

## BRIEFS

**Eighth Street Church of God**, 906 S. 8th Street, Bessemer City, is hosting a Pastor's Revival, held each night at 7 p.m. through Saturday, August 23rd. A different local pastor will speak each night. On Saturday, August 23, at 5 p.m., there will be a dinner in the fellowship hall. Plates will be sold for \$5 each. For more information call 704-435-8256.

**Salem Baptist Church**, in Lincolnton, is hosting the Dr. Charles Cranford School of Theology starting in September. The accredited institution will offer associate, bachelor, master and doctorate degrees in Biblical Studies. Basic English will also be required. For more information, call 704-732-1131.

**Victory Baptist Church**, 106 Battleground Road, Grover, will have its homecoming Sunday, Aug. 24, with Sunday School beginning at 9:45 a.m. and worship service at 11 a.m. Rev. Curtis England will officiate. A cover dish meal will be served after the service. Former members are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Pastor Wells at 704-472-1145.

**Beulah United Methodist Church**, 1534 Stoney Point Road, Shelby, is hosting a spaghetti dinner youth fundraiser Saturday, Aug. 30 from 5-7 p.m. Plates will be sold for \$6 (adults) and \$3 (children 12 and under).

**Word of Faith Church**, 1417 Stoney Point Rd., Shelby, is hosting revival services Aug. 21-22 at 7 p.m. each night. Rev. Kenneth Martin is the speaker. The church men will sponsor a Building Fund Barbecue 11 a.m.-until Aug. 23, in the church parking lot. Plates of barbecue, slaw, baked beans, cake, chips, drink and a bun will be sold for \$8 each. For more information, call 704-435-5560 or 704-482-2249.

**Resurrection Lutheran Church**, 600 Crescent Circle, is hosting Rally Day at 10 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 24, featuring Zelnik the Magician. A picnic will be held in the Fellowship Hall after the program.

**Bynum Chapel AME Zion Church**, 213 N. Cansler St., will host a "Back to School Jam" 6-10 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, featuring presenters to speak on school dress, behavior, gangs, drugs, health issues and parental involvement. Representatives from NASCAR and a bank will give presentations. Food, music, dance, door prizes and school supplies will be offered.

## SPORTS

## Former players urge Mounties to make their own memories

GARY STEWART

Sports Editor

Excited fans lined Gaston Street to welcome Kings Mountain's Mountaineers as they walked behind a city police car to their inaugural "Back to Our Roots" practice session Tuesday night at old City Stadium.

Mountaineer coaches plan to have an annual event at the old historic stadium, whether it be a practice session or a "Black and White" game.

Mayor Rick Murphrey and several former Mountaineer players and coaches addressed the players prior to their practice session. After loosening up, the players had some heavy blocking drills, followed by an intra-squad scrimmage. The Optimist Club, whose Pop Warner football teams now play in the stadium, fed the team after the event.

A huge crowd of fans and former players of all ages watched from the concrete bleachers as the Mounties went through their routine.

Former players Steve Baker and Alfred Ash, both of whom played at City Stadium and later coached at the present KMHS facility on Phifer Road, inspired the players with their pre-practice speeches. Both recalled some of their memories but stressed more important things. Also on the field were two, Bo Goforth and Mike Huffstickler from the undefeated 1963 KMHS team. Huffstickler was City Stadium's last 1,000-yard rusher.

Baker talked briefly about some of the Mounties' accomplishments at City Stadium, but spoke more about the present.

"This park is great," Baker said, "but this is all about you guys. On behalf of all former players, fans and coaches, we want to tell you how much we appreciate you thinking of the past. We're doomed to failure if we don't remember the past."

Baker recalled that in his playing days Kings Mountain was a textile community and "on Friday night everything revolved around this stadium."

He called the football era of 1955 through 1964 the "heyday" of Kings Mountain football as the Mounties won five conference championships during that time. During his two years in 1963 and 1964, the team had a 19-1-1 overall record. In 1955 the Mounties won their first-ever conference championship and in 1956 won the Western North Carolina High School Activities Association title, which at that time was the equivalent

of the state championship for that association.

"Part of the mystique of playing in Kings Mountain was this stadium," he said. "We had to walk to the stadium. As we got close the excitement began to rise. Horns would be blowing and people cheering. When we came into the stadium the excitement rose even more. We had a tradition of running down the hill. As a player, when you ran down that hill you knew something special was about to happen."

But, Baker noted, stadiums don't win ball games.

"This is a team sport," he said. "It don't happen if you don't believe it. Memories of the past are important but this is really about you. There will never be another 2008 football season so you have to make it special. It takes a lot of discipline and courage to play football; if it was easy you'd have 400 boys coming out for football. It shouldn't be easy. Anything worth having is worth working very hard for. I want you this season to remember the word DARE. Dare to dream. Dare to believe. And dare to come out together and achieve a good season. Through your work and commitment you will get what you're striving for."

Ash, who played junior high football ball at City Stadium but played his varsity career at John Gamble Stadium, urged the players to remember three C words — choices, chances and champion.

"If you make enough good choices, you'll get enough chances to become a champion," he said.

"It's easy to criticize someone when he's down," he said. "Pick him up and dust him off. He's a



GARY STEWART/HERALD

Kings Mountain High's football players and coaches walk down Gaston Street from Central School to City Stadium for Tuesday night's Back to Our Roots practice session and intrasquad scrimmage.

soldier that's right beside you. When you lose a soldier you have a weak spot."

Ash also encouraged the players to think of each other as family. "Members of a family, regardless of the choices they make, are going to support each other," he said.

He said sports is all about opportunity and preparation. "I won't wish you good luck because I don't believe in luck," he said. "But I wish you the best of preparation and all opportunities that come your way that you'll take

advantage of them."

Players seemed to appreciate the kind words and the opportunity to play in the old stadium.

"I think it's good to come out and show the Little Mounties how to represent Kings Mountain," said senior tight end Devon Thompson.

Center Kelly McCrary volunteers as a coach with the Pop Warner teams at City Stadium.

"It's a really good experience to be out here and play on a field that has so many memories," he said.



"45 Minutes to 2 Hours  
to Have a  
Prescription Filled?"

That's OUTRAGEOUS!

Why wait? We'll get you in & out  
in just 10 to 12 minutes!

And during those 10 to 12 minutes, we'll answer any questions you might have about your medications— also whatever interactions and/or side effects they may have. Other health questions, too!

Come to the pharmacy that gets you in and out in a hurry, and where you get expert solutions to all your chronic health problems.

"When you absolutely, positively, want to feel better!"



Prescriptions Plus  
Pharmacy

Two Convenient Stores to Serve You  
703-1 E King Street, Kings Mountain  
David Lovelace, R.Ph.; (704) 739-4519  
Hours: Mon-Fri 9a-6p; Sat 9a-1p  
1614 W. Franklin Blvd, Gastonia  
Billy Wease, R.Ph.; (704) 867-3518  
Hours: Mon-Fri 10a-6p

WE  
BUY  
GOLD

ARNOLD'S  
MASTER JEWELER  
Jewelry & Gift Gallery

Celebrating 33 Years In Uptown Shelby

704-487-4521

226 S. Washington Street  
Uptown Shelby, NC

Arnold's Charge Accounts & Layaways Welcome

All Major Credit Cards Accepted  
Visit us at www.arnoldjewelry.com