

Kings Mountain Herald

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Property revaluation expected to begin in 2014

Property revaluation is coming and county commissioners will discuss the expected 2014 revaluation at a work session in April. Commission Vice-Chairman Jason Falls of Kings Mountain said there has been some change in the real estate landscape since 2007

but there haven't been "a lot of arms-length sales," he said. Falls said the market has really slowed down in the last 4-5 years and there have been home foreclosures in Cleveland County. He noted that as the economy worsened and the foreclosure-re-

lated sales climbed that commissioners in 2012 put off calling for a revaluation of county property for two years. The state requires that such assessments be done at least once every eight years. The last revaluation was in 2007, effective in

2008. Preliminary work on the revaluation is already underway at the Cleveland County Tax Office. Chris Green and his staff are compiling data from prior years and developing a formula for tax values. Additionally, property spot checks

may be conducted by county staff. The process of attaching new values to properties all over Cleveland County is a challenge, Falls acknowledged. Falls said the commission will also talk about goal-setting at its next work session.

CCS eyeing job cuts

"We need to be prepared" says Boyles

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Cleveland County Schools officials awaiting state and federal funding decisions could see job cuts in the 2013-2014 budget year.



Dr. Bruce Boyles

But Supt. Dr. Bruce Boyles, in a budget address during the recent work session of the school board, said the system is not going to create a budget on what legislators may or may not do. "We are focusing our attention on the needs of our school system and the achievement of our system's goals," said Boyles.

"It's just something we need to be prepared for," he said.

Boyles said the current proposed budget at the state level does not cut any teacher salaries but funding still goes through the N. C. General Assembly. He said the Governor's state budget includes cuts for teacher assistants but no local positions have been identified. Teachers could lose tenure because of the Excellence in Teaching Act, charter schools could also come into play in the new year budget and Title I schools could face an 8 percent cut from federal money.

This year instead of worrying about the "fiscal cliff" school leaders are focusing attention on sequestration - mandated automatic across-the-board federal budget cuts. Boyles said all federal education funding will be subject to the automatic reductions but they will be most apparent in programs like Title I and Title VI-B. These programs together are more than \$8 million dollars for Cleveland County schools and an across the board reduction would exceed \$600,000 per year.

Boyles said that the system made staffing adjustments early in the budget crisis last year and employees were spared the pain of either actual job losses or threats of job loss. The system implemented the classified salary equalization at the school level; increased certified supplements 10% for the second consecutive year; added curriculum technical coordinators; increased months of employment for Assistant Principals in the secondary schools; and added technology specialists with an ever increasing investment in instructional technology.

See SCHOOLS, 6A



Art Exhibit



Gary Freeman, a volunteer at SASI and head of the Gaston College Art Department, helps to hang paintings Monday morning for the National Watercolor Society Traveling Exhibit which opens April 6 at the Depot.

Photo by ELLIS NOELL

SASI to host watercolor exhibit

The Southern Arts Society (SASI) has been selected to host The National Watercolor Society (NWS) Traveling Exhibit, one of five stops in the United States.

The exhibit will open on Saturday, April 6 at the Art Depot, 301 N. Piedmont Avenue, and continue until Friday, May 17. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

"We are excited and honored to be chosen as the only Southeast location to showcase these

amazing collections of watercolor artists. The exhibit consists of 30 paintings from artists across the U.S. who were selected to be part of the traveling show," said Bernice Chappell, chair of the exhibit.

Located at the old Southern Railway Station in Kings Mountain, the 1920's historic depot now serves as a gallery, exhibit hall and provides classrooms for art workshops. The Depot is also

See EXHIBIT, 5A

Shriners provide help, hope for Toney family

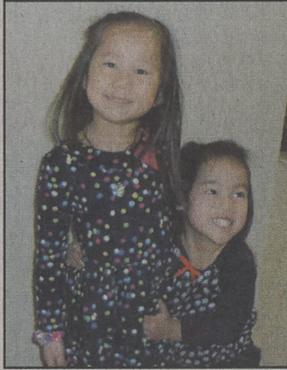
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Mark and Audrey Toney are grateful for the work of Shriners Hospitals for Children after adopting two special-needs orphans from China.

"We wanted to adopt to help provide a forever home to children who might find placement a little more challenging," said Audrey.

Nearly three years ago the Kings Mountain couple and their biological daughter, Allison, now 19, fell in love with the angelic face of Anna Grace, now 4, and were thrilled to learn that Shriners Hospital in Greenville, SC could help her receive the medical treatment she needed to correct a birth defect that kept her fingers from developing properly.

A year ago - March 31, 2012 - the Tonys returned to China and Maria Jane, now 3, became their



Anna Grace, left, and Maria Jane Toney

third daughter.

Anna Grace and Maria Jane, although not blood kin, look alike. They have beautiful black hair and dark eyes, have become westernized very quickly, love their church,

See SHRINERS, 5A

Jimmy Wayne headlines upcoming Music Festival

Gospel groups to kick off event

In a twist of fate that sounds straight out of Hollywood, country music sensation and strong advocate for children Jimmy Wayne comes home to Kings Mountain for a two-day music festival Friday and Saturday-April 12-13 - hosted by the popular Bluegrass duo Darin and Brooke Aldridge at Joy Theatre.

Wayne will headline the April 13 show at 8 p.m. Advance tickets are \$25. Saturday afternoon, April 13, the music will be free and non-profit organizations are encouraged to participate in a street festival style atmosphere near the theatre on S. Railroad Avenue.

The Friday night April 12 concert at 7 p.m. will feature three styles of music. "Men Standing for Christ" will bring the energy and tight harmonies of a cappella African American gospel; Hall of Fame quartet "The Kingsmen" had the top song



Jimmy Wayne will headline Saturdays performances at Music Fest, April 12-13

on the 2012 gospel chart and Darin and Brooke Aldridge, who have moved to the top of the charts in Bluegrass music nominated for their bluegrass and gospel songs, will be on the concert stage on next Friday and also on next Saturday. The popular Aldridges have gone from newlyweds to national prominence in just four years. They have released

See MUSIC FEST, 5A

Shriners BBQ Saturday

White Plains Shrine Club members and Auxiliary are ready for the big barbecue sale Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on the Mauney lot at the corner of Gold Street and York Road for benefit of

Shriners Hospitals. Club President Ricky Carroll expressed appreciation to the Mauneys whose property has been the scene of the traditional barbecue fundraiser for 30 years.

US 74 bypass finally set to begin in 2014

Workmen are expected to start moving dirt next year, working from West Shelby toward Kings Mountain, on the US 74 Bypass of Shelby which is tentatively scheduled for completion in 2030.

Meantime, commissioners from the counties of Polk and Rutherford adopted a resolution last week asking the Department of Transportation to study the possibilities of an interstate-style freeway network that would connect the mountains with the coast.

Cleveland County commissioners, after meeting with the two boards in Forest City, chose to put off adoption of the proposal for fur-

ther study. They may talk about the resolutions at the April work session.

"We sure don't want to throw a kink in the plan to get the road under construction," said Commissioners Johnny Hutchins and Jason Falls.

A US 74 project has been in the works for more than 30 years as an alternate route around Shelby and for which construction is finally scheduled to begin in 2014.

Falls said that DOT officials said the portion of the new Bypass around Shelby is scheduled to be built to Interstate standards and the portion of highway West of Shelby to freeway standards.



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