

## CANDIDATES: pack Woman's Club stage

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to be in office when NTE becomes the city's energy provider allowing for more savings."

Shipp is facing off against Lamar Fletcher, a lifelong Kings Mountain resident who has served two terms on the city's planning and zoning board.

Fletcher said his focus would be on making downtown Kings Mountain flourish. He also said he would like to see a new park in west Kings Mountain. "I want to see downtown thriving with business again and work with the mayor, city manager and council to make things click."

### Ward 4

Incumbent councilman Rodney Gordon, a former mayor pro tem, said his passion for Kings Mountain is a thriving downtown business district. "We must make downtown more business friendly and market it as a business friendly destination," he said. Revamping the sidewalks, better landscaping, better lighting, directional signage, more convenient parking and street scape improvements would give property owners an incentive to invest more in downtown Kings Mountain. He added, "Council member Rick Moore and I have been working on obtaining some funding from the State of North Carolina to assist the city with some funding to jump start the work we need to do and I just received word from House Speaker Tim Moore that he was able to get us \$100,000 (and also Shelby) in state funding for downtown projects.

To be an effective council member you must be able to work as a team, I've worked in unity with council members and I stay focused on the issues. It really excites me to be able to participate in planning for and negotiating Kings Mountain's future. As a council member I am committed to leadership that leads in a manner that sets the stage for future growth, maintains affordable taxes and utilities and provides a safe and healthy community for all citizens."

Dean Spears, candidate for Ward 4 who served 16 years previously on city council, said he has always listened, returned all calls and followed up with recommendations to the city manager and mayor. He added, "The casino is a major item to be talked about around town but it won't make any difference if we are for or against it. The question is out of our hands, it's up to the federal officials." Spears said he has helped make decisions on numerous industrial projects, including Duke Energy, AT&T, and Ingles. He welcomes the chance to help continue current and future projects.

Kay Hambricht, also a candidate for the Ward 4 seat, replied to club women that she could not attend the forum.

### Ward 5

Rick Moore, 12-year incumbent, was on vacation and could not attend the forum but sent a letter to be read. Economic development, industry and business, bringing more jobs, keeping utilities and taxes low and up grading infrastructure are goals. A busi-

ness owner since 1978, he is a lifelong citizen of Kings Mountain. "This is the best run city in North Carolina and I want to continue to bring my experience in service to the community," he added.

His opponent Jay Rhodes says he has no ax to grind, no ill feelings against my opponent, and no predetermined agenda. "I've been blessed to be a citizen of this fair city and my prayer is that I have been a blessing to others." He discussed his history of success in running a capital campaign for \$2 million for Hospice, the most ever successful campaign for Kings Mountain United Way, fund raising for the city's Patrick Center, and his promotion of a partnership between the city and the YMCA which provides recreational and other activities. He said he had been a tireless worker to promote Kings Mountain since he moved to Kings Mountain as the senior officer of Carolina State Bank in 1990 and during his banking career has worked with three community banks. He said he would bring to the board a new perspective based on his professional career and the activities he had led in the city.

### At Large

A municipal adviser for 20 years, Keith Miller, incumbent At-large member of the board, described how he works with cities and towns of different sizes across the country in analyzing their operations and programs and helping them make good decisions in financing bonds. Prior to the forum he made available to those attending a six page 8 1/2x11 paper that detailed facts about the city's capital budgeting, financial state which he called "strongest ever with an A credit rating and over 20% of the annual general fund budget in unrestricted cash surplus." He said he likes to apply analytical thinking to the KM/NTE agreement, which will provide the city with a lot of opportunities in the future such as hedging natural gas costs for the city and customers.

Miller is running against a former city councilman of 10 years, Jerry Mullinax who echoed his love for Kings Mountain and its citizens in one of the shortest speeches in the two-hour forum. He said his goal is to see where the 5,682 registered voters in Kings Mountain are and said more people should come to city council meetings. "I'm a veteran, I volunteer at Hospice, and I believe in faith, hope, and love."

Bobby Pearson, also a candidate for the At Large seat, has served two terms on the city's planning and zoning board. He wants to be a part of a team that works to achieve common goals. He said he believes in camaraderie and teamwork and he compared Kings Mountain's budget with that of the local Fortune 500 company he works for as an executive. "I know a little about financing," he said, adding, "I'm not running against anybody, I just want the opportunity to serve."

Patty Hall, a 30 year city government employee, formerly in Bessemer City and now water department head in the city of Cherryville, says she is running for council be-

cause she loves Kings Mountain. "I will always listen to citizens and work to get the answers to their questions." The first woman in the region to serve in what was a man's job on a water board, she said she would welcome feedback from every citizen. Just knowing you are concerned about a citizen goes a long way, she said. Hall pointed out that elected officials are all public servants, no more me, me, me and I, I, I," she said.

### Board of Education

"I have strong traditional values," said Darius Griffin. "I believe in God we trust and after my college education and Master's degree I came back to give back to my community. Give me the opportunity with your vote as the candidate that understands youth."

Ray Lockhart, pastor of Ellis Chapel in Boiling Springs, works with the Math Academy and pushes Cleveland County Promise for each graduate who wants to go to college to have the money to enroll and finish.

Incumbent Richard Hooker Jr. said the mission of Cleveland County Schools is to equip the students to live in a competitive society. With 20 years service on the board, he brings leadership to the table.

Jo Boggs, a teacher and a former school board member, resigned from the school board to run for county commissioner. She was one of the first members of a small committee to develop schools for character education. "I never missed a meeting of the boards I served."

George Falls said he isn't a politician but he has 40 years service on various advisory boards.

Robert Queen said he believes the board of education should be more transparent and open with the public. He said he had read school board policies, attends board meetings and listens and engages the board on certain issues. More oversight of the school system is needed, he says. With Speaker of the House Tim Moore in office it's a good time to change some legislation that deals with the schools. He feels his experience in engineering would also benefit the schools.

Yvette Grant questioned Common Core as "least effective" and said people told her they didn't know her when she ran for school board several years ago. "If you see God's will manifested and you are a child of God and seek to see God's will manifested, you know me," she said.

Howard Thompson Jr. said "We need prayer and Bible back in our schools."

Incumbent Roger Harris, retired teacher and principal, was one of two Outstanding Educators in 1993 and was invited to the White House. He said he continues to serve children on such boards as Community In Schools, United Way of Cleveland County, and Educational Foundation. He said he is elated that more students are graduating from high school and noted that both Bethware and Grover schools in this area need work on the buildings.

Jerry Hoyle, incumbent from Kings Mountain, said that outstanding administra-

tors, fantastic teachers and assistants, great staff, including bus drivers, and all others, make Cleveland County Schools great in academics and sports and more students are graduating from high school. He said the school board sets the visions and adopts the policies. A retired teacher for 10 years and principal 25 years in Kings Mountain, retiring at East, he said that East's national award was the challenge to other schools. "All kids can learn, we must equip teachers what they need to teach them."

Jeff Jones said he was a product of Cleveland County Schools and was passionate about schools. He spent his entire career as a teacher/coach and also taught at Cleveland Community College. "I was in class at UNC with students from private schools and I was just as ready as they were," he said.

One of my concerns is common core, said Billy Gray, who moved to Kings Mountain in 1967. He said Common Core seems to be a rubber stamped program and we're going full speed ahead with it. A 1969 KMHS graduate and a veteran, he says "We have a stake in this and teachers won't speak up for fear of losing their jobs." He asked voters to check out his website, fixourschools2015.com "I care about all students and Cleveland County Schools is a great school system," said incumbent Shearra Miller of Kings Mountain. "Our schools are making their expected growth goals, 13% leave high school without a diploma but more students are graduating and we are proud of that. The board makes tough decisions and our board works well together. I am honest, open minded and my passion is for the children." Her two daughters now teach in the Cleveland County system.

Howard McLeod was the first African American to be a basketball and football star at Pembroke State University. A student wrote about him, "You were my only teacher that cared about me, you cared for me as I am." "I want us to improve student achievement, graduate more students and see them go on to the next level and in a career."

L. E. Henson asked those in the audience to educate yourselves and others. He questions money spent, Common core, and gives his website l.e.henson.com for more information.

## ELECTION: officials gearing up for November 3

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The polls will be open for voting on Election Day from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. All voters registered within the city limits of their municipality, within the boundaries of the water board and all registered with the Cleveland County Board of Elections are eligible to vote in this election.

In Kings Mountain 15 candidates are running for four seats open on city council, including four running for mayor. A total of 17 candidates are running for five seats open on the Cleveland County Board of Education. The mayor's seat is open in Grover and four seats are open on the water board. Kings Mountain has one write-in candidate and Grover citizens will have the opportunity for a write-in since only two have announced for mayor and three have announced for four open seats on the board.

Kings Mountain's candidate list:

For Mayor - Rick Murphree, incumbent; Scott Neisler, Beauford Burton, Sherlock Holmes.

For Ward 1 councilman - Howard Shipp, incumbent; Lamar Fletcher, Floyd (Will) Sanders, write-in.

For Ward 4 councilman - Rodney Gordon, incumbent; Dean Spears, Kay Hambricht.

For Ward 4 councilman - Rick Moore, incumbent; Jay Rhodes.

For At-Large councilman - Keith Miller, incumbent, Bobby L. Pearson, Jr., Jerry Mullinax, Patty Hall.

Board of Education candidate list: (five seats open)

Shearra Miller, Jerry Hoyle, Roger Harris, Richard Hooker Jr., incumbents; Robert Queen, L.E. Henson, Howard Elliott McLeod, Nikki Ledford, Hal Hastings, Jeff Jones, Yvette Grant, Ray Lockhart, George Falls, Darius Griffin, Jo Boggs, Howard Thompson and William (Billy) Gray.

## FUNDRAISER: for Leigh

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S. Cherokee St., started off by 238 Pizzeria's \$100 donation plus 10% of all proceeds of the day's food sale. "Come eat or buy a gift card," said a spokesman. Proceeds from the benefit will help with family medical expenses.

Bike Night is Thursday at 238 Pizzeria. There will be live music from 7-10

p.m.

A Kings Mountain native, Jason is the son of Vickie and Steve Leigh. He and his wife, Mandy, have one son, Tyler, who is in the United States Navy. A 1995 graduate of Kings Mountain High School, Jason has been employed at C. E. Holt Refrigeration.

The Leigh family is requesting prayer.

## 'BORN YESTERDAY'

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also visit www.km1.org or on Facebook.

"Born Yesterday" is a play written by Garson Kanin which premiered on Broadway in 1946 starring Judy Holliday as Billie Dawn. The play was adapted into a successful 1950 film of the same name.

Dawn Smith Rickus plays the role of Billie Dawn and Greg Dixon plays the role of Harry Brock in the story of an uncouth, corrupt, rich junk dealer and his showgirl mistress. When Billie's ignorance becomes a liability to Brock's business dealings, he hired journalist Paul Verrall (Chad Spurling) to educate his girlfriend. In the process of learning Billie Dawn realizes how corrupt Harry is and begins interfering with

his plans to bribe Senator Norval Hedges (Jim Kester) into passing legislation that would allow Brock's business to make more money.

Other members of the cast include Ed Devery as Stan Logan; Joanna Brown as Mrs. Ana Hedges; Joshua Clark as the assistant manager/boot-black/waiter; Jamie Brackett Hardin as Helen; Michael Medlin as the first bellhop/barber/ and Faith Custar as a bellhop/manicurist.

Kings Mountain Little Theatre Inc. is a volunteer-based 501(c) (3) tax-exempt non-profit organization. It is supported in part by a Grassroots Grant from the North Carolina Arts Council, is a funded affiliate of the Cleveland County Arts Council, and is a member of NCTC.

## KIM DAVIS: Marriage Licenses and Down The Road

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of gay people. However, I don't personally support gay marriage. However, if I worked as a justice of the peace or in a governmental capacity I would feel like I had three choices: Perform the ceremony, resign or let someone else carry out the function. Essentially this is what U.S. District Judge David Bunning has agreed to do for Kim Davis in allowing her deputies to grant the licenses.

Kim Davis has made

her point. She has adamantly taken her stand for Christ. In no way has she backed down from what she says she believes. She has called attention to the importance of religious beliefs and Christian convictions. If she now tries to circumvent the clerk's office from granting licenses she has gone too far and should resign. People from Asia, India and the Middle East are flooding this country. Eventually these people will begin to hold public

office. They too have religious opinions and they aren't all Christian views. Setting a precedent for not having to obey the law today will come back to haunt us down the road.

Glenn Mollette is an American Syndicated Columnist and Author. He is the author of eleven books and read in all fifty states.

This column does not necessarily reflect the view of any organization, institution or this paper or media source.

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