

LOCAL

State Employment Commission predicts top jobs for county

REBECCA PISCOPO

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Cleveland County has seen a recent decrease in manufacturing jobs, according to the NC Employment Security Commission. The job market current has changed.

The rapid escalation of the top occupations which are expected to continue rising in the coming years are: elementary school teachers, requiring a Bachelors Degree; nurses with either a Bachelors or an Associates degree; and pre-school teachers for non-degree holders.

"Part of the projections are what employers tell us they need. We know NC's population is on the rise. The aging population of baby boomers is increasing. The need for those people (nurses and teachers) is the highest," stated ESC spokesman Larry Parker.

In Kings Mountain - more than anywhere else in Cleveland County - Bethware, East, Grover, West and North elementary schools expect high growth in the upcoming years, as revealed by the "2007-2008 Growth and Performance of NC Public Schools" report.

From the July Cleveland County School Board meeting, Program Director Jeff Tsai of the Institute for Transportation Research and Education at North Carolina State

University presented statistics showing KM had the most growth potential.

He said, "Kings Mountain (schools) have difficulty handling growth especially in East and West. The first thing is to start looking at a potential site for new elementary schools in KM."

That would mean an even greater need for elementary school teachers.

"This year there was an increase in applications from people wanting to be elementary school teachers," stated CCS Director of Human Resources for Recruiting and Personnel Support Mary Accor.

"Our state doesn't produce enough teachers for the openings we have," added CCS Spokesperson Donna Carpenter.

So who does produce the much-needed BA qualified educators?

Gardner-Webb, UNC Charlotte, and Appalachian State are three colleges Carpenter gives the most credit to for preparing future teachers.

Gardner-Webb has witnessed a steady increase of Education undergraduates. In the spring semester of 2006, 90 students declared it as their major compared to 102 in spring 2008.

"When we get educators from Gardner-Webb, we get quality educators," Accor stated.

But school administrators aren't the only ones looking for new staff.

It appears as if nurses and nursing administration are the latest must-haves in traditional and non-traditional businesses.

"One of the things that has changed in the past 20 years are the types of places nurses are getting employed. TelreX, told by nursing faculty, is employing nurses," stated Cleveland Community College Administrator Dr. Becky Sain. "They're employing people so they're more knowledgeable of products in the nursing industry."

CCC offers a consortium between two other community colleges (Isothermal and McDowell Community Colleges). It allows their nursing program to share enrollment and equal the cost.

"Most of the nurses stay in the county. The need is such. They're being absorbed right into the market based on their clinical (experience)," Sain said.

Larry Parker believes that the entire point of "Long-Term Occupational Projections" isn't to show-off top industries, but to serve as a guide for job seekers. It's also meant for college counselors and upcoming undergrads who would like to know their major's job availability in the real world market.

KM amends Golf Course Ordinance to only apply to folks within city limits

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Kings Mountain City Council amended its Golf Course Ordinance, which had been approved at the July 29 meeting, to only apply to residents who live within city limits.

It allows only those residing within city limits the option of applying for a permit to drive golf carts on cer-

tain streets.

"You have to be in the city limits," stated Mayor Rick Murphrey.

The ordinance also calls to remove the original restriction of (1) golf cart per household.

"There may be two applications in a household each year. Any more than that the city manager has to approve," Murphrey said.

City grants This & That wish of loading zone

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Karen Bess, owner of This & That Novelty Shop, claimed that she requested the two parking spots in front of her furniture store be designated as "No Parking; Loading and Unloading Only," one-year ago. At Tuesday's town council meeting her wish was granted.

"I'm glad to see it happen. I absolutely cannot keep people from parking," Bess said.

The problem is Bess can't pull her truck and trailer, full of furniture, in front of her shop

when cars are parked there. And the way her front entryway is, if she or her customers do not get those spaces, then large furniture items are impossible to move in and out.

"The weekend before I had a truck load of stuff. I came in at 8:30 and cars were parked out there. I had to wait until 11:30," Bess stated.

The request was brought to the city by Council member and Parking Ad Hoc committee chair Rodney Gordon.

Bess said, "It's something I need or I wouldn't have asked for it."

KMHS to host free rabies clinic Sept. 20

On Saturday, September 20 Kings Mountain High School will host one of Cleveland County Health Department's four free rabies clinics for cats and dogs.

The vaccinations will be provided to the first 1,000 animals. It will protect them for one year, or for three years with proof of a current up-to-date vaccination.

Cleveland County has experienced 173 cases of confirmed rabies since 1998. As a result over 300 citizens have been

exposed to the virus. That has caused tax payers \$300,000 for post-exposure treatment.

Teaming with the Cleveland County Animal Control, Health Director Denese Stallings instructed CCAC to conduct a county-wide canvassing of animals to make sure that they are up-to-date on vaccinations, immediately. The fine for an unvaccinated animal is \$100.

For more information call (704)481-9884, ext. 4.

KM trash pickup schedule changed for Labor Day week

The trash pickup schedule for the week of Labor Day in Kings Mountain, will be one day behind schedule as follows: Monday's trash will be picked up on Tuesday, Tuesday's trash will be picked up on Wednesday, Wednesday's trash will be picked up on Thursday and Thursday's trash will be picked up on Friday.

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Early Deadlines For Ads

In observance of Labor Day our offices
WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2008.

Due to the holiday, deadlines for the
Sept. 4th editions for both Display and
Classified Advertising have been changed.

Banner News:
Thursday, August 28th at 3pm

Eagle / Herald:
Friday, August 29th at 2 pm

Exceptions will NOT be possible.