

You can win big bucks in The Herald's football contest 6A



KM's Shonda Cole SEC and National Volleyball Player of the Week 8B



33

KINGS MOUNTAIN

The Herald

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Sports...

Mounties drop 4th straight game of year, 8th straight overall

HOMEFRONT

City of KM to host customer breakfast at Patrick Center

The City of Kings Mountain will be holding its annual Customer Appreciation Breakfast on Friday, September 29 from 7-9 am in the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life and Conference Center to extend the city's appreciation to all of their industrial customers for their valued business. Mayor Rick Murphrey, city council and staff will also be giving an update on the progress Kings Mountain has made in the last year and the challenges the community faces in the future.

People who wish to attend are asked to RSVP with Ann Sessom by Monday, Sept. 25 at 730-2153.

Booths available for Gateway Festival in KM October 14

Calling all artisans and artists! Booths are available for displays at the upcoming Gateway Festival October 14 from 10 am-5 pm. Applications can be accessed online at cityofkm.com or contact Ellis Noell at 704-730-2103. Booths are 10'x10' with a fee of \$25. Application deadline is October 7.

Museum Foundation fund raiser Saturday can get you \$12,000

Kings Mountain Historical Museum Foundation will hold its third annual Reverse Raffle and Live Auction to support the Foundation's preservation projects September 23 at the Kings Mountain American Legion on York Road starting at 6 pm.

A \$100 dollar ticket admits two and includes a social hour and heavy hors d'oeuvres. The reverse raffle will start around 7:30 pm. Every tenth ticket will win a prize and the last ticket drawn, the winner, will have the choice of a Ford Focus, Harley Davidson Motorcycle, diamond ring or \$12,000 cash. The live auction will begin at 8 pm with 12 items to bid on including beach condos, portraits, a Shaw rug, and Panthers tickets.

The event is sponsored by First Charter and First National Bank. Tickets are being sold at the Museum, 100 East Mountain Street, Kings Mountain and by members of the Foundation's Board. For more information call 704-739-1019.

COMMUNITY WATCH

The Kings Row Community Watch group will meet Thursday, September 21 at 6 p.m.

DEATHS

Ricky Waddell, 49
Darrell Morrison, 56
Cynthia Eaker, 49 Page 3A

INDEX

Classified 5B Deaths 3A
Lifestyles 5A Opinion 4A
Police 3A Sports 1B

This week's advertising sections:
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'She was an angel She saved my life'



Wrecked tractor-trailer blocks railroad tracks after being hit by train Monday afternoon. Below, driver Hebert Bonello talks with a Kings Mountain police officer.

Driver escapes truck stuck on track a minute before it was hit by train

EMILY WEAVER

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An unidentified blonde-haired, blue-eyed female driving a white truck pulled up alongside Hebert Bonello. His semi-truck was stuck on the railroad tracks, between Railroad and Battleground avenues, Monday afternoon. She looked at him and yelled, "Get out! The train is coming!"

As quickly as she appeared, she seemed to vanish. "She was an angel. She saved my life," Bonello said. Within a minute after he stepped out of the cab of his truck, his load was struck by a Norfolk Southern train, traveling south on the tracks beside NC 216.

Bonello said that he had just left one of his route's pick-up sites and had been instructed to turn right and cross the railroad tracks. So he took the first right he came to, not noticing the signs that bode all truckers to turn at the following crossing. "My landing gear got stuck on the tracks. I tried all the gears. I tried going forward and backward. I tried going fast. The truck wouldn't budge," he said, in his heavy latino accent. "Then came my angel saying 'Get out! The train is coming!' So I did and here came the train."

The boisterous boom could be heard across the city as the mile-long train, that tried desperately to stop in time, ripped through the rear of the trailer, spewing forth the truck's cargo of over 100 car batteries. The batteries strewn the tracks and road side. The tangy smell of battery



acid penetrated the air. The train engineer suffered minor burns from some of the acid that he was sprayed with upon impact.

Within a couple of hours, Norfolk Southern brought in an environmental expert to survey the scene and Hepaco a haz-mat team out of Charlotte, conducted the battery acid clean-up. The Kings Mountain Police and Fire Departments were the first to respond. "They got here so quick. In no time at all," Bonello said. The perimeter of the wreck was quickly marked off with a caution ribbon.

"We're very fortunate that the train did not derail and that the batteries did not explode when they flew out of the truck," said Fire Inspector Joey Davis. The train was also carrying... See Train, 3A

County to own Gateway

Commissioners unanimous in insurance support for trail to connect city and parks

EMILY WEAVER

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Tuesday night's Cleveland County Commissioners meeting marked a big victory for Gateway Trails, Inc. The 60-day feasibility study, conducted to measure the potential financial support for a 5-6 mile trail connecting the city of Kings Mountain to state and national parks, has been completed. It was presented to the board of commissioners at the meeting and president of Gateway Trails, Inc., David Ozmores and Vice President Shirley Brutko asked the county for their support to continue the project. County Commissioners in a unanimous vote, agreed to 90 percent ownership of the trail (with Kings Mountain owning the other 10 percent) and that the county will provide the liability insurance, provided that an environmental study, testing the proposed land, comes back clean.

The first phase of the Kings Mountain Gateway Trails was five years in the making. The feasibility study tested the waters for financial support and the market looks good right now, Brutko said. The group needed the county to provide liability and to give 10 percent ownership back to the city so that they could move forward with the next phases of the project.

"The wonderful thing about this process in the Gateway Trails is that there is a precedent already set with the Broad River Greenway, which is in the western part of the county," Ozmores said. "Broad River Greenway was built 10 or 12 years ago in the 90s and the county led that project." Because of the Greenway's success in turning a once tumultuous environment into a healthy, safe trail boosting land value, the commissioners envision a similar success for Kings Mountain.

The proposed trail would begin off of Battleground Avenue, about half of a mile from the intersection of Battleground and Gold Street, on land owned by Martin Marietta. The trail would then connect to Chemetall Foote, who owns the land that would utilize 4-5 miles of the trail, and runs through the mine property with views of "The Pit," where people have mined for years. It would cross over I-85 and enter into more Chemetall Foot property, extending to the two city lakes, Davidson and Police Club. The trail may give the city of... See Gateway, 8A



Local politicians getting ready for the November general election are posting their signs around Kings Mountain.

Sign of time

Local politicians are getting ready for November election

With the November 7 general election day just around the corner, politics is heating up in Kings Mountain and Cleveland County.

Signs are popping up on every street corner and soon advertisements will appear in the media and in your mailbox.

Numerous local and state candidates are already making the rounds with house-to-house visits and meet the candidates events. And next month the public will get an opportunity to

see and hear most of them in one setting as candidate forums will be held October 16 and 19 from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Cleveland Community College auditorium.

Candidates for Cleveland County Sheriff and the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners will participate in the October 16 forum. Republican Don Allen is challenging incumbent Democrat Raymond Hamrick in the sher- See Election, 2A