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Senior Club  
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# Kings Mountain HERALD

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

## Very special bonds



Tyler Withers and Brianna Rochford are accompanied by their service dogs Bingo and Claddagh outside J. Oliver's Coffee Shop in downtown Kings Mountain on Friday.

DAVE BLANTON

dave.kmherald@gmail.com

Dogs are far more than pets for two Kings Mountain High School students.

Brianna Rochford and Tyler Withers, both sophomores who have type I diabetes, use what are known as service dogs to help them monitor their blood sugar levels, which in many sufferers can fluctuate dangerously and often with little or

no warning.

That's where Bingo and Claddagh come in. The black Labrador retrievers have been trained since they were puppies to use their extremely sharp sense of smell to detect minute changes in body odor that is linked to rising or falling blood glucose levels.

When the canine helpers pick up on a problem, they gently paw their handlers to

See SPECIAL BONDS, Page 8B

## 'Born Yesterday' opens Friday night



Greg Dixon, left, and Dawn Ruckus share the lead roles in the Kings Mountain Little Theatre production of "Born Yesterday" which opens Friday night at 7:30 p.m. at Joy Theatre. Performances this weekend are also on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m.

Kings Mountain Little Theatre, Director Georgiana Wright and Assistant Director Leslie Brown will bring "Born Yesterday" to the stage of the Joy Perfor-

mance Center on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 25 and 26 at 7:30 p.m. and a Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. Next weekend performances will be on Oct. 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and senior citizens. Season membership packages are also available at 704-730-9408 for ticket information and/or reservations. You can

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## Forum Saturday

## 28 Candidates pack Woman's Club stage

ELIZABETH STEWART

lib.kmherald@gmail.com

What is your opinion of the council/manager form of government and will you pledge to carry out the council/manager form of government?

That was the question raised by retired city planner Gene White to the candidates for city office at Saturday morning's two hour-forum sponsored by the Kings Mountain Woman's Club at the Woman's Club.

The questions came at the end of the nearly two-hour presentations and time was called at 11 a.m.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said his job is to market and sell the city and the city manager runs the business end. He said that council sets policy. When new customers come to the city they ask to



Shearra Miller, incumbent candidate for the Cleveland County Board of Education, speaks at Saturday's candidate forum sponsored by the Woman's Club. At right are school board candidates Yvette Grant and Jo Boggs, Dean Spears and incumbent Rodney Gordon, candidates in the Ward 4 city election, and on the left of the podium are more candidates for the school board where 17 people seek five open seats.

Photo by ELLIS NOELL

see the mayor and Murphrey must be versed in everything he needs to help land that customer. Murphrey said that during his 15-year ten-

ure as mayor that 3,000 jobs have come to the city and \$4 billion in industrial investment. "It's technical and complex in a utilities-driven

business that sells and services four utilities, water, gas, sewer and electric, he added.

See CANDIDATES, Page 3A

## Election officials gearing up for Nov. 3

ELIZABETH STEWART

lib.kmherald@gmail.com

County election officials are gearing up for the November 3 municipal and school and water board elections.

Board of Elections Director Dayna Causby, who was present at Saturday's candidate forum at the Woman's



Dayna Causby

Club, said that a decline in voter registration shows the 59,000 figure lower than 2012. She said that voters who are already registered to vote need not re-register. Residents who are not registered to vote or those registered who need to make changes must do so by Friday, Oct. 9 at 5 p.m.

One-stop voting will begin Thursday, Oct. 22 and will continue through Saturday, Oct. 31 at the Board of Elections Office, 215 Patton Drive, Shelby. The

office schedule: Thursday, Oct. 22 and Friday, Oct. 23, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday, Oct. 26 through Friday, Oct. 30-8:30-5 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 31 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Voters can vote early only at the Board of Elections office.

"Be sure your vote is counted," said Causby, who is serving a second year as Director of Elections.

Any qualified voter may vote an absentee ballot by mail. Absentee ballots will be available starting Friday, Oct. 3. Absentee ballot applica-

tions must be made in writing using the NC Absentee Ballot request form and returned to the Cleveland County Board of Elections. The deadline for applying for an absentee ballot by mail is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 27. Completed ballots should be returned to the office on or before Tuesday, Nov. 3 by 5 p.m. If they are returned by mail, they must be postmarked by Tuesday, Nov. 3, and received no later than Friday, Nov. 6, at 5 p.m.

See ELECTON, Page 7A

## Fundraiser for Leigh

JW&B Trucking will sponsor an all-day fundraiser Thursday to help a friend battling health issues.

Jason Leigh, 38, who underwent successful testicular cancer surgery and completed chemotherapy treatments, was released from Novant Medical Center in Huntersville Sunday after undergoing emergency colon surgery after his colon ruptured.

The fundraiser will be held at 238 Pizzeria, 238

See FUNDRAISER, Page 7A



Jason Leigh

## Local GOP not sold on Trump

DAVE BLANTON

dave.kmherald@gmail.com

Donald Trump may have spent the summer grabbing headlines and leading polls among Republicans vying for the presidential nomination, but locals Republicans aren't stepping up to outright sup-



Donald Trump

port the outspoken celebrity billionaire just yet.

"Right now I think most of us have our favorites, but it's a long way to the primary and we (as a group) aren't throwing our support behind anyone yet," said Ronnie Whetstone, who is the chair of the Cleveland County Republican Party.



Ronnie Whetstone

Whetstone joined other active members of the group last Wednesday to



Betsy Wells

watch the second televised Republican debate, which saw Trump squaring off with former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, former Florida governor Jeb Bush and other GOP hopefuls.

See LOCAL GOP, Page 8B

## Candidate forum Oct. 5 at Bynum Chapel Church

A candidate forum will be held Monday, Oct. 5 at 6 p.m. at Bynum Chapel AME Zion Church Family Life Center, 310 Ellis Street, in Kings Mountain.

Invitations went out this week to candidates for mayor, city council, and board of education to attend the event which will include free hot dogs and certificates to the church with the largest number of representatives.

The event is sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Zeta Mu

Omega Chapter, Mount Zion Baptist Church and Bynum Chapel AME Zion Church.

"We want this forum to be a community-wide event and encourage the churches to send representatives," said Ina Hager.

Robin Smith will be moderator for the forum.

In addition to questions submitted by the sponsoring groups, the public can submit questions to the moderator prior to the opening of the forum.

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