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Farmers market debuts Saturday

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Kings Mountain is getting its own farmers market, thanks to a collaborative effort between the city, the county, the local agricultural cooperative extension program and others.

The market starts up this Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and organizers are expecting about 10 vendors in its first weeks until it gathers momentum and attracts more local growers, producers and artisans, said Kings Mountain Main Street Director Jan Harris.



Margot Plonk

Helping to spearhead the market was Margot Plonk, who started working in July with Shelby's Foothills Farmers Market to establish a satellite location in Kings Mountain. The Foothills Farmers Market maintains two markets in Shelby and is looking to establish one in Boiling Springs. Plonk has been named Kings Mountain's satellite market manager.

"We're still working on certifying (the vendors)," said Plonk, a marathon-runner who's into "the healthy lifestyle and healthy eating."

She's also teaches earth science at Kings Mountain High School, where part of the coursework in that class is the subject of sustainable living. She's trying to start a program where the school's cafeteria composts its waste and other initiative that will have students grow their own campus vegetable garden.

"This goes hand in hand with the farmers market's mission too," she said.

The Foothills Farmers' Market in downtown Kings Mountain will be located on South Railroad Avenue between Gold and Mountain Streets and runs through Oct. 12. For the 2014 growing season, the market looks to be open from early May through October.

"We've tried it before," said Shirley Brutko, the Chamber of Commerce's Kings Mountain representative. "Several times over the years we've tried to make this happen ... I think the excitement is really there this time around."

The Foothills Farmers Market is a grower-certified market that provides community access to fresh foods and endorses sustainable production practices and innovation, according to the organization's mission statement.

One of organizers' chief goals is on the health front, where it hopes to increase access to and consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables.

"It's a healthy idea for everyone," Harris
See FARMERS MARKET, 7A



Meet the young Ambassador

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Isaiah Jasper (Bootsy) Ware, 2 1/2, can't say 'ambassador' but one day the toddler will see in his scrapbook pictures what his family is excited about this week.

The 2013 Ambassador for the 75th anniversary March of Dimes, Isaiah is a healthy "all boy."

He plays with his doting sister, Mackenzie, 7, Bethware School second grader, as his parents, Brandi and Brian Ware, make plans for Isaiah's debut as grand marshal of a big walk-a-thon benefit in October for the March of Dimes.

Isaiah's Prayer Warriors will also take part in the benefit.

The countywide walk will be held October 5 in Shelby. March of Dimes leaders kicked off plans for the event at a breakfast at Cleveland Regional Hospital Wednesday morning. All proceeds will help premature babies grow into healthy youngsters.

"Our Bootsy was born March 3, 2011 at 10:08 p.m., 10 weeks early, by emergency Caesarean section," said Brandi Ware. "I couldn't feel him move and we rushed to the hospital and we were so



Isaiah Ware

See WARE, 7A

Radeker sentenced for fraud

Linda Smoot Radeker, 72, a mental health counselor from Shelby and wife of a former Cleveland County district attorney, was sentenced to six years in prison Thursday for defrauding Medicaid of \$6.1 million that involved after-school programs in Kings Mountain, Shelby and Bessemer City that were, in fact, owned and operated by Radeker's conspirators.

Anne M. Tompkins, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina, said Radeker was also sentenced to serve two years under court supervision and to pay \$6,156,674.68 as restitution to Medicaid.

"Instead of assisting North Carolina families in need, Linda Radeker exploited them, using their Medicaid benefits to file false claims for her own profit. Thursday's sentencing

See RADEKER, 7A

King, Bingham are 'Distinguished Women'

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Kings Mountain's Dr. Jane Cabe King and Dr. Laura Carpenter Bingham are among four women from the county to be honored as "Distinguished Women of 2013" at the Cleveland County Commission for Women's 22nd annual banquet, August 22 at the LeGrand Center in Shelby.

Bingham, a Kings Mountain native, is the daughter of Charles and Marion Carpenter now of Raleigh, and is a former college president, executive in several diverse areas, and female activist. She is married to Warren Bingham of Raleigh.

King, wife of Jerry King, is a

former Kings Mountain school administrator, college teacher and church volunteer.

Also to be honored are Jane Sisk Cooke, church organist, community musical director and piano teacher and Mary Gentry Degree, first female to head the Cleveland County NAACP, elementary teacher and church leader.

Tickets for the banquet are \$35 and may be purchased through

Tuesday at the Cleveland County Arts Council from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. weekdays.

Dr. King, who retired this month as Assistant Professor in the School of Education at Gardner-Webb University and as director of the Elementary Master's Program, is a veteran of 44 years in education beginning as a teacher in grades 4-8 in Macon

See DISTINGUISHED WOMEN, 14A



Dr. Jane King



Dr. Laura Bingham

Red Clay Ramblers at the Joy Saturday

The prolific and popular Red Clay Ramblers, a folk and country band from North Carolina that's been around longer than most North Carolinians is coming to Kings Mountain's Joy Performance Theater on Saturday.

The group's repertoire has changed over the years. There are a few favorites they've dropped from the performance list and they're always writing new material or finding older songs to cover.

What can you expect Saturday's performance to be peppered with? Celtic medleys and songs by the great American songwriter Stephen Foster, who penned "Camptown Races" and "My Old Kentucky Home," among many others.

"It's a real variety show," said Bland Simpson, the group's pianist who also teaches creative writing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The band, which was formed in the Triangle and still based there, is in its 39th year.

Martin Anderson, WNCW's Martin Anderson calls the eclectic group "house band of North Carolina."

Clay Buckner is on fiddle. Jack Herrick plays bass and trumpet; Chris Frank plays accordion, guitar and trombone. Rob Ladd in on drums.

Ticket prices are \$20.

Police say progress made in Smoker's Etc. murder case

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Police say they have developed "several persons of interest" in a June robbery-homicide at Smoker's Etc. between Kings Mountain and Shelby.

Store employee James Scott Davis, 43 of Dallas, died from gunshot wounds in what was apparently an attempted robbery at the small store. Smoker's Etc., which sold what law enforcement officials are referring to as "laced potpourri," smoking paraphernalia and other products, has been closed since the June 20 crime.

"We are progressing in the investigation," said Cleveland

County Sheriff Alan Norman. "It's not at the pace that I would like to see, but we are seeing weekly, if not daily, progress."

Police are releasing little information about the details of the crime, but Norman said that they believe at least one individual entered the store and in the robbery attempt gunned down Davis, who was the sole employee present at the time. Police say there were no other witnesses. Norman said investigators are not releasing to the public what, if anything was stolen from the retail establishment during the attack.

Norman said detectives started investigating the crime by interviewing the last individuals that

were there. Detectives also canvassed the neighborhood immediately after the shooting in an effort to learn anything they could about the events that transpired the day before.

Also on the day following the crime, sheriff's deputies set up an information-gathering checkpoint on nearby roadways. The idea is that someone travelling along any given road at a certain time on one day may have been travelling along that same stretch on the day before as well. Such a checkpoint might tip investigators off about anything that seemed strange or different to motorists, Norman

See MURDER, 3A



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