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School begins Thursday

Beach music concert gets parents, students in mood

By ANDIE BRYMER
Staff Writer

A Back to sChOOL concert marked the end of summer Saturday night in Kings Mountain.

The city sponsored its last summer event, a beach music concert, at Patriots Park. Adults and kids alike took to the dance floor to enjoy the music of The Coastline Band and the Fantastic Shakers.

Other summer city events have included the Over the Mountain Triathlon in June and an Independence Day bash and a Beach Blast in July.

The next event will be the Gateway Festival Oct. 15. That downtown event celebrates the city's namesake, the Battle of Kings Mountain, and the city's recent designation by the National Park Service as a Gateway community to the three area state and national parks. The festival will include historic re-enactors, art, music, a car show, story telling, food and more.

Other upcoming events include the downtown Great Pumpkin Parade for kids on Oct. 31 and a Christmas tree lighting ceremony Nov. 22 at Mauney Memorial Library.



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
McRae Moore, 5, of Kings Mountain cools off during the Saturday night Back to sChOOL concert at Patriots Park.

Students, teachers get acquainted at orientation

By ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

School starts today but most student have already met their teachers. Earlier this week schools throughout Cleveland County held open house orientation for parents and students.

On Tuesday at West Elementary, Connie Bell, a teacher of the academically gifted, and other staff and faculty working in specialized areas greeted parents and students, telling them which classroom they would call home.

Maribeth Bagwell was excited that her child Jamie would be in Suzanne Grayson's third grade classroom. Son Spencer, now in seventh grade, had a great experience in Grayson's classroom several years ago.

"She's a fabulous teacher," Bagwell said.

Grayson described the orientation as a chance to meet parents, find out about any special needs and give her new students a hug.

Who are my classmates is the top question, according to teacher's assistant Susan Chapman. When students discover they don't have any friends in their classroom, teacher Karla Bennett explains that this is a chance make new ones, Chapman said.

Fourth grader Mason Fleisher discovered some of his friends would be in Rebecca Williams' classroom with him. Most of the students are girls, according to Mason. When quizzed if the gender make-up is good or bad, Mason says it's both.

Mason has heard that his new teacher is "fun but strict."
See School, 4A



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
Brandon Gladden makes a tornado in a bottle during orientation at Bethware Elementary.

KM woman says she was kidnapped

By ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain Police have charged a South Carolina man and a Florida man with kidnapping.

The two men allegedly approached Shellie Black, 26, of 1512 North Cansler St., while she was using a pay phone Monday night at Mike's Citgo on South Battleground Avenue. Black told police they pulled a gun, forced her back into her car, made her drive them to several places in Kings Mountain and then back to her home.

When they arrived at Black's home, the men allegedly forced her at gun point into a back bedroom where they held her hostage and threatened her. At 10 a.m. Tuesday the men allowed her to leave the house to purchase cigarettes, Black told police.

Once away from her home, Black drove to a friend's home where she called police. Officers from Kings Mountain and Cleveland County obtained a key from Black and went to her home where they found the males asleep in the living room. They also found the gun used in the alleged kidnapping.

Dedric Omar Williams, 27, of 106 C Skinner Circle, Fort Walden Beach, FL, and Derrick Lamont Best, 30, of 2165 Risher St., Gifford, SC were both charged with first degree kidnapping,
See Woman, 2A

▼KMHS Phifer Road project



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD
Cleveland County Schools board member Mary Evans looks at a model of the proposed Phifer Road building prior to Monday night's board meeting.

Architect authorized to draw plans, put project out to bids

By ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain High School's Phifer Road project is one step closer to becoming a reality.

Monday night Cleveland County Schools' Board voted unanimously to give architect Roger Holland permission to make detailed drawings of the project and to put it out for bid.

Deputy Superintendent of Auxiliary Services Dr. Larry Allen said this process should take three months.

Once the bids come back the board will vote on whether to do the project. Allen anticipates the project will cost \$1 million-plus. If the vocational building had to be constructed from the bottom up it would cost several million, according to Allen.

The proposed project would ready the 26,400 square-foot building to house much of the school's career and technical program. Business, welding, health occupations, carpentry, agriculture, drafting, computer technology and

engineering would be located in the Phifer Road building. Family and consumer science and food service programs would remain on the main campus.

Allen called the project "the best option we have based on the cost of construction today." The former Kings Mountain District Schools purchased the building and eight acres of surrounding property for \$500,000 in 2002. KMDS put a new roof on the building to protect the structure. No
See KMHS, 4A

PROUD HISTORY, PROMISING FUTURE

Brochure promotes Kings Mountain

By ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

The City of Kings Mountain has a new marketing tool - a 23 by 11 inch, full color, glossy brochure.

Titled "Kings Mountain - Proud History, Promising Future," the brochure features photos from across town and area sites. Some of the photos include children on antique fire trucks, families in front of the town's murals, re-enactors at the Barber Log House, a man fishing at one of the local lakes, children playing at Patriots Park and more youngsters at the municipal playground.

Photos showcase landmarks like the Patrick Center, Grover Elementary School, Joy Performance Center, Mauney Memorial Library and City Hall. Additional photography highlights industry and athletic events in this
See Brochure, 8A

Firemen credit smoke detectors for saving lives

By ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Fire officials credit smoke detectors for saving lives in two recent fires.

Last week a box of clothing caught fire at a Fulton Street home. The occupants had just moved into the home, according to Fire Chief Frank Burns. The box of clothing had not been unpacked yet. A lit cigarette caused the fire.

Due to the early warning of the smoke detector, the residents were able to get out of the home and the fire department extinguished
See Smoke, 3A

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

Aloyse Jones has been foster mother to 90 children

By ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Since 1972 Aloyse Jones has been a foster mother to 90 children and babies. Tonight the Cleveland County Commission for Women will honor her.

The 76-year-old woman and her husband Oscar Jones also have adopted three children. Though the Joneses stopped providing foster care two years ago, many of the children they have cared for still visit and call.

"We never have a dull moment," Aloyse Jones said.

Jacob Jones, 11, and Dillon Jones, 14, are the couple's youngest children. They adopted

Jacob at 15 months and Dillon at one month. The boys are biologically half-brothers.

The couple's daughter Shandora, 30, lives close by. Her two boys are often at their grandparents' home playing with their uncles. Shandora was adopted when she was one month old.

Aloyse Jones also has three biological sons, Ronnie Hawkins, Darrell Hawkins and Keith Hawkins. Their father died when they were 11, 16 and 17 years old.

"I cannot tell any difference in my biological children, adopted children and foster children," she said.

At age 42 Aloyse Jones' wanted to adopt a child. She visited the Department of Social Services where a case worker suggested she do foster care first. Soon the first child was placed with the couple. Jones thought she would become the little girl's mother. Instead, custody was awarded to an aunt.

What she describes as a pity party followed. Then suddenly Jones heard a voice. It said "how selfish of you."

The rebuke was all she needed to open her home and heart to another child. Shandora was her next foster child.

"When they laid her in my
See Jones, 3A



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD
Aloyse and Oscar Jones with their son Jacob Jones. The couple served as foster parents from 1972 to 2003, caring for 90 children.