



Football Mini-Camp 1B

Baseball as Art 3A

Kings Mountain Herald

kmherald.net

Volume 125 • Issue 31 • Wednesday, July 31, 2013 • 75¢

*****FIRM 28086
307 04-17-14 0024A00 5P 3S
MAUNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY
100 S PIEDMONT AVE
KINGS MOUNTAIN NC 28086-3450

HOT ENOUGH FOR YOU?
Beat the heat with one of our great Home Comfort Systems!
Innovation never felt so good.
Dilling Heating Co.
Premier Dealer™
Sales & Service Since 1955 • Lic. #09350
1250 Linwood Rd., Kings Mountain
704.739.3446 or Mobile 704.297.0397

Miller out for season after wreck

DAVE BLANTON
dave.kmherald@gmail.com

A star player on the KMHS football team will likely miss the entire season after an automobile accident last week left him hospitalized with serious neck injuries, according to sources close to the student's family.



Jacob Miller, 17

Jacob Miller, a rising senior who played linebacker and was set to switch to running back in the 2013 season, fractured several vertebrae when the pick-up truck he was riding in overturned at high speeds on U.S. 74 on Wednesday. The other two passengers in the vehicle — also members of the school's football team — were treated and released for minor injuries the day of the crash.



Collen Queen, 16

Collen Queen, 16, lost control of the white pickup he was driving and overturned on Hwy. 74, near the Oak Grove Rd. exit, according to N.C. Highway Patrol Sgt. Tony Luckadoo.



Khalil Hopper, 17

Khalil Hopper, 17, was ejected from the bed of the truck. Miller was pinned in the cab with Queen.

Hopper and Queen were admitted to Cleveland Regional Medical Center. Miller was taken to Carolinas Medical Center, where he remains. Sources close to the family say doctors are confident Miller will not suffer long-term injuries from the crash.

Miller, who was also a member of the school's wrestling team last season, posted a video of himself on YouTube where he can be seen lying in a hospital bed and wearing a halo stabilizer. In the video he thanks the Family Worship Center, where he attends church, and asks viewers to pray for him. He also talks of his faith and encourages others to "be careful."

Queen faces charges of exceeding safe speed and having too many passengers in a vehicle per the guidelines of the North Carolina graduated license program. Troopers on the scene estimated the vehicle's speed at 70 mph.

Police, rescue to reach out with free food, music

The City of Kings Mountain will celebrate National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 6, at Patriots Park from 6-9 p.m. Local law enforcement and first responders will have displays and exhibits set up for the community to learn about their agencies and get a better understanding of the services they provide.

The Kings Mountain Police Department

See NATIONAL NIGHT OUT, 7A



8 98525 00200 1



FUN AT THE LIBRARY — Mark Lippard hoists Sarah Adams on his shoulder for a ride on a unicycle at the closing day of the Summer Reading Program for Mauney Memorial Library. Hundreds of young people have enjoyed summer reading during a number of events held at Central United Methodist Church education building.

Photo by ELLIS NOELL

Schools brace for cuts

Larger class sizes, fewer new books and smaller teacher incentives are a few likely outcomes of the education cuts, officials say.

DAVE BLANTON
dave.kmherald@gmail.com

Cleveland County School administrators are taking a hard look at the numbers they have to work with going into the 2013-2014 year after the state legislature approved a budget last week that education officials say was not kind to local school systems.

Administrators say the lean funding could result in the loss of about 55 certified teachers and 45 teacher assistants, according to Cleveland County Schools

2013-14 budget: estimated cuts for Cleveland County Schools

Approximately 55 licensed teacher positions.

Approximately 45 teacher assistant positions.

75% decrease in money for textbooks

Source: Cleveland County Schools
Financial Director David Lee

Financial Director David Lee
See SCHOOL BUDGET, 6A

Richardson named new county manager

ELIZABETH STEWART
lib.kmherald@gmail.com

Jeff Richardson, 50, Deputy City Manager of the City of Asheville and with close ties to Cleveland County, will start his new job as Cleveland County manager in September.

"With over 22 years of local government experience, Jeff will complement our fantastic team of county employees," said County Commission Chairman Ronnie Hawkins as commissioners announced at a special meeting Monday morning that Richardson had accepted the job.

Hawkins said that Richardson has a proven track record in Asheville as a local government leader who is community oriented, collaborative, a problem solver and one who is active and accessible in the community he served.

Commissioners concurred he was the perfect fit for the county.

Richardson's benefits and salary are the same as the former county manager Eddie Bailes, who resigned for personal rea-



Jeff Richardson, right, Cleveland County's new manager is pictured with Commissioner Ronnie Hawkins.

Photo by LIB STEWART

sons April 30, 2013. His annual salary will be \$159,000 and in addition to the benefits will be paid moving expenses as his family relocates from Asheville to Shelby.

Richardson was hired by then-county manager Lane Alexander in 1991 as Human

Resources Director and moved to Asheville in 1997 to become that city's human resource director, moving up four years later to the position of deputy city manager.

"I am excited about the opportunity to come back to Cleveland County and jump back into

county government," said Richardson who was greeted warmly by department heads and former acquaintances in commissioners chambers of the Charles Harry administrative office building in Shelby at 11 a.m. Monday.

Richardson said his family's prior time in Cleveland County was very special and the community made it that way. "I see so many good things moving in a positive direction and it is clear that the county's elected leadership is committed to continue its investments for long term success. There is much more to accomplish and I am so excited to join Cleveland County's team at this time. It's been 16 years but I see a lot of familiar faces in this audience this morning," he said.

Hawkins said that commissioners began interviewing candidates for the position of county manager on July 9 and invited four of 30 applicants to come to Shelby for interviews. They said that Richardson's name kept

See RICHARDSON, 7A

'Building the Future' fund continues to grow

ELIZABETH STEWART
lib.kmherald@gmail.com

"Building the Future" campaign for funds for an expansion of the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life & Conference Center now totals \$461,000 or 43% of the \$1.2 million goal.

Monty Thornburg, the city's veteran director of the senior program, says that a steering committee to oversee the campaign will officially kick off the public fundraising campaign after Labor Day.

Currently, research developer Carl Elliott is contacting businesses, foundations and professionals in the county and surrounding region for initial pledges. Elliott directed the successful 1999 fundraiser to build the senior center and four previous funding campaigns

in Kings Mountain.

"We are currently recruiting campaign co-chairs and a full 15-member steering committee," said Thornburg. He said that Mayor Rick Murphrey will serve as honorary chairman of the fund drive which runs July 2013 to January 2014.

Thornburg said that many rooms for senior programs at the Patrick Center are now stretched because of rapid growth including



Monty Thornburg

the crafts and computer rooms, financial/Medicare counseling offices, game room, multipurpose meeting rooms and there is insufficient storage space. He said expanding the 17,000 square foot building by 4,305 square feet will allow for meetings for outside business and non-profit groups that use the facility as a conference center.

An expanded lunch program, another feature of the program, will also allow the center to prepare and serve meals in-house and increase food services for use of conference facilities, said Thornburg. The expansion will add new space for a multi-purpose meeting room, also to be used for crafts, an exercise room, computer lab, nutritionist office, storage space, a new rear lobby area, two new

See SENIOR CENTER, 7A



Creating Dazzling Smiles that Brighten Your Life!

Preventative, Restorative & Cosmetic Dentistry

To schedule an appointment contact Baker Dental Care today! Call 704-739-4461

703 E. Kings St., Suite 9, Kings Mountain • www.BakerDentalCare.com

Now Open on Fridays!