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Ready to hit the trail?

Gateway Trail designated as national recreation trail

Under President Obama's America's Great Outdoors program to promote outdoor recreation and reconnect Americans to nature, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Director of the National Park Service Jonathan B. Jarvis have announced the designation of Kings Mountain Gateway Trail among 28 trails as national recreation trails, adding almost 650 miles of trails to the National Trails System.

The Gateway Trail is the only trail in

North Carolina to receive this designation in 2013.

"From coast to coast, the National Trails System helps connect American families with the wonders of the great outdoors," said Secretary Jewell. "These 28 new national recreation trails, established through partnerships with local communities and stakeholders, connect federal, state and local lands and waters to provide access to inexpensive, enjoyable outdoor activities for all Americans."

"Today's trails span 18 states and join a network of more than 1,200 previously designated trails that total more than 15,000 miles," said Director Jarvis.

National recreation trail designation recognizes existing trails and trail systems that link communities to recreational opportunities on public lands and in local parks across the nation. Communities and other partners supporting the establishment of the new national recreation trails receive a certificate of designation, a letter of congratulations from Secretary Jewell, and a set of national recre-



Walkers on the Kings Mountain Gateway Trail. *KMH file photo*

ation trail markers.

The national recreation trail program is jointly administered by the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service in con-

See GATEWAY TRAIL, 6A

Starbucks coming to KM

Coffee giant will operate a kiosk in Ingles

DAVE BLANTON

dave.kmherald@gmail.com

Half-decaf venti caramel mocha frappuccino with vanilla bean powder and extra ice, anyone? Or maybe just a muffin to go?

Starbucks, the world's most famous coffee shop, is coming to town in August.

Construction is already under way for a kiosk situated within Ingles on Hwy. 74.

For now, workers slip in under the cover of night, when the grocery store is closed, to get the small cafe built.

"I'm sure I'm not the only one who's excited about this," said Mayor Rick Murphey. "They brew great coffee."

Once Starbucks opens, Ingles says it may broaden its own hours to before 7 a.m. for early morning sippers who crave the iconic brand's offerings. Ingles will eventually discontinue its own drip coffee sales, according to store manager Lisa Golden.

The new addition was good news for Kim Wesler, a Wilmington native who is new to the area. "I just heard about it today. Great, really great. I miss it," the pet groomer said of the popular chain. "I might have to come every day."

Ingles, headquartered in Black Mountain, opened its Kings Mountain store in 2008. The local store employs about 150 people. The Starbucks will

See STARBUCKS, 6A

Come on down to the Bethware Fair!

Fair opens June 25

There's something about a Fair and that something is expected to draw crowds to the 65th annual Bethware Fair which opens Tuesday, June 25, at 6 p.m. on the grounds of Bethware School.

The Fair runs June 25-27 from 6-10 p.m. and on June 28-29 from 6-11 p.m. Admission is free and all festivities are held in the track-field area adjacent to Bethware Elementary School.

While the Fair always features rides, booths and food, the sponsoring Bethware Progressive Club members will debut several new attractions this year. Bingo will be held every night in the school's auditorium, texting competitions will be featured each evening, and a display of RV campers will be available for public viewing each night. Themed "car shows" will give auto enthusiasts a unique opportunity to enjoy new cars, motorcy-



Isaiah Sadler had fun ringing the bell on a train at the 2012 Bethware Fair. *KMH file photo*

cles, trucks, and 4-wheel drive vehicles, rat rods, and classic cars.

For many years, animals and agriculture have played an impor-

tant role at the Fair but this year officials have decided to have no live animals on the premises. Instead, students will participate in a

unique "barnyard animal" project as a way to pay homage to the importance of farms and agriculture in the Bethware Community.

Music, muskets, and fireworks to highlight July 4th

The City of Kings Mountain will celebrate the 4th of July with a "Revolutionary 4th!" at the Walking Track Park in Kings Mountain Thursday, July 4 beginning at 5 p.m.

There will be music, muskets and fireworks at this the largest Independence Day event between Charlotte and Asheville.

The opening of the Colonial Era Living History Encampment next to the Children's Playground on Cleveland Avenue (Hwy 161) will kick off the event.

Revolutionary War militias participating include the 84th Highland Immigrant Militia, the South Fork Militia and the Charlestowne Artillery. The militias will gather at the historic encampment and participate with musket and cannon fire demonstrations, and children's militia muster and games. Everyone is invited to learn about, and sign, the Declaration of Independence. Colonial craft-making skills will be shared throughout the encampment with opportunities to talk to all the re-enactment groups.

At 6 p.m. "The Chris Marks Band" will perform at the Neisler Stage at the Walking Track Park with a concert featuring their unique rock and country music, "southern style". Beginning at 9 p.m. there will be a patriotic opening ceremony with a parade featuring the Loch Norman Pipe Band and the colonial militias led by Mayor Rick

See REVOLUTIONARY 4TH, 6A

Young readers amped for summer program

DAVE BLANTON

dave.kmherald@gmail.com

More than 250 youngsters joined in dancing, singing, mascot hugging and puzzle solving on Friday to kick off Mauney Memorial Library's summer reading program at Central United Methodist Church.

A polka musician - complete with lederhosen and accordion - worked the children into a frenzy with a round of silly songs and fun questions. The Chick-Fil-A cow and the Gaston Grizzly also paid a visit to help launch the series, which runs through July 24 and features dozens of special events and guest speakers.

A small swarm of teenaged volunteers was on hand to help things go smoothly Friday, and they'll pitch in for the six-week program. With about 800 area kids signed up,



Adrian Martin, 7, a student at Marion Elementary in Shelby, cozies up with a book about reptiles and amphibians. *photo by DAVE BLANTON*

See SUMMER READING, 6A,

No property tax hikes expected

Cleveland County commissioners were expected Tuesday night, after public hearing, to approve incentives for Project Gnome, a code name for an economic development project involving a Kentucky-based company looking to bring 94 new jobs to the Shelby area.

The board of commissioners was also expected to approve the 2013-14 county budget which proposes no hike in property tax rates in the 2013-14 fiscal year budget. The current property tax is 57 cents per \$100 valuation.

County employees are also expected to have more change in their pockets with a proposed raise in pay.



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