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# Kings Mountain HERALD

kmherald.com

Volume 127 • Issue 34 • Wednesday, August 26, 2015 75¢

It PAYS to be a  
Mountaineer!  
**FAN**  
of the week  
CONTEST  
See Page 3B

## Grover mulling IPDC contract

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"We've found nothing extraordinary," said Scott Dadson, Executive Director of Isothermal Planning and Development, the agency that on Sept. 1 will complete technical assistance in finance administration for the Town of Grover.

Dadson made the report at Monday night's meeting, saying that their work took more hours than they had estimated in monthly bank statement reconciliations and preparing financial reports for a prior year audit and the current audit.

"Everything is in order," he told the board.

Three staffers from IPDC have updated and maintained the general ledger and accounting system, maintained town payroll documentation including IRS forms and reports, created and maintained internal control processes and pro-

cedures, and served as the point of contact for financial matters. The bills have been paid, the revenues received by the town have been recorded, and the required financial reports and certifications have been sent to the state and IRS, among other things.

The Local Government Commission, the watchdog of local governments in financial matters, is suggesting that the town board hire IPDC for another year and Dadson presented the fixed contract for services at \$43,248 or \$3,604 monthly. Mayor pro tem Bill Willis said " \$43,000 is a big chunk of money and we need to cover all the bases, I have a lot of questions and concerns."

"I'd rather have three people from IPDC who are knowledgeable than one person we may hire who may not be fully knowledgeable," said Mayor J. D. See GROVER, Page 7A

## Fresh start for new school year



Cleveland County Schools Superintendent Dr. Stephen Fisher gives a quick pep talk at the Kings Mountain Intermediate School Monday. From left: Kyla Hughes and Ja' Hara Wilson. Fisher visited all 29 schools in the system for the first day of school. Photos by DAVE BLANTON

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The weather said summer, but the calendar on Monday told public school students in Cleveland County that it was the first day of class.

So under bright blue skies, they gathered up their supplies and new shoes and vacation memories and marched into the school district's 29 schoolhouses, including eight in Kings Mountain. The first day of 185.

For some, though, at

least one of the three R's wasn't put on hold for the summer vacation.

A bright young lady approached Henry Gilmore, the principal of the Kings Mountain Intermediate School, to report that she had done "a lot of reading" over the break. As her classmates walked past her in the hall, she and Gilmore compared notes on the books she'd read.

At East Elementary, a group of second graders were already participating in the school's Pawstive Behavior program, which



East Elementary students feasted on chicken nuggets, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, potato wedges and fruit cups during the first lunch hour. Photos by DAVE BLANTON

incentivizes civic responsibility. Shepherded by teacher Paula McDaniel, her class had quickly ridden the playground of litter in an pre-lunch outing.

At the front office, principal Becky Bailey reported smooth sailing.

"We're having a great day," she said, a few minutes before students reported to a lunch where chicken nugget, potato wedges and fruit was offered. "I'm glad to see all the familiar faces."

And at the high school, seniors took the red letter as an opportunity to trumpet

their top dog status with car decorations celebrating the class of 2016.

Cleveland County Schools superintendent Dr. Stephen Fisher didn't have much time to spare on Monday. By lunchtime, he was welcoming students back to school at Grover Elementary in the district's custom of having its top administrator visit all 29 schools in the county.

"I have to stay on schedule to be able to visit all 29," said Fisher, who was accompanied by the district's See FRESH START, Page 7A

## Candidate Profile (first in a series)

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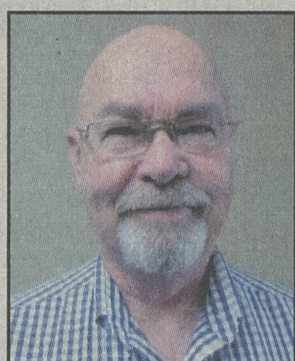
One Kings Mountain man's card reads, in part, "Do you think safe, clean, Christian small town living is wonderful and precious? Cast your vote for it Nov. 3, 2015."

The vote, of course, would be Beauford Burton, who is running for mayor this fall.

A frequent letter writer to the Herald and the Shelby Star, he has been an outspoken critic of the proposed Catawba casino that has won the approval of the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners and most of those who sit on Kings Mountain's city council, including Mayor Rick Murphrey.

Burton has appeared before both bodies to speak against the casino, which he says would be "bad for Kings Mountain and I think bad for any community."

In comments in print and in public meetings, he has said that government sponsorship of a gambling



BEAUFORD BURTON

enterprise sends the wrong message. Burton said that while he understands the economic development side of the argument, he would like to see his hometown work to entice other kinds of industry.

"My vision for the city is that this is a small city," Burton said. "I don't think it needs to be booming metropolis. I think people who live here enjoy the quiet atmosphere. Obviously they need access to jobs and amenities. I think people want it to be a clean, safe, God-loving place to live."

A casino, he feels, would be of no help in the long run to local citizens. And he feels that goes against his idea of what local government should aim to do.

"I think the local government should do everything it can within reason to help people," Burton said.

See BURTON, Page 7A

## City Council christens new rescue truck

City Council didn't take a ride in the new, red, fire rescue truck but they christened it with high praise Friday afternoon at the city fire station.

Fire Chief Frank Burns says the 5,200 pound rescue truck is a much needed piece of equipment for the department and that it was purchased for \$195,000 because it was used ( but looks brand new) and a new truck would have cost the city \$650,000 to \$750,000.

"Check out this light tower that could light up a football field," said Mayor Rick Murphrey.

Council members took a look inside the rescue truck and saw that it was a command post with all the maps of the city's gas, electric and water lines.

Burns explained that the rescue truck has a 35KW



Pictured from left: Ward 4 Councilman Rodney Gordon, Mayor Rick Murphrey, Ward 5 Councilman Rick Moore, Fire Chief Frank Burns, At-Large Councilman Keith Hawkins, Ward 1 Councilman Howard Shipp and Ward 3 Councilman Tommy Hawkins christening the city's new heavy rescue truck. Photo by Haley Wilson

generator, an all steel and aluminum body which won't rust or corrode, and is twice as large as the 1977 Emer-

gency Command Post that firemen have been using that was bought with a grant from the police department.

"We got a real good deal on this beauty," said Burns.

See full photo of new fire truck on page 3.

## Shelby man charged in fatal KM hit and run

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Police have arrested a Shelby man they believe had a role in the death of a pedestrian in a Kings Mountain incident that happened early Friday.

Davie Demond Boone, 36, of Dakar Dr., Shelby, has been charged with one count of felony hit and run resulting in the death of a

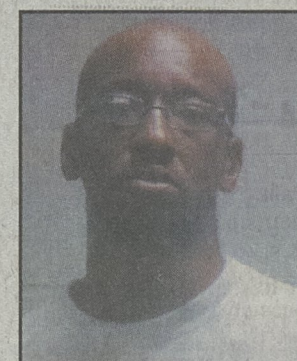
pedestrian, according to Kings Mountain Police, who say the investigation into the fatality continues. Boone is in custody in the Cleveland County Detention Center with a bond of \$10,000.

His first court date was Monday. According to jail officials, his next court date is set for Sept. 15.

Around 7 a.m. Friday, a passerby spotted what ap-

peared to be a body lying near the on-ramp of the Oak Grove Rd. exit onto Hwy. 74 eastbound. Police and emergency personnel responding to the scene found Jose Abel Lopez Mejia, 24, an apparent resident of Gastonia, dead at the scene.

Kings Mountain police officials, led by Sgt. Lisa Proctor, spent most of the morning Friday collecting See HIT AND RUN, Page 3A



DAVIE DEMOND BOONE

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