



**Snakes Alive! An animal show they won't soon forget 10**



Pop Warner football players getting ready for the season

1B

KINGS MOUNTAIN

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## Lessons learned in football

Leadership, discipline helped Bumgarner deal with detainees at Guantanamo Bay

GARY STEWART

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Military and police work were in his blood, but after over 25 years as a proven leader in the Military Police Mike Bumgarner says there's nothing like football Friday nights in Kings Mountain.

Colonel Bumgarner, who recently completed 15 months of duty as Commander of the Camp Delta Moore prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, says as a teenager he wanted to coach football and be just like his high school coach, Bob Jones.

Bumgarner was the starting quarterback at KMHS in 1974, 1975 and 1976, leading

the Mountaineers to an overall record of 19-9-2, including a 7-2-1 record in '74 and an 8-2 mark in '76. He was an excellent passer - being on target to break the school passing record after his first two seasons - but sacrificed personal glory for the success of the team when, during his senior year, many talented runners came on the scene and the Mountaineers went to a ground game.

Bumgarner, always a leader on the field, uses the lessons he learned in high school football to direct his men in one of the most difficult times in our nation's history.

"When I look back on my life I've been real lucky," he says of his 25-year Army

career. "But the thing I think about most are those Friday nights on the football field."

Bumgarner is currently on leave before going to his next assignment. He and his wife, the former Sandra Moore of Kings Mountain, have moved 20 times during those 25 years.

"She's an expert in packing boxes," he laughs.

Serving 15 months at Guantanamo Bay was a challenge, but Bumgarner says it was the highlight of his military career. During the last days of his time there the prison drew international attention when three detainees committed suicide.

The U.S. detains suspected terrorists at the prison and

the government has come under heavy criticism from the press and international officials for continuing to operate it. But the Bush administration considers the prisoners a very definite threat to the United States.

"It's very difficult circumstances down there," Bumgarner said. "It's not like Central Prison in North Carolina. It's a totally different world every day. You can't trust any of them (the detainees). It's not like they stole a car and are going to serve their time and go home. We're there to protect them and the United States, trying to keep them out of the U.S. right now."

Bumgarner referred to the situation there as a "fish-

bowl," where anything you say or do is being watched by somebody. "They (the prisoners) hate the United States. It's not like a guy in a U.S. prison cell. He wants to kill you, kill me and kill all other Americans."

Bumgarner is the son of the late Ira and Mildred Bumgarner of Kings Mountain. He represents a long military and police tradition in his family. His mother's father, the late P.A. Hawkins, was a policeman. His father, Ira, was a career military man and retired school principal. He had seven uncles who either retired from the military or were discharged due to wounds in combat, or killed

See Bumgarner, 2A



"It's not like a guy in a U.S. prison cell. He wants to kill you, kill me and kill all other Americans."

Col. Mike Bumgarner

### HOMEFRONT

## Beach Blast is Saturday at gazebo

Kings Mountain's 7th annual Beach Blast will kick off Saturday, July 22, at 10 am and include activities for the whole family until 10 pm at Patriots Park in downtown Kings Mountain.

The Blast will feature a "Teenie Weenie Bikini Contest" for ladies 6 years and under, a watermelon eating contest, an Ultra-light aircraft flyover, a beach ball release, a shag contest, a wet and wild celebration, the county's largest sand pile, and plenty of food and thirst-quenching drinks.

Local musicians and artists Crimson Rose, Panyelo (a steel drum band) and The Tams are scheduled to be in concert during the event.

Beach Blast is a tribute to the best of vintage Rhythm, Blues and Soul music and is co-sponsored by the City of Kings Mountain, Kings Mountain Business and Professional Association, KM Tourism Development Authority, The Herald, Gateway Properties, WOHS Superstations, afab promotions, Davidson Insurance Company and SunTrust. All events are free and open to the public.

### BEATING THE HEAT



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

Ramiro Charez with Hall Builders takes a break from the 96-degree heat Tuesday with some water and shade.

## Saturday storm kayos power, blows down trees

EMILY WEAVER

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The thunderstorm that ripped through Kings Mountain on Saturday night, exploded trees, relocated a trailer and left over 1,200 people without power. "It was a pretty intense storm," said Nick Hendricks of the Kings Mountain City Electric Department. "We had a lot of lightning, a lot of wind and a great deal of rain."

Hendricks recalled seeing quarter-inch-size hail bounce off of his back porch during the storm and he said that unlike most summer thunderstorms that only last a few minutes, this one seemed to have lasted about an hour. "The lightning during the storm seemed to linger the longest," he said.

The storm downed several trees in the West Gold Street, Phifer Road area. "A lot of trees fell in the road and got hung up in the power lines or tore down the lines," he said, which made more of an obstacle for utility crews. "We came in around 5:30 pm and three different crews worked very hard. At the height of the storm, we probably had 700 people out of power and we had everybody back on by 11 pm that night."

Randy Ward from Rutherford Electric, Cherryville Office, said that they had four or five poles down and a total of 500 outages in the southern Kings Mountain, Grover area. "Our crews worked through the night and finished up by 9 am Sunday morning," he said. Duke Power customers were reportedly back on line by 6 am Sunday.

Some Shelby residents said that a tornado blew through their neighborhood, with strong winds and flying debris causing property damage. The wind gusts nearing 30 mph blew a trailer up off of its foundation and set it down seven feet away at Country Woods Mobile Home Park off of Hwy. 216 in Kings Mountain. "I think it was a twister that did that," said park resident Dicie Mason. "It just picked it up and moved it over."

She and her husband James were in Gastonia when the storm hit. They returned home to find a tree had demolished part of their garden. Other trees throughout the neighborhood were blown apart. Linda Moses was also away during

See Storm, 2A

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## Teen cell phone law passes General Assembly

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You have the right to drive at the age of 16 with a permit or license. But now, thanks to Senate Bill 1289 that has been approved in the House and Senate and is currently awaiting the governor's signature to become law, you do *not* have the right to talk on a cell phone while driving under the age of 18. The bill states that its

purpose is: "to reduce fatalities among new teen drivers by making the use of a mobile phone unlawful for a person less than 18 years of age and who holds a provisional license while driving a motor vehicle on a public street or highway or public vehicular area, as recommended by the NC Child Fatality Task Force."

Teens caught chatting on their cell phones, while driving, will face a fine of \$25 once the law takes effect December 1, See Cell Phone, 5A



Matt Bumgardner talks on his cell phone while sitting behind the wheel of his truck.

EMILY WEAVER / HERALD