

Charter bus available to attend Sept. DNC

A charter bus will be leaving Cleveland County on Thursday, Sept. 6th, taking people to Charlotte for the last night of the Democratic National Convention at Bank of America Stadium where attendees will see President Obama accept the Democratic Party's nomination for re-election to the office of President of the United States.

The group will leave Cleveland Mall at 10 a.m., stopping in Kings Mountain at 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, to travel to Carrowinds parking area. There they will

board shuttle buses to go to the stadium. At the conclusion of the stadium event, these shuttle buses will return the group to Carrowinds.

Cost for riding the bus is \$15 for each participant and should be paid to Betsy Wells. Each participant needs to go to Barack-Obama.com/community-credentials to sign up for Community Credentials. If you do not have access to internet, contact Betsy Wells at 704-477-7024 or wells-betsy@gmail.com

Forty-nine seats are available and they are selling fast, says Wells.

"In 2008 in Denver, Colorado at the Broncos' Stadium, seeing the thousands of people who came to see Barack Obama accept the Democratic Party's nomination was an extremely awesome experience. I highly encourage the people of Cleveland County to grasp these once-in-a-lifetime opportunities and go to Charlotte on Sept. 3rd and Sept. 6th," Wells adds.

GOP Headquarters opens in KM



photo by LIB STEWART

GOP HEADQUARTERS OPENS - Cleveland County Republicans opened a headquarters office in Kings Mountain Saturday in the former First Union National Bank building in downtown Kings Mountain. From left, candidates on the ballot in November assist Mayor Rick Murphrey in cutting the ribbon officially opening the headquarters. From left, Rep. Tim Moore, Ronnie Hawkins, Jason Falls, Susan Allen, Murphrey, Ruth Wilson, Johnny Hutchins and Senator Warren Daniel.

JUSTICE: first soldier from Kings Mountain to die of injuries in combat in Afghanistan war

FROM Page 1

Six feet tall with an athletic build, young Justice had blonde hair and blue eyes. All he wanted to do, said Lisa, was to protect his country. "His family, his

church, his country were important to him."

Lisa said James came home to Cherryville in on Tryon Courthouse Road in April to see family and friends. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Air-

borne Brigade, Combat Team, Caserma Edrle in Vicenza, Italy where he and his wife and children resided.

"We hear all the time that President Obama is bringing the troops home and yet soldiers like my brother are still being deployed," said grief-

stricken Lisa, "I don't understand."

Local people knew James as "Justice." He grew up in Kings Mountain, attended Kings Mountain Middle School, Cherryville High School and was in the ROTC at Hunter Huss High School

in Gastonia. In Kings Mountain he attended New Beginning Church of Jesus Christ off Crocker Road.

The soldier's wife and their children returned to Cherryville with the Justices to make funeral arrangements.

"We don't know how long it will take for my brother's body to return home, probably 4-5 days, but he will have a homecoming in Kings Mountain," said his sister.

SCHOOL: bells ring Monday as thousands of students and teachers head back for another year

FROM Page 1

This year, 12 schools (the top 10 percent) are invited to submit portfolios to identify the best practices contributing to their schools' successes. They have the opportunity to represent the state in the National Title I Distinguished Schools program and are eligible for Reward School Mini Grants, with a base allotment of \$20,000 and additional funding per the school's ADM (average daily membership).

Lamanna said a key to East's success is the commitment by its staff to help students succeed. East's culture is one of team spirit and focusing on putting the chil-

dren first, he said.

"All our certified staff members stay after school and tutor students at least one day a week during the entire second semester," Lamanna said.

East, Bethware, Grover and North elementary schools will be open 3-5 p.m. Wednesday for drop-in orientation. West Elementary is set to be open for orientation 4-6 p.m. on Wednesday.

Open house sessions at Kings Mountain Intermediate will begin at 10:30 a.m. and at 5:30 p.m. for fifth graders and at 3 p.m. for sixth graders. Kings Mountain Middle will open their doors to all new and returning students and families at 10 a.m. and at 4:30 p.m. on Thurs-

day.

At Kings Mountain High, where four-year graduation rates climbed by nearly 10 percent last year, orientation for 10-12th graders begins at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday. First period starts at 8 a.m. Monday.

Principal Ronny Funderburke will welcome 341 freshmen and a total of 1,270 students to his halls this year. Several new teachers are also joining the KMHS team: Sierra Martin - English, Tara Rhom - English, Laura Boyles - Math, Laura Chapman - Math, Seth Freeman - Math, Margot Plonk - Science, Drew Howell - History, Casey Shirey - Spanish, Maurice Tate - Business, Cindy Robbs - Art, and Rachel Bye - Exceptional Chil-

dren.

Kevin Queen joins assistant principals Julie Rikard and Michael Morehead on the KMHS administrative team.

"Our scheduling team has worked tremendously hard this summer resolving conflicts so most of our students will have the opportunity to take the classes that they signed up to take," Funderburke said. "Our counselors spend a tremendous amount of time with this task. Our teachers are well-rested and we are very excited to get a new school year started."

Kings Mountain Middle Principal Dr. Brian Hunnell said he is expecting around 700 students this school year. Mrs. Mary Knight,

who will be teaching Art, and Mrs. Danithza Baker, who will be teaching Spanish, will join the staff this year.

"We are extremely excited about the upcoming school year and we are looking forward to making this the best year ever at KMMS!" he said on Monday. "We are truly blessed with a wonderful staff and community."

Classes at Kings Mountain Intermediate and North Elementary begin at 8 a.m. Monday. The school day starts at 8:05 a.m. at West, at 7:55 a.m. at Kings Mountain Middle, and at 8:10 at Bethware, East and Grover.

REZONING: battle between developer and neighbors to come up before city council Tuesday night

FROM Page 1

"As if market conditions were not already bad enough, zoning the day care property for commercial use will only serve to depreciate home values making it all the more difficult to market our properties for residential use," said Ware. He added that commercial development in any form would be detrimental to the historic neighborhood and be the catalyst for further development in any form.

Faunce has not stipulated how the property might be used under a new zoning classification.

"This is a piece of property with unique interface," said Faunce. "I'm one guy trying to maximize my property and I want the opportunity for the best use and to sell and develop it. It's a business, there won't be condos, I wouldn't live in a condo if you paid me. I am not in this business to destroy a neighborhood. What will happen out there will be good for the neighborhood."

Ware said R-O zoning opens the door to 48 new business categories including such things as barber and beauty shops, tattoo parlors, tanning salons, finance companies and even a

drug store, to name a few. Also permitted are a variety of office uses, which he said could result in a multi level office building up to 50 feet, apartments, townhouses and condominiums, the very last thing he said zoning in June 2000 was done to prevent.

Mary Lillian Lewis Nance said she grew up on W. Mountain Street where her son, Lewis, resides. Both said that families vested in their homes, saying the rezoning could set a precedent, the values of property would decrease and people would start moving out of an area where a portion of West Mountain has been designated a historical area.

"I'm against it, don't put apartments and condos there. People love this neighborhood," said Mrs. Nance. In previous rezoning of the same property, she said a total of 500 signatures against the rezoning were presented.

"Residential Office is not as benign as it sounds because many uses are inconsistent with a residential, single family neighborhood," said Helen Hatch, adding the geography of this site is different from other sites on King Street because

of the way King turns and the streets come to a point.

Mrs. Hatch says there's more frontage on Mountain than on King and the rezoning would allow heavy retail traffic entering and exiting directly on W. Mountain with lights, noise, and the view of dumpsters and parking lots ruining the livability of houses near the rezoned lot. Hatch says the uses authorized by R-O are even worse for the adjoining residential district than the rezoning requested on the four previous failed rezoning attempts.

"The landowner is essentially asking the Planning and Zoning board to put money in his pocket - at the expense of the community just so he can flip this property," Hatch said.

"This rezoning request is going to come up over and over," Phil Dee said. "We would be better to address it and come up with something that respects the property owners and acknowledge the site."

Said Houze, "Change is inevitable. They (the property owners) want to know what's going on that site and they just need to get-to-gether."

CITY: to get new early voting site at local church in October

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The local early voting site will be open Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. beginning October 29 and continue through Friday, Nov. 2. The site will also be open on Saturday morning, Nov. 3, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The two polling sites on election day Nov. 6 are the YMCA and Mauney Memorial Library.

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Central United Methodist Church

113 S. Piedmont Ave., Kings Mountain

704.739.2417 ext.12

Classes Begin September 4th

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