

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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50 Cents



KM High graduation ceremony is Friday

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The largest graduating class in Kings Mountain High School's history will receive their diplomas Friday, June 8, at 8 p.m. in the John Gamble football stadium.

Seniors are to report to home-room by 7 p.m. Guys should come dressed in black pants, a white dress shirt and a black tie. A few extra ties and shirts may be available in the front office for those who forget the appropriate attire. Girls should wear a black dress underneath their gowns. All seniors are reminded to wear black shoes, in order to avoid the chore of coloring tennis shoes with a black magic marker (one student's fate from last year) before the ceremony.

Parking can be somewhat of a hassle so supporters are encouraged to arrive early. Guests may use any available parking in all of the lots, at the practice fields and behind the middle school.

Seniors, anxious for vacations and future endeavors, will take their final march to glory on the field, in flowing black gowns and caps as the 9th grade band plays "Pomp and Circumstance" in their honor.

The scheduled speakers for commencement are Senior class president Monet McClain, Valedictorian Jessica Yarbro, and Salutatorian Lauren Suber. This will be John Yarbro's final commencement ceremony as KMHS principal, handing out the last diplomas to his last graduates and wishing them a successful future.

"This is a busy time of year, but I'm excited about graduation. It is the highlight of my year, each year," he said.

One of the diplomas he hands out this year will go to his daughter, Jessica. "I'm excited for her, but I'm excited for this class as well," he said. "Every class has its own unique characteristics and this one has been a very confident class and has excelled in a lot of special areas."

"Anytime you have a class to graduate you're going to miss that class, but it's time for them to move on. Many will go on to further education and some will go into the work-force and we hope that we've provided them the preparedness and the oppor-

See Graduation, 7A



"This is a great job and it's a great county for high school football."

Greg Lloyd
New KMHS football coach

Lloyd named KM coach

East Gaston mentor helped Crest win three state 4A championships

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Greg Lloyd, who was the offensive coordinator on two Crest teams that won state championships and as head coach last year led East Gaston's Warriors to their best season in history, Friday was named head football coach at Kings Mountain High School.

Incoming principal Ronny Funderburke made the announcement after he and other school officials had interviewed

"six or seven quality people," over a two-week period, including men who have built successful football programs on the 3A and 4A level.

"I feel really good," said Funderburke, who had been busy almost around the clock interviewing for the KM football position while also seeing to his duties as personnel director for Rutherford County Schools.

"Greg Lloyd is exactly what we were looking for," Funderburke said. "We wanted a younger coach who is hungry. We wanted a coach that is confi-

dent. We wanted a coach that is willing to move to Kings Mountain. We wanted someone that has good character and integrity. We talked to a lot of folks about Greg Lloyd - a lot of folks that have worked with him, a lot of folks that have known him for a long time. There was not one thing negative that was said about him. Everybody that has worked with him have talked about him being the best football coach they've ever been around."

There was also excitement in Lloyd's voice as he talked about

coming back to Cleveland County after two years as East Gaston's head coach. Lloyd led the Warriors to an 11-3 overall record and three rounds in the state 4A playoffs last fall.

"I'm excited, there's no doubt about it," he said. "I'm excited for this opportunity. This is a great job and it's in a great county for high school football. I'm just excited about being back in Cleveland County and at Kings Mountain High School."

Lloyd was a standout football and baseball player at Crest High

See Lloyd, 13A

RELAY FOR LIFE



GARY STEWART / HERALD

Cancer survivors walk the first lap to begin Friday's annual Relay for Life at the Kings Mountain Walking Track at Jake Early Sports Complex.

KM raises over \$78,000 to fight cancer

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The crowds were sparse at this year's 10th Annual Relay for Life. But the impact was just as strong.

Despite the economic struggles of high gas prices the funds raised as of Friday night almost met the American Cancer Society's goal of \$80,000.

Co-chair of the event Tammy Hogue said that they were close to having raised \$78,000 by the end of Friday night. "We already surpassed what we did last year," she added. "We're one of the few counties that have had an increase this year."

The bar was set at \$85,000 for Kings Mountain's Relay, but the American Cancer Society set it at \$80,000, both amounts surpassing last year's effort of \$78,000. Money is still rolling in. A Post Bank Night to count the total funds will be held tonight at the Patrick Senior Center from 5-6:30 p.m. "It's still not too late to turn money in," Hogue said.

Out of 37 fund raising teams, only 23 campsites were set up at Relay. But she said that is partly due to the fact that although Kings Mountain Hospital has seven teams, they had one site, and they also had several ghost teams which helped

See Relay, 6A

Bethware first county school to holds its own Relay for Life

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Just hours before the Kings Mountain Relay for Life, Bethware Elementary held their very own mini-Relay on Friday afternoon.

"I'm so proud of you guys," said KM Relay for Life co-chair Tammy Hogue. "No other school has ever done this before in Cleveland County."

See Bethware, 6A

Hay fire destroys barn, cows

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Lindsay Bell, a volunteer firefighter at Oak Grove Fire Department, was awakened by the tones on her radio about 2 am Monday morning. She felt a little excitement, knowing that the sounds meant there was a big fire.

But when she heard the address her heart sank. The excitement was replaced by panic, as she realized that the fire was across the street from her home in one of her family's barns.

By the time she and the fire departments arrived at G. W. Bell & Sons Dairy Farm at 763 Bell Road the barn was fully engulfed.

"When you're on a fire department you never would think that it would be your own place," she said. "We lost between \$80,000-\$100,000 in equipment and hay. All of our hay went up in flames. That's what started it. We had 200 bales of hay in there which is what we cut to last us through the winter for all of our cows and animals."

The cause and origin of the fire is believed to have been the hay. She said that they think the hay overheated during the day and continued to smolder during the night, building temperatures until it ignited and combusted into flames.

The fire spread through the hay in the barn as it would through a tinderbox, leaving nothing in its path but destruction and loss. "Hay is so sparse

See Fire, 2A

Over 400 compete in Triathlon

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A little after 8 a.m. Saturday morning nearly 400 competitors crowded around the beach at Moss Lake, ready to begin the grueling annual three-legged race - Over the Mountain Triathlon.

Different divisions were distinguished by the color of swim caps they wore on their heads in the 1500-meter swim. The blue caps of the Elite and Masters Elite men and women were first in the water, followed by the white caps and a few other divisions. Deep breath...and go! The air horn sounded their start. Like a large pack of angry piranhas they attacked the water with fierce determination. Completely immersed in the zone, some had troubles seeing the buoys along the way. But they made it to the

transitional shore.

First out of the water was number 387, Jeff Murray, of Charlotte, NC, in 21 minutes and 19 seconds (21:19). Just a few mere seconds behind Murray emerged 36-year-old Marty Gaal, of Cary, NC, in 21:52. Kevin Lisska, 28, of Mills River, NC, was third out of the water in 22:07. They hustled up the steep hill to their bikes.

It was time for the 27-mile point-to-point bicycle trek through two states. They raced from Moss Lake toward the Kings Mountain National Military Park in South Carolina. At the hydration station in the park the Zion Baptist Church Boy Scout Troop 118 got ready to hand out their freshly filled water bottles to the competitors. Gaal peddled past them, no time for water, ahead of the pack. But the bike race was far from over. The next transition was on Railroad Avenue in

downtown Kings Mountain, where triathletes would trade their wheels for winged-heels and set off on a 6.2-mile foot race to the finish line.

First off the bicycles was third out of the water Lisska, kicking it into high gear. Just a few seconds behind him was 27-year-old Nick Nothoff, of Winston Salem, and Gaal. Putting their feet to the test they took off down Gold Street and Phifer Road, just past Kings Mountain High School, where they turned around and began their second lap to the championship.

The Champion Lisska ripped through the finish line with a total time of 2 hours 11 minutes and five seconds (2:11:05), with Gaal four minutes behind with 2:15:07 and 33-year-old, fourth out of the water, Lance Leo, of Charlotte, with 2:15:58. This race was Lisska's third Over the Mountain

See Triathlon, 10A



Reggie Moss, on a relay team from Shelby, crosses the Over the Mountain Triathlon finish line with great excitement.

EMILY WEAVER / HERALD