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Voters, are you ready to elect?

ELIZABETH STEWART

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Kings Mountain voters will go to the polls Tuesday to elect a mayor and four city council members as they join their county neighbors in electing five members of the board of education and four representatives on the water board.

Polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m.

Polling places in Kings Mountain are Kings Mountain North Precinct at the KM YMCA, 211 N. Cleveland Ave., and Kings Mountain South Precinct at Mauney Memo-

rial Library, 100 S. Piedmont Ave.

Other No. 4 Township voting places are Bethware Precinct at Bethlehem Baptist Church Activity Center, 1017 Bethlehem Road, Oak Grove Precinct at Oak Grove Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1022 Oak Grove Road, and Waco Precinct at Waco Community Building, 200 S. Main St., Waco.

The chief interest for area voters has emerged in the winner-take-all race for the At-Large seat on Kings Mountain City Council. Running are six candidates and no runoff will be held. Chief interest is also centered in the school board race where a

MEET THE CANDIDATES

**For City Council...1B
The Grover Race...2B**

**For School Board...1C
In Bessemer City...2B**

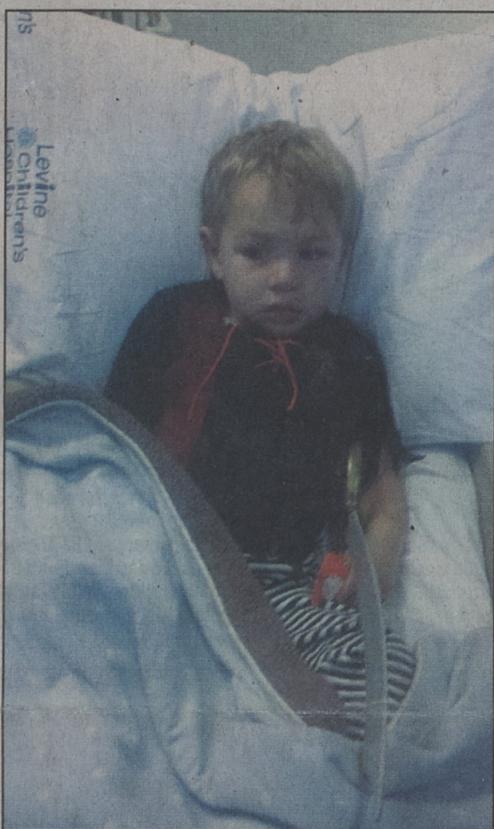
dozen candidates are seeking five open seats on the board of education.

Perennial mayoral candidate Gilbert (Pee Wee) Hamrick is contesting the mayor's seat but Hamrick has not campaigned outwardly for the position held by Rick Murphrey, a veteran of 18 years on city council and the past 12 years as mayor.

The announcement several months ago by

At-large councilman Houston Corn that he is retiring in December after eight years on council set the stage for a flurry of filing activity and all six candidates for the position have been pumping hands and responding to political forums held in the area. Candidate signs dot a wide area of the city.

See POLLS, 7A



Two-year-old Hunter Tallent rests in a hospital bed in his Halloween costume at Levine Children's Hospital battling an E. coli infection.

Toddler spends Halloween in hospital battling E. coli bacteria

EMILY WEAVER

Editor

"He seems to be having some better days. His kidneys still aren't working," said Lyndsay Bell Tallent, whose two-year-old son remains in Levine Children's Hospital after contracting E. coli.

An E. coli outbreak has been linked to the North Carolina State Fair, which the Tallents attended. Seven children and two adults have been infected with the bacteria and 15 more cases are under investigation. All 24 victims reportedly attended the State Fair in Raleigh.

State health officials linked more than 100 cases of E. coli infection to a petting zoo at the State Fair in 2004, according to the Associated Press, but the source of this outbreak is unknown.

Lyndsay said that they didn't visit the petting zoo. "We walked through a barn, but didn't touch any animals," she added. Her two sons, Hunter, who is two, and Riley, 5, are used to animals. Lyndsay, owner of Pawsitive Touch Grooming, operates her shop on her family's farm.

Lyndsay said they went to the State Fair on Saturday, Oct. 15, but never expected "to come home with this". On Wednesday, Oct. 19, Hunter started throwing up. Lyndsay thought he had a stomach virus. When Friday came and he was still sick she took him to the doctor.

"They told us it was a bug," she said. They came home and on Saturday young Hunter was worse. Vomiting and diarrhea had drained him of strength.

The Tallents went to the hospital for testing.

"They still suspected it was a bug," Lyndsay said. Tests revealed his hemoglobin was good, but little else.

"They thought maybe it was Salmonella poisoning," she said. But tests determined it wasn't that. "They didn't know what it was."

On Monday, he was much worse. "He was laying on the floor of my office just lifeless," she said.

They rushed him back to the hospital and there this nasty "bug" revealed itself to be a dangerous strain of E. coli. Hunter was transported to Charlotte Presbyterian Hospital. With his kidneys failing and a lack of specialists on-

See TODDLER, 7A

Amendment approved, rezoning approved

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By 5-2 Kings Mountain City Council last Tuesday approved a zoning ordinance text amendment that regulates recreational vehicle parks or campsites on 1,215 L-1, H-1 and R-20 parcels on 11,350 acres in the city's jurisdiction.

In a related action by 7-0, council rezoned to Light Industrial Mike Brown's Raven Drive property for an RV park.

During public hearings 40 people stood to oppose the text amendment and 40 people stood in favor of the rezoning.

Councilman Rick Moore's motion against the text amendment was followed by a substitute motion by councilmen Dean Spears and Houston Corn to approve it. Councilman Howard Shipp joined Moore in voting against the text amendment. Joining Spears and Corn in supporting it were mayor pro tem Rodney

Gordon and councilmen Mike Butler and Tommy Hawkins.

By a 5-4 vote and after a marathon meeting Oct. 11, the Planning & Zoning Board sent a recommendation to council favoring the text amendment.

Wendall Bunch, primary spokesman for those opposing the text amendment, said, "I want to bring closure for Mike Brown to move forward", calling the text amendment "out of proportion" and detailing how Brown had hauled off tons of debris, installed a mile of silting around the portion of the Gateway Trails that crosses the back of his property, and cleaned up the old Park Yarn/Glen Raven Mill site he owns. "Mike was put in a corner when all he wants to do is build a phenomenal recreation site second to none," said Bunch.

"The text change limits us to what we want to do," said Brown's son, Preston. "We're not asking for grants, we want to produce jobs, we have bars in town, we want to build something for the kids."

Preston's sister, Jayda, agreed and added "We always get halted in the mid-

See CITY, 7A

Big E brings home big trophy



Eric Pardo, the Big E of Big E's BBQ, returned home from the Carolina Smoke-off this weekend with a grand trophy for placing first in sauce.

EMILY WEAVER

Editor

Eric Pardo, chef and restaurant owner of Big E Original BBQ Company, returned home to Kings Mountain from the Carolina Smoke-off BBQ contest this weekend in Gastonia with three top 10 finishes and a first place grand trophy for having the Best Sauce.

Thirty-five teams, including cooks featured on television, traveled from as far away as Oklahoma, Texas and

New York to compete in this Kansas City Barbecue Society-sanctioned event. When the awards were announced on Sunday, Pardo said he was thrilled to hear Big E's called for first in sauce.

And to the victor goes the spoils... A tall, shiny new trophy sparkles among several others he's won throughout the years, on a table at the entrance to his restaurant. He also placed in the top 10 in the pork, chicken and ribs contests.

"I'm hoping we can carry this mo-

mentum into Hog Happnin'," Pardo said with a grin.

This weekend, he will travel to the Cleveland County Fairgrounds to compete in the final local-BBQ contest of the year, Hog Happnin'. Around 70 teams have registered to compete in the contest. Among them will be a skilled contender - a man who has continued to place in the top 10 for pork in every contest he's competed in since 2009 - Kings Mountain's own, Big E's BBQ.

City awards \$18K in facade grants

Downtown incentive facade grants totaling \$18,000 were awarded last Tuesday night by Kings Mountain City Council for three Kings Mountain properties.

Tulloss & Sons, Inc., a Texan Corporation and owners of the Clark Tire and Auto Site at 407 S. Battleground Ave. in Kings Mountain, was awarded a \$6,000 grant and Kings Mountain

property owner Robert Bolin was awarded \$6,000 for property at 130 W. Gold Street and \$6,000 for property at 238 Cherokee Street.

The maximum facade grants presented by the city are reimbursed for eligible expenses payable upon completion of the construction and issuance of a certificate of occupancy.



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