

INSIDE



**Policeman returns home after training officers in Iraq**

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**KM Homecoming Friday!**

**Gary previews the game...B1 Homecoming Banner...B3, B4**

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# Kings Mountain

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## CONSTRUCTION

### New pub, dollar store on the way

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Staff writer

Business activity is picking up in Kings Mountain with building plans submitted to the city codes department for a new—and third—Dollar General, a downtown bar/pub named Stevo's, the new restaurant Cook-Out, and grading and infrastructure under-way at the site of an 84-unit apartment complex on E. Gold Street.

"The fall season is ushering in a busy time and hopefully bringing more jobs with the new construction," said Holly Black, the city's codes director.

Grading was underway this week on York Road (beside Wendy's) for a new 9,000 square foot Dollar General, a merchandising facility.

Robert Steven White submitted building plans to the city for a bar/pub in the former Beach Bingo building beside Griffin Drug Store downtown. The plans indicate a club bar designed after the bar on the television program "Cheers." Black said that interior renovations are underway by White who is

See PUB, Page 3A

## GARAGE FIRE

### Smoke from Bethlehem fire seen miles away

Black smoke from a garage fire at the intersection of Bethlehem Road and US 74 West could be seen for miles Monday afternoon.

"A woman from Gastonia was on her way to Bethware School and panicked because she thought the fire was at the school," said KMPD Fire Chief Frank Burns who along with firemen from KM, Bethlehem, Oak Grove and Cleveland Fire Departments battled the blaze. Grover Fire Department also stood by.

Burns said a man was inside the garage in the 1,000 square foot block building working on a car, pulled the gas tank off and vapors ignited. "He thought all the gas was out of the car," said Bethlehem Fire Chief Daryl Philbeck. "He got out in time."

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### Countryside may be off the table

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Staff writer

City council won't take a vote on annexation plans until Nov. 24 but it's a safe bet that Countryside Road will be eliminated from the plan following discussion during public hearing by city council Tuesday night.

Neighbors in the Countryside area turned out last month to question the city's plans to take the area into the city limits.

Council members have also questioned the \$600,000 cost to the city to run water lines to serve 38 residences.

City planning director Steve Killian

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## INTO THE WILD

### Bears spotted along trail?



Sightings of multiple 'black bears' viewed from the Gateway Trail leave some doubting, some sure

By EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

"We know there are deer, copperheads, box turtles and a coyote along the trail," said Gateway Trails President Shirley Brutko.

But black bears? That was a new one to her.

At least three people have spotted bears in the quarry along the Gateway Trail, which is set to open Nov. 7th. Jeffrey Lanier said that he and his family took their dog out for a walk on the trail on Oct. 10 when they saw something move in the quarry.

"It was two big black masses," he said. "I asked my wife if it looked like bears."

He returned his family to the car and came back out for another look. Sure enough, he said, the big black shapes he saw moving were black bears. "They were coming up out

See BEARS, Page 7A

Could the dark spot on the right be a black bear climbing up the bank of the quarry?

EMILY WEAVER/HERALD



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

KMHS student Daniel Wooten plows over a cone while sending a text message as Trooper Scott Meade cringes.

### Students get 'crash course' on texting

By EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

Students at Kings Mountain High School got a "crash course" on the dangers of texting while driving. Many cones were massaged on the practice field Tuesday.

Officers with the state Highway Patrol came to the school to share the dangers of text messaging and being distracted behind the wheel. They placed bright orange traffic cones, each representing a person, pet, building or otherwise, throughout the school's practice field, marking off three narrow courses.

One student at a time was instructed to drive a John Deere gator through the course with a trooper in the passenger seat. The first time was practice. No distractions. But on the second run-through the students were handed a cell phone, sent a text message and were told to respond. With cell phone in hand the students punched away at the keypad and trampled cones they avoided in the first

run.

Student Memory Bowles took out most of the course on her second run while she tried to text.

"She is a weapon of mass destruction," joked Trooper Scott Meade.

She killed five people, two dogs, three puppies and plowed through a stop sign to send her text message, Meade said as

See TEXTING, Page 3A



Megan Hoyle runs over a cone while texting as Ofc. Scott Meade watches.

### Coats for East kids

Goins, Butler lead city-wide effort to collect coats for East Elementary students

Roger Goins, of Roger's BBQ, and city Councilman Mike Butler have been heading citywide efforts lately to bring a little warmth to the children of East Elementary.

They have been collecting gently used and new coats, clothing and monetary donations to give to the school for the children in grades K-4.

"There's an urgent need for it because it's cold in the morning," Goins said on Monday. East Elementary has the highest population of indigent children among the Kings Mountain schools and the two said that they just want to give back.

"We try to help who we can," Butler said. Butler led the efforts of two shoe give-aways in Kings Mountain over the past three years with other city leaders. He said that they were able to help about 1,600 people in those two events. He and Goins hope to help as many children at East as they can.

If the recent cold and rainy spells bear any indication of this year's winter, Butler said that coats will really be needed. When he found out

See COATS, Page 3A

## On the calendar

### Great Pumpkin Halloween Parade set for Oct. 30

The City of Kings Mountain will host the annual "Great Pumpkin Halloween Parade" on Friday, Oct. 30. Participants will gather at city hall plaza at 10 a.m. for a sendoff by Mayor Rick Murphrey.

The parade will start at the plaza on the corner of Cherokee and Gold streets and will continue to Battleground Ave., then to Mountain St. and down Railroad Ave. to the

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