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Champion signs with S. Wesleyan



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It's egg huntin' time



The Easter Bunny will be hopping into town this weekend to spread joy to children on the hunt for eggs and a "hoppy" holiday.

On Thursday and Friday, the man-sized Peter Cottontail will visit little ones in preschool centers and others at the Patrick Senior Center and Summit Place Assisted Living Center around town. On Saturday, the city's annual Easter Egg Hunt will kick off at 10 a.m. at the community playground next to the YMCA on Cleveland Ave. On Monday, the renowned bunny will hop to an Easter Egg Hunt and "Roll" on the grounds of the Inn of the Patriots in Grover.

Volunteers with the Patrick Senior Center will hide eggs for the children to find at St. Matthew's Lutheran preschool this morning and, although, the Easter Bunny may not come there until Friday, the children will still explore the church's playground to find the eggs left for them.

At the city's Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday, little ones will also be invited to enjoy a petting zoo provided by the Stumbo family of Kings Mountain. CVS Pharmacy will provide bottled water and will be on hand to take pictures of children with the Easter Bunny to be sold at discount prices.

One lucky girl and boy will win a special Easter basket during a drawing that is set to be held at the hunt. One golden egg will be mixed in with the other eggs in each of the hunts.

See EASTER, 7A

Mayor commends KMPD for city's low crime rate

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff writer

Criminals beware—Kings Mountain's crime rate has dropped significantly—nearly 64 percent in the last six years—and KMPD wants to maintain that record.

Mayor Rick Murphrey took the occasion at Tuesday's city council meeting to present a proclamation to the Kings Mountain Police Department, which Chief Melvin Proctor and his staff accepted with pride.

The mayor cited community involvement in Community Watch programs, Community Oriented Policing and programs for children such as the Santa Toy Room which helped over 200 families at Christmas plus police interaction with students in the schools as some of the vital programs conducted by police.

"The combined efforts of Drug Enforcement, Criminal Investigative and Patrol Divisions, traffic enforce-

See KMPD, 7A

CITY ZONING

Sweepstakes public hearing set for April 27

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff writer

Kings Mountain City Council Tuesday set a public hearing for April 27 at 6 p.m. on a proposed new zoning amendment intended to regulate sweepstakes operations cropping up in town and which, if approved, would require conditional use permits by Nov. 30 from both non-conforming and new gaming operations.

The amendment, which has the recommendation of the city's Planning and Zoning Board, also requires that permit applications be made with the Board of Adjustment 60 days prior to Nov. 30.

The text amendment specifies that if all conditions of the permit are not met within 60 days of issuance the city could revoke the permit, shut down the business and remove machines. The amendment also specifies that the conditional use permit may be issued for one year at a time after application is resubmitted to the Board of Adjustment 60 days prior to the expiration date of the valid permit.

A six-months moratorium on new sweepstakes operations ends in June.

The amended zoning, according to Planning Direc-

See HEARING, 7A

FORUM BECOMES ONE-UM



CCC forum open to six, five show, three speak out

By ELIZABETH STEWART
staff writer

Three of six candidates for the high office of Cleveland County Sheriff - Democrat Mike Chapman and Republicans David Morrow and Don Allen - participated in a political forum last Tuesday night at Cleveland Community College while two Democratic candidates watched from the sidelines and a fourth was a no show.

"Where are the others?" asked several people in the audience as Chapman took his seat alone on the stage for a round of questions from moderator CCC President Steve Thornburg. Then, Allen and Morrow gave the GOP perspective.

Three other Democrat contenders - Chief Deputy Danny Gordon, Sheriff Raymond Hamrick and Captain Alan Norman notified Thornburg before the Tuesday 5 p.m. deadline that they would not participate. Gordon and his wife sat on the front seats in the Auditorium, Norman stood at the back and Incumbent Sheriff Raymond Hamrick did not attend.



GORDON

HAMRICK

NORMAN



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD
At top, Mike Chapman sits alone in the democratic candidate forum for the sheriff race. Candidates Don Allen, left, and David C. Morrow, right, participated in the Republican forum.

Thornburg said the forum was designed to give the voting public a chance to meet the candidates. He said questions were issue-based and submitted by a committee from the

See FORUM, 5A

INSIDE

Q&A - sheriff candidates speak out on issues 3A

Race for 110th district heats up between Rep. candidates 4A

Shriners to sell BBQ despite thieving setback

By EMILY WEAVER
Editor

An unlikely theft might have snuffed the bi-annual cookout the White Plain Shriners planned to fire up this weekend at their barbecue pits if it had not been for the generosity of Morris Scrap Metal.

A few weeks ago as club members came to prepare their cook-site beside City Auto and the American Legion, on the corner of York Rd. and Gold St., some noticed that the tin lids, which are used to cover the grills and cook their barbecue, were missing. After asking other members, the Shriners realized that the lids had been stolen.

But as the club pondered what to do, Morris Scrap Metal came through with new metal for the grills. The tin lids are used to help the



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD
White Plains Shriner's President Jeff Ward stands at the uncovered BBQ pits they use for their annual cookout fundraisers. Club members suspect the tin lids used to smoke the meat were stolen a few weeks ago.

meat absorb the flavors from the aromatic smoke that is circulated in the covered grills. The club moves forward

See BBQ, 3A



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