our city is a loving and caring community dedicated to working together to improve the quality of life for all its citizens."

He continued by stressing the importance of racial justice, equality, and love.

"Love sees no color. The world does not need more love, only for us to do more loving," said Murphrey.

The idea for the oratorical competition actually came from Rev. Howard Shipp, Kings Mountain mayor pro-tem, said Brooks. Shipp was present at the event to lead the invocation and closing prayer.

# CITY

From 1A

munication skills. We want to make sure someone will come in and be able to have good communication with council and staff."

Murphrey said council members have already gone over the applications on their own. On February 4, they will begin screening them as a group. Murphrey indicated Council would probably narrow the possibilities down to ten, then five, and then begin personal interviews. He predicted that process would take the entire month of February, then the person chosen would have to give notification to his present employer.

"We hope we can expedite the process and have someone in as soon as possible," Murphrey said, "but realistically it will probably be April before we have anybody on board."

# CHARGED

From 1A

Proctor said the four probably know they're wanted and have left town.

"Officers have been to their last known addresses trying to serve them, but folks are saying they've moved and they don't know where to," she said.

Proctor said approximately half of the people arrested in December are now out on bond. Most of them have had their probable cause hearings and have either waived probable cause or the judge has found probable cause to send them to trial, she said. Trial dates haven't been set yet.

Five people competed in the oratorical competition, which is two more than last year. Brooks said she hoped even more would compete next year. The competitors included Tyree Surratt, Ken Gober, Kesha Childers, Sherod Thurman, and Lester Williams.

Lester Williams, defending champion, again placed first this year with his emotional performance of the "I Have a Dream" speech.

Tyree Surratt, of Shelby, placed second in the competition with his voice imitating the qualities of Martin Luther King's. He was only .5 points away from the top place.

Sherod Thurman, age 13, is president of the Shelby Middle School. Thurman competed last year as well and placed third this year. He was the youngest competitor of the night.

Ken Gober, a 9th grader at Crest High School, also joined the competition for the first time this year. One of the youngest in the competition, Gober was also the only competitor to step away from the podium and command the attention of the audience from the edge of the stage.

Kesha Childers, a senior at Shelby High School, became the first ever female competitor. Childers hopes to become an actress.

Judges were John L. Blalock, Carlee Jenkins, Jr., and Hazeline Abernathy.

Music was provided by Veronica Green and Shana Butler, who both sang. Green opened the ceremony with "The Lord's Prayer." Butler sang "Amazing Grace" before the awards ceremony. The Bynum Chapel Choir also sang at the event, with featured soloist and former Councilman Phillip Hager singing "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot."

The Blessed Liturgical Dancers from Adams Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, International Gates of Dance, and a junior group of International Gates of Dance provided interpretive dances to popular Christian songs during the competition. Each speaker was preceded by a music or dance event of some sort.

At the end of the program, the Bynum Chapel Choir and competitors led the audience in "We Shall Overcome" and "Lift Every Voice and Sing."



Shana Butler, of Kings Mountain, sang "Amazing Grace" at the Kings Mountain Martin Luther King Oratorical Competition on Monday.

# KM Marine deployed to Gulf

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD  
Staff Writer

Travis Patterson, 23, son of Ted and Janet Hayes of Kings Mountain and Jerry and Kathy Patterson of Blacksburg, SC and grandson of Margaret Smith of Kings Mountain, joined the war against terrorism on Friday, January 10. A Private, 1st Class in the Marine Corps, Patterson is part of the air wing support group for helicopter squadrons based out of the New River Air Station in Jacksonville, FL.

"He cannot tell us exactly where he's going," said Mrs. Hayes. "He knows approximately what region he's going to, but he can't tell us."

All of the Marines on the USS Saipan, where Travis is currently serving, take turns having guard duty, said Hayes. Travis is on duty every other 24-hour period while he is on the ship. He serves four hours and then has eight hours off for a 24-

hour period. He can call home whenever he is off-duty, but the phone calls are very expensive: \$1 per minute, she said.

"He's able to call most anytime he wants, but for money reasons, he can't call very often," she said. For security reasons, all of the Marines' calls from the ship are monitored, said Hayes. From what he said before he left, she said she thought he was being sent to the Persian Gulf area. He will be gone anywhere from six months to two years, she said.

"He was told before he left that all the Marines on his ship were going to be split into three groups: a third of them would stay on the ship, a third would be sta-



PATTERSON

tioned at the main base, which is on land but a safe distance away from the action, and a third of them would be stationed at the forward base, which is on the front line. That's where he's going to be assigned," she said.

Travis enlisted in the Marines last January. He had been thinking about it for a while, said Hayes, and a combination of reasons finally led him to enlist. The opportunities offered by the Marine Corps and the concern of more terrorist attacks after September 11 were two of his reasons for deciding to join, said Hayes.

"I was concerned, but I guess in this day and age, you don't really think about boys actually going to war," she said. "It's really hit home."

During Desert Storm, Travis was ten years old. He, his mother, and his sister frequently made care packages to send to the soldiers. Now Hayes is making them to send to Travis.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think that I would be sending care packages to him over there," she said.

While the situation in the Middle East is scary, especially with her son involved, Hayes said she believes that the Bush administration knows much more about the situation in Iraq than she does and that she has to trust their judgement.

"I just have to pray that they know what they're doing, that their reasons justify what they're doing," she said.

Hayes is a member of David Baptist Church and said that she has a very supportive church family there.

"There's a lot of prayers going up for Travis," she said. "I know the Lord has more in store for him than to go over there and end his life. I know he'll be back."

Travis graduated from Kings Mountain High School in 1998. His younger sister, Mollie Patterson, attends Wingate University.

# I.G.

From 1A

"The first picture was of my mother. To see that film develop right before my eyes 3000 miles away from home was fascinating to me. That was when I got hooked on photography," he said.

Alexander graduated from J.H. Gunn High School, which was part of the Mecklenburg County school system. Charlotte and Mecklenburg schools were separate then. He said some of his teachers at J.H. Gunn High School inspired him to become a teacher.

"I had some excellent teachers in high school," he said. One of his favorites, his science teacher, Howard W. Hill, is still living. When he went to his class reunion last year, Hill was there.

In 1957, Alexander graduated from Johnson C. Smith University with a B.S. in education. He could not get a job right away, though, because he was 1A on the military draft list, which meant that he could be drafted at any time. When he went before the selective service board to ask when he would be drafted, he was not given a definite answer. However, he was told that he could go ahead and get his service time out of the way by volunteering.

He decided to go ahead and volunteer, even though he knew he would have to serve an extra year than would have if he were drafted. He said his military time was one of the best things that ever happened to him. He was trained to be a medical specialist and served his first year at the Loring Air Force Base in Maine, even though he was not in the Air Force. Then he was sent to France for the last two years of his service.

When he left France, Alexander moved back to Charlotte and got married. He set up his first home studio in Roseboro, where he did mostly freelancing for weddings and various groups. After three years, he came to Shelby and used one of the bedrooms in his house as a lab.

As his business grew, he built another home with a lab in it up the street from his first Shelby home. Since his new house didn't have a studio, he used the living room, moving the furniture out of the room whenever he needed to take some studio pictures. His wife finally put her foot down after a few years of this, he said.

"She said, 'I don't want my living room all over Shelby. You've got to do

better,'" he said.

In 1971, the couple built the home where they currently live with a studio and lab in the basement.

Beginning in 1963, Alexander was a science teacher at Compact School, the school for black students when the Kings Mountain school system was segregated. When the schools were integrated a few years later, he moved to Kings Mountain High School. In all, he taught for 33 years, retiring in 1991. He mainly taught biology, although he did teach chemistry and physical science sometimes, as well.

Alexander said he did not see much difference in the students after the schools were integrated. The students were the same at both schools, he said.

"I didn't really see that much of a difference myself. When I went to Kings Mountain High School from Compact, the whole high school was integrated. Students were students to me. We got along well," he said.

While he was at the high school, he took most of the school pictures for the annual, he said. During his time at Compact, he also did pictures for the Kings Mountain Herald.

"When he [then owner, Martin Harmon] saw the pictures that I was bringing him from Compact School, he asked me to do the pictures for the paper," said Alexander.

Alexander also taught photography for a semester at what was then Cleveland Technical College. Now, of course, it is Cleveland Community College. During that semester, he taught both Gary and Lib Stewart. The class turned out to be a hassle, however, because Alexander had to haul his lab equipment back and forth to to each class each week.

In his science classes at Kings Mountain High School, Alexander frequently included a unit on photography, since so much science and math is involved in the trade. His photography units were always very popular among the students, and one of his coworkers even had him teach a unit to his students as well.

He said it was very rewarding to meet some of his former students and have them tell him that they remember his photography units and even still have some of their pictures from the classes.

During his years of practicing photography, Alexander has seen many changes. Since black and white pictures were the only option when he started, he saw the age of color develop. He said he has also seen photogra-

phy become more specialized since he started. He is able to do portraits, weddings, and lab work. Now, photographers tend to specialize in only one of those areas.

Of course, the equipment has also improved a lot since he started. He no longer has to use a strictly manual camera with a separate flash since automatic cameras with built-in flashes are now available. The papers, films, and chemicals are more refined and enable the photographer to get a much better resolution now as well, he said.

"The equipment is much better than it was then," he said.

Since his retirement from teaching in 1991, Alexander said he does not work as much as he used to, although he still stays busy enough to use his lab chemicals. He still enjoys doing photography, he said. Although he still does some weddings, groups, portraits, and candid, he also does work for his own enjoyment.

"Now I do this because I like to do it," he said. "When a person does something that he likes to do rather than what he has to do, it's going to show up in his work."

Alexander and his wife of 42 years still live in Shelby. Alexander knew who his wife was in college, although he never introduced himself to her.

"We were in college together. I saw her, but I never said anything to her. I would see her and just look," he said. When he came home on leave from the army, he finally met her. She became friends with his sister in college. He met her at his sister's house and finally got to talk to her. They were married on December 24, 1960.

His wife retired from the Kings Mountain School District at the same time he did. She was in early childhood development when she retired, although she also taught grades 1-3 at various times.

Alexander and his wife have two sons and three grandchildren. They also have a niece who they consider to be their daughter because she lived with them from the time she was eight years old, he said. They have three grandchildren, plus their niece's two children.

Alexander said photography has helped him meet many people in the area.

"I've appreciated having the opportunities over the years to serve the people. I have met many wonderful people in this area because of photography," he said.

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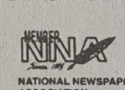
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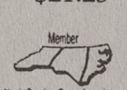
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