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INSIDE
Good neighbors
plant garden to
cheer up resident



3A



SPORTS, 1B

MOUNTAINEERS CREAM CAVALIERS!

Dashon Guest scored 5 touchdowns to tie a school record for the most touchdowns in a single game when the Mountaineers creamed East Rutherford Friday night in KMHS' 90th season opening game.

War in Afghanistan Hits Home

First soldier from Kings Mountain dies of injuries in combat



SPC JAMES JUSTICE

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"Over here there's no life," the last words of E/5 James Justice to his father from Afghanistan.

The 21-year-old soldier, who died of injuries from small arms fire in Wardak Province, Afghanistan, penned his own epitaph. "Let people know to appreciate the freedom and the life they have in America and be proud."

Justin's wife, the former Sissy Shronce of Grover, decided that her husband's mission of saving lives should be continued after his death as an organ donor. His lungs and heart may be

given to other wounded soldiers in Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany where James died.

This was Justice's first tour in Afghanistan after joining the US Army Infantry at age 18. He had been in Afghanistan only 30 days and spoke to his parents, Randall and Melissa Justice, in Cherryville via Skype two days before he was shot in the neck. He was in a coma two days before he died Aug. 17.

Randall Justice got a call from an Army doctor in Germany last week, 30 minutes before he was to depart to Germany to be at his son's bedside. The doctor reported to the grieving family there was no brain activity.

Saturday the Justices boarded a plane for Maryland where they joined their daughter-in-law and grandchildren Harley, Laura and Bre'onn for memorial services Sunday. The family returned home during the weekend to make funeral and burial preparations expected to be held in Kings Mountain, his sister, Lisa Bolton said.

"My brother lived the Army and loved it, volunteering to go to Afghanistan," said

Lisa who described her brother as "full of smiles, everyone loved him, funny, outgoing and athletic."

See JUSTICE, 5A

Rezoning battle to continue before city

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Faunce Properties' request for rezoning a lot at 813 W. King St. from RS-8 to Residential Office is on the agenda for Tuesday night's 6 p.m. meeting of city council.

Although city council has the final say there could be no decision if council agrees with the planning board's call to continue the public hearing until Sept. 11 at 5:30 p.m.

After a lengthy public hearing last Tuesday by the planning and zoning board, David Faunce and residents from the West Kings Mountain Neighborhood were asked to get together and make attempts to resolve what has become a controversial issue.

"I'm tired, I want you guys to get together. I've been here every time this rezoning has come up and it's time to resolve it," said P&Z member John Houze.

Other board members - Phil Dee, Christy McLeary, and Jim Potter - also urged residents of W. Mountain Street opposed to the rezoning to meet with David Faunce and be clear about what they don't want to see on the property which now houses a day care center.

"We have a list of some of those things you don't want and that's a beginning for your discussion. I hope you will have it together," said McLeary.

Melvin Ware, a resident of the Antioch Community who co-owns with his sister their family home at 815 W. Mountain St., across from the day care center, says rezoning of the Faunce property will affect property values for his home and other nearby properties.

See REZONING, 5A

City gets new early voting site

Kings Mountain voters will be able to vote early at an early voting satellite site at Boyce Memorial ARP Church on the corner of King Street and Edgemont Avenue.

The Cleveland County Board of Elections approved the site made possible by a \$2,000 donation from the City of Kings Mountain.

"We want to make voting as convenient as possible for

our citizens," said Mayor Rick Murphrey.

Election officials and city officials expect a large turnout of votes in November since voters will help decide both the presidential and gubernatorial races as well as local races including the race for three seats open on the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners. Democrat Mary Accor and Republicans Ronnie Hawkins and Johnny Hutchins, all of Kings Mountain, are running for reelection.

See CITY, 5A



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The Start of Another Year (for some)

School bells ring Monday



photo by KYRA TURNER

Melinda Canniff, kindergarten teacher at East, shows two new students, last year, their names on their owls. Left to right, Mrs. Canniff, Kaitlan Wilson, 5, Kaitlan's sister Alyee Wilson, 6, and Alexis Michael, 5 (in the foreground).

EMILY WEAVER
Editor

The wheels on the bus will go 'round and 'round and the chiming of school bells will be a familiar sound as more than 15,000 students and hundreds of teachers in Cleveland County return for the start of another school year Monday.

Teachers began to ready their rooms and lesson plans last Friday. Kings Mountain High opened its doors Tuesday night to incoming freshmen eager to see the new Freshman Academy that waits for them.

Orientation sessions for other new and returning Kings Mountain students will be held today and tomorrow (Wednesday, Aug. 22-Thursday, Aug. 23). Several new staff will be ready to greet parents and students this week throughout the county.

"We have more than 80 teachers

and certified staff new to our district this year," said CCS Spokeswoman Donna Carpenter.

Among those new faces is Kevin Queen, a former assistant principal at Crest High who will be joining the assistant principal staff at Kings Mountain High, succeeding Dianne Dooley who retired last year.

School bells at East Elementary will ring at 8:10 a.m. Monday as Principal Eric Lamanna welcomes the arrival of 264 students and nine new staff members. Robyn Wooten joins the 2008 National Blue Ribbon School and 2010 Honor School of Excellence as a new Head Start teacher. Ronna Rawls will be a new kindergarten teacher at East this year; Shelly McEntire will be new to first grade, Jada Hardin new to second grade, and Paula McDaniel new to fourth grade. Quimia Hines will be a fresh face for exceptional children at

East and other new staff members include, Title I teacher Charlie Randall, Curriculum and Technology Coordinator Terri Reid and school Psychologist Kelsey Cutchins.

"I am eagerly awaiting the start of the year! I love my job and I love East!" Lamanna said. "I am so proud of our students' hard work last year and I have missed seeing them over the summer. We have an amazing group of students."

East Elementary, Grover Elementary and North Elementary are three of five in the district designated as Title I Reward Schools for being among the highest performing in the state. The schools have been identified among the top 10 percent of all Title I schools in North Carolina for sustaining student achievement over a number of years.

See SCHOOL, 5A



Evelina

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