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Baucom aims to hit cancer out of the park



TIMMY BAUCOM

By KYRA ALEXANDER
Staff writer

Most kids in Kings Mountain were excited to miss a week of school because of the snow but to Kings Mountain freshman Timmy Baucom, snow days mean nothing. He will be spending the second half of his freshman year at home everyday. During the holiday season, while everyone else was celebrating, Baucom found out he had cancer.

Like many teens, 14-year-old Baucom enjoys spending time with his Xbox, riding four-wheelers and dirt bikes. But the activity he is most enthused with is baseball; and unfortunately he will have to sit this season out.

Last September Baucom's grandfather died of pancreatic cancer. Going into the holiday season took the whole family through some emotional adjustments.

Right before Thanksgiving festivities, Baucom complained to his mother about having a severe pain in his neck. Taking over-the-counter pain medication seemed to take care of the problem for a while.

During the Christmas holidays, Baucom discovered a knot the size of a baseball on his neck. Upon this discovery his parents took him to their doctor who sent him to a surgeon who then passed him on again to the Baptist hospital in Winston Salem.

Biopsies revealed that the growth in his neck and an additional growth found in his intestines were cancerous; fortunately there was no cancer found in his bone marrow.

Baucom was told he had Burkitt's Lymphoma, which is an uncommon type of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

See COMMUNITY, 3A

Cruisin' for a bruisin'



Several mailboxes, beaten and bashed, lined streets in Kings Mountain Monday - remnants of a midnight teenage joyride that landed four in hot water.

Midnight ride leads to day in court

By ELIZABETH STEWART

Staff writer

Four teenagers joy-riding on a Saturday night may soon learn that crime doesn't pay during their day in court.

The four boys - ages 14-16, may also find their allowances cut to zero as they and their parents face the high costs of malicious damage of 31 mailboxes smashed with baseball bats. Mirrors were torn from cars and tailgates stolen at some residences.

Kings Mountain Police Det. Capt. Derek Johnson said police stopped a car at 12:15 a.m. Saturday on Maner Road operated by a 16-year-old and in which three other boys were passengers.

See JOYRIDE, 5A

BOE Chairman: what do trash dumps have to do with voting?

By ELIZABETH STEWART

Staff writer

Senator Debbie Clary (R-Cleveland) wants the state to step in and consolidate the 26 Cleveland County polling sites, challenging a majority vote of the Board of Elections which scrapped its original plan last month to explore the benefits and downsides of consolidation.

Board Chairman Steve Wells says he's not backing down from his board's decision that last month resolved the issue that precincts stay the same in the county.

In a related action in February, the board voted 2-1 to drop all discussion

From 26 to 7

Page 4A - Minutes of the BOE's December meeting show a list of 26 precincts fused into seven polling sites

about consolidating Kings Mountain's two voting sites.

"I'm working on a bill, doing research and setting up meetings with minorities," Clary said from her office in Raleigh Tuesday. "It's a shame that the Board of Elections felt the need to cut off the public input by cancellation of hearings," she added. She said she was called by constituents about the need for public forums.

The consolidation issue was raised at both the December 2010 and January 2011 meetings of the board of elections. In December the board voted 2-1 to explore with the state board the possibility of consolidation and set five fact-finding meetings in the county with various groups of individuals, including minorities and Party and municipal leaders to explore the benefits and downsides of consolidation from 26 to 7 or 8 sites. The board is not required to hold public hearings and makes final decisions, Chairman Wells said in responding to questions at the February meeting at

See CONSOLIDATING, 4A

Con artists phone home

By EMILY WEAVER

Editor

Ring. Ring. "Hello, grandmother. It's your grandson and I'm in trouble." The words the caller says next come from an unfamiliar voice while he declares a familiar name - the name of your grandson, but do you really know him?

There's a new scam going around and one citizen has brought it to the attention of the Kings Mountain Police. She received a phone call from a man claiming to be her grandson. He told her that he had been arrested under false charges and was being held in a cell in Madrid, Spain. He needed her to send \$2,000 so that he could get out of jail.

Calling the caller's bluff, the grandmother asked to speak to the officer in charge. Another voice came on the line. He demanded - not \$2,000 - but \$22,000 and asked for her credit card number.

She replied that she had no credit card and just as mysteriously as the phone conversation began, it ended. They hung up.

See STRANGE CALL, 3A



Cleveland County Board of Elections
Chairman Steve Wells

On the issue of voting precincts

Could less save more? Or is it more or less a matter of the people?

N.C. Senator
Debbie Clary
(R-Cleveland)



Love letters mark start of long romance

By ELIZABETH STEWART

Staff writer

Every Valentine's Day Helen and Oliver Tate reread love letters they exchanged more than 63 years ago. Helen Robbs and James Oliver Tate kept the local postman busy before they became Mr. and Mrs. in 1948.

"You've got another letter from your soldier," the late Lloyd Phifer would tell an excited Helen as she rushed to the mailbox. Oliver had enlisted in the USAF, took basic training at Fort Bragg and was serving with the US Training Command, first in Spokane, Washington and his last two years of duty in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

"I had my eye on Helen in high school," said Oliver. He left Kings Mountain High School as a senior at 18 and enlisted in the service, reminding his

sweetheart to write him every day. It was 18 months before his first furlough but on the next furlough he and Helen tied the knot before Rev. B.F. Austin on Sept. 12, 1948 in Second Baptist Church. Helen was 20 and her bridegroom was 20.

"We bought a lot of air-mail stamps, a nickel a piece," laughed Helen. Remembering their courtship, Oliver said he luckily didn't see overseas duty and so their love letters weren't

See TATES, 5A



Love letters that Helen and Oliver Tate wrote to each other years ago bring back happy memories for them on Valentine's Day.



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