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 Mountaineers stay unbeaten at Lancaster



612 new jobs, \$1.6 billion investment

KM reaps the benefit of industry

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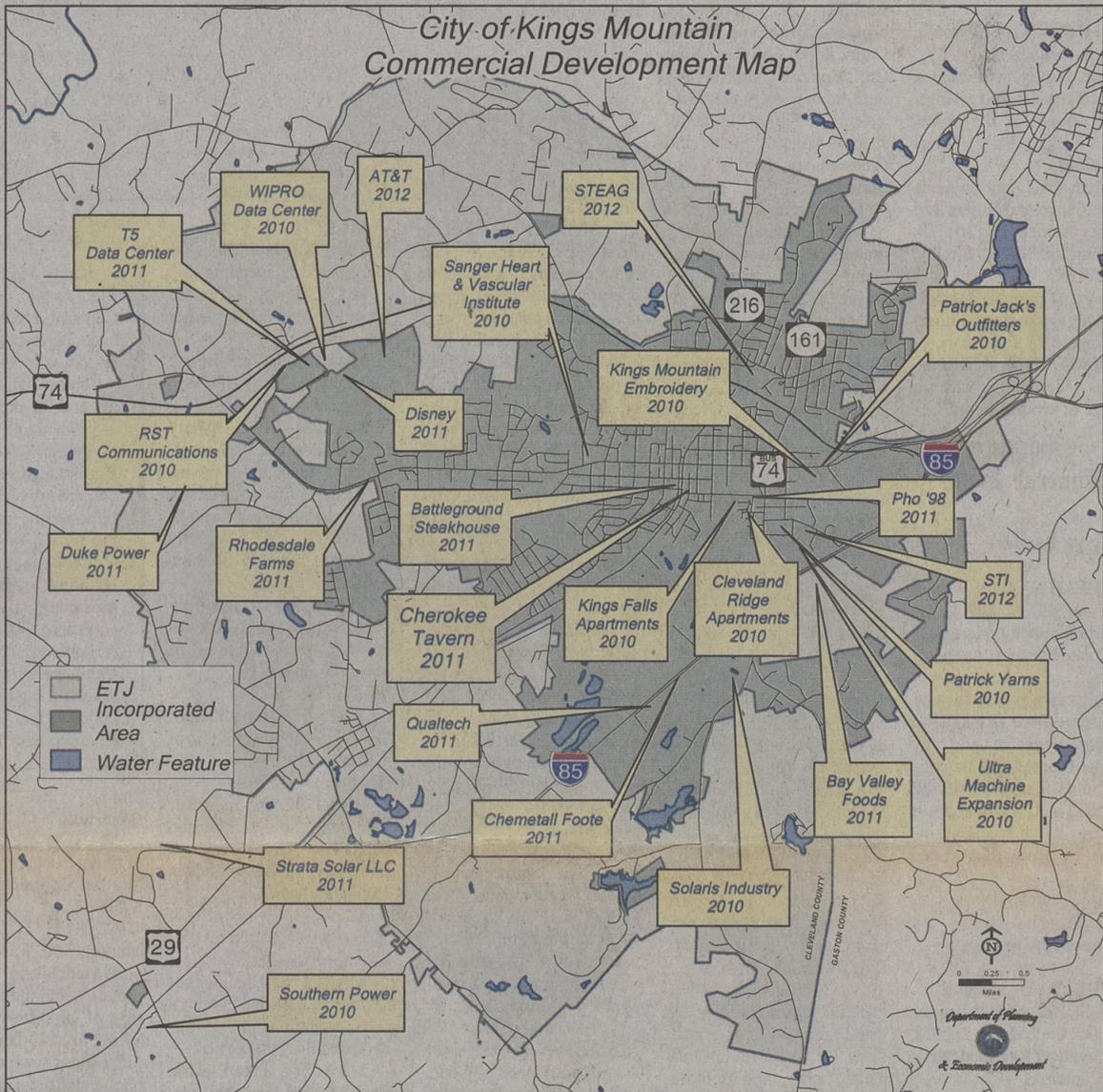
A statistical survey by "Site Selection," a trade magazine, has raised eyebrows from Kings Mountain city officials with the omission of the county's second largest city - Kings Mountain - as a jobs powerhouse for economic development in Cleveland County.

The trade journal ranked the county seat of Shelby as fifth in the nation in economic development projects with a dozen projects last year, counting the Walt Disney data park in Kings Mountain. The statistical area pinpoints the largest city, not exceeding 50,000 population, and is a national ranking of small town regions by the magazine.

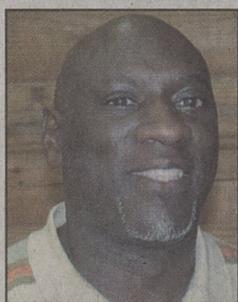
The site-selection update from the City of Kings Mountain for 2010-2012 in Kings Mountain lists 7 new industries and 4 new food establishments in 2011; seven industries, two housing complexes and one retail establishment in 2010; and three new industries in 2012 with a total creation 612 jobs and a total investment of economic development projects at \$1.6 billion. For virtually all the industries incentive grants from the city and county helped land the newcomers. The N. C. Rural Center, Community Block Grants, and downtown incentive grants also attracted economic development to the community.

AT&T's industrial announcement, just weeks ago, of it coming to the Kings Mountain T5 Data Center park on Countryside Road is the largest investment ever announced for Cleveland County. The "Cardinal," so coined by the city and

See INDUSTRY, 5A



AND THIS YEAR'S CHAMPIONS ARE...



JOHNSON



FISHER



BELL



GRAYSON

Four to be inducted into KM Hall of Fame

GARY STEWART
 Sports Editor

Three athletes who excelled on the high school and college level and a former Kings Mountain coach who led her teams to three state championships will be inducted into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame at its 25th anniversary induction ceremony Saturday, May 12 at 6 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church Christian Ministries Center.

The silver anniversary class includes football and baseball stars Chris Johnson and Kendrick Bell, baseball star Stephen Fisher and former Mountaineer softball/volleyball coach and athletic director, Suzanne

Grayson.

Grayson retired from the school system after the 2010-11 school year. During her tenure there she coached the 2001 women's volleyball team and the 2005 and 2006 softball teams to state championships. Her three state titles are the most ever by a KMHS coach.

Chris Johnson, who now lives in Hickory and is the father of current Mountaineer football player Xavier Johnson, was a two-time MVP in football for Bob Jones' Mountaineers in the mid-1970s. He went to went on to Gardner-Webb University where he was an All-District and All-American defensive back. He still owns the GWU pass inter-

reption record with 25. Johnson was also a two-time All-Conference outfielder for the Mountaineers.

Bell was also a football and baseball star for the Mountaineers in the late 1990s and still holds the all-time baseball record for stolen bases (91). He is the only KMHS baseball player ever to make All-Conference four years in a row and was team MVP his junior and senior years as well as County MVP and Gaston Player of the Year his senior year. He was the first career 1,000-yard, receiver in KMHS football and helped lead the 1998 team to the Western NC championship. He played one year of football and four years of base-

ball at North Carolina A&T University where he was baseball Rookie of the Year his freshman year and compiled a career .303 batting average.

Fisher was the State Baseball Player of the Year in 1993 when he pitched the Mountaineers to their second state championship in a remarkable five-year run in which they won over 100 games. He went on to pitch for Appalachian State University. He is now employed by Cleveland County Schools.

Several other persons will be honored at the induction ceremony. Dale Hollifield and Frankie Webster, both

See FOUR, 5A

Schools talk policy changes after state probe

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A potential new draft of system-wide policies in light of a state probe into Cleveland County Schools' maintenance department, the expected hiring of a firm for a "focused" audit and the employment Monday of Steven Boheler as the new Division I maintenance director highlighted the work session Monday night of the county board of education.

Dr. David Lee, CCS finance director, said the administration sought interest proposals from in-county auditing firms as well as regional firms "who did not think an audit of the entire three year volume of transactions is feasible." He said that a "focused audit of the maintenance department p-card transactions with sampling of all p-card (credit cards) for the period" is underway.

He said that a firm utilized by county government has been engaged for the

audit to report "on the scope of work, not give an opinion." Lee added, "It's a lot of work to pull the data." The audit is estimated to cost \$10,000-\$15,000. A three-year audit would run in the thousands of dollars, he said.

In January, a state auditor's investigation revealed that the school system maintenance department misspent thousands of local dollars, using county tax dollars to buy food, clothing, electronics and vehicle supplies for personal use and that school system employees used more than 200 credit cards.

Lee said that to date there are only 64 credit cards in use by school employees.

"We are cooperating with the SBI investigation," Supt. Dr. Bruce Boyles told school

See CCS, 5A



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