

BEACH BLAST: Saturday at Patriots Park

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awards.

Can you cook a hamburger? Space is available for you to show off your skills with the "Best Burger of Beach Blast". VFW Post 9811 will be registering entries. Judges will include KM Fire Department Chief Frank Burns, the organizer of the 2013 Firehouse BBQ Cook-off, Cathy Noell, popular food writer with the Hargett Media Group, and Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey.

Contestants are required to provide their own gas grill (no charcoal) and any ingredients to make the team's entry. Details and registration forms are at www.cityofkm.com and entry fee is \$20. Hamburger meat will be provided by Ora Supermarket for the competitors to use as the base for their "best burger."

Visitors are encouraged to bring their appetites and participate in the watermelon eating contest sponsored by 238 Cherokee Grill, Tom's Family Mart and Cee Jay's Landscaping. The competition is free and begins at 1:45 p.m. with no registration required.

Another fun event is the Ice-cream Crank-off for benefit of Relay for Life, the Green Banana Project, sponsored by the Kings Mountain Herald. There is a \$5 entry

fee and registration is from 11 a.m. to 12 noon Saturday at Patriots Park. Judging and public tasting starts at 1 p.m.

Beach music fans can shag for hours to music by the Fantastic Shakers, celebrating their 30th anniversary of providing classic beach music, the Free Flow band from Asheville and the Craig Woolard band wrapping up a full day of music, family fun at this popular foothills summer festival.

Fifty vendors in the Park will be offering a variety of goodies plus unique arts and collectibles for sale to the public.

The Rotary Splash Pad and Water Wars will be a popular spot for kids. Various amusement rides will be a fun spot for youngsters.

At 3:45 p.m. the mayor will conduct the annual beach ball drop, a highlight of the event, from high up in the Kings Mountain Fire Department Ladder 1 fire truck.

"It's good family fun in a beach setting and everyone is invited to come out and enjoy the festivities," said Mayor Rick Murphrey.

Shelby Wiley waves to the judges in the 2012 Teenie-Weenie Bikini Contest. She won 3rd place in her age division last year.

KMH file photo



Beach Blast Schedule of Special Events

Saturday, July 20

Patriots Park • 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

downtown Kings Mountain

- 10 a.m. - Festival Opens/Gazebo stage opens
 - Welcome - Mayor Rick Murphrey
 - Teams will begin grilling hamburgers in the Best Backyard Burger contest. See details and registration forms at www.cityofkm.com.
 - Craft/Food Vendors
 - Waterwars
 - Eurobungee
- 10:15 a.m. - Zumba Party w/Jennifer Stacey
- 11 a.m. - Dance
- 11 a.m. - Registration for the Ice Cream Crank-off, a fundraiser for the Green Banana Project. Look for the registration form in this week's Herald!
- 12 noon - Teenie Weenie Bikini Contest at the Gazebo and presentation of awards to winners.
- 1 p.m. - Judging and public tasting of the Green Banana Ice Cream Specialty of the Year at the Kings Mountain Herald space in the Park
- 1 p.m. - Concert: The Fantastic Shakers
- 1:45 p.m. - Watermelon eating contest. No registration required.
- 2 p.m. - Awards ceremony: Grilling competition
Awards ceremony: Ice Cream Crank-off
- 3:45 p.m. - Beach Ball Drop from high up in the KMFD Ladder No. 1 fire truck.
- 4 p.m. - Concert: Free Flow
- 7 p.m. - Concert: The Craig Woolard Band
- 10 p.m. - Festival closes

FIELD HOUSE: construction continues despite wet weather

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trainers.

The new field house is the brainchild of the Kings Mountain Touchdown Club and David Brinkley, the organization's president and founder. Together they've raised nearly \$874,000 in cash donations and promised gifts and close to \$184,000 in donated work by local builders, suppliers and contractors.

"The community has really got behind the project," said Brinkley. "But we still have a ways to go."

The Touchdown Club is \$172,000 short of its goal to complete funding of the \$1.2 million project, Brinkley said, adding that he wants to raise all the needed money through contributions. The initiative has won an approval for a large bank loan should fundraising goals not be met in time to meet construction costs.

Donations have come from all over the Kings Mountain community, he said, from individuals and business who gave \$50 or \$100 to others who contributed up to \$10,000.

"We've been really blessed, really lucky that there is so much pride in the Mountaineers," said Brinkley, a Valdesse native who played defensive back at

Western Carolina University before moving to Kings Mountain in 1978 to teach history, physical education and coach varsity football, girls softball and girls basketball at the high school. After a three-year stint in education, Brinkley began an investment business in town.

The facility, which has not been named yet, broke ground in the fall of 2012. This week, through the wet weather that has plagued the area recently, a plumbing subcontractor was laying pipes and other foundation elements at the site, which is located between the football, baseball and soccer fields. Cleveland County Schools Assistant Superintendent for Operations John Yarbrow and coaches at the school picked the location, Brinkley said.

Talk of building a modern facility to anchor the school's prep sports began in 2009 when the Touchdown Club was just four years old. Board members started to kick around ideas, research the numbers and look into fundraising opportunities.

The non-profit group felt that Kings Mountain High School athletics had outgrown the current field house, which was built in the early 1970s and is situated behind the northern end zone.

By April of last year, a



This artist rendering shows the proposed facade of the finished field house.

proposal to raise funds for and build the new field house was presented to the Cleveland County Board of Education. The initiative got the green light six months later. All the building and construction cost for the project come from privately raised money. Once completed, it will be maintained and supported by public funds.

Hall Builders, owned and operated by Tommy Hall, is contracting the project, a service he is providing at cost, Brinkley said.

The construction of a new field house represents stage one of a broader goal by the Touchdown Club. Stage two will include building a new press box, concessions stands and restroom facilities for John Gamble Stadium.

Brinkley said he's worked hard raising the money, but insists the credit goes to the generous donors,

the Kings Mountain High School athletic department, his organization's board members and people in the community who have done their part to raise awareness about the project.

"Gary Stewart has been a

big help," Brinkley said. "He's great at putting this project in historical context. He's the sports historian of this town and everyone knows it."

He also wants to give special thanks to Roger Hol-

land of Holland and Hamrick Architecture, which donated all of its services to the project.

The Touchdown Club, which had about 120 members last year, raises money in two ways: a spring golf tournament and through membership drives. Membership is \$100 a year.

Tax-deductible donations can be made to the Touchdown Club by mailing contributions to Kings Mountain Touchdown Club, P.O. Box 2017, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

To learn more about the organization and the field house project, visit <http://kingsmountaintouchdownclub.webs.com/>



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