



Kickers open season with a win

8A

2013 Sports Preview

1-12B

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Farm fresh goodness

The Foothills Farmers' Market had a successful first day Saturday in spite of the rainy weather. The Farmers' Market, in downtown Kings Mountain, will be located on South Railroad Avenue between Gold and Mountain streets. The emphasis is on healthy eating and a fresh engagement between growers and consumers. The market will run through Oct. 12. For the 2014 growing season, the market looks to be open from early May through October.

Photo by ELLEN DeVENNEY

Casino coming?

Will Kings Mountain land a casino in the future?

Reams of copy in the daily newspapers and reports on area TV stations have been grinding out stories that a South Carolina Native American tribe is reportedly eyeing property in this area, which could bring a hotel, a casino and other retail business.

But most importantly, a project of that magnitude could bring thousands of jobs to a county where the rate of unemployment tops 10 percent.

City and county officials say discussions on economic development projects require confidentiality. They are not talking.

"I was at a meeting at a local site with a representative of the Governor's office for about 10 minutes last month to show local property," said Ronnie Hawkins, chairman of the county board of commissioners.

The site was the Jim Testa property on Dixon School Road, 45 acres beside the Roadside Truck Plaza, 400 Dixon School Road, owned by the Testa family. For several weeks surveyors have been stationed along that stretch of road just off Interstate 85.

Kings Mountain City

See CASINO, 3A

Properties eyed for demolition

City Council is eyeing two pieces of property on Edel Street in the Midpines Community for demolition.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said that council will consider adopting an ordinance ordering demolition of properties neighbors complain are a public nuisance.

The neighbors say 10-foot high grass is up to the roof of a vacant house at 307 Edel Street, has been cut only twice in three years and is infested by rats and snakes. A storm knocked out windows in this house. The other vacant property is at 311 Edel Street.

The properties lie in the city's extra territorial jurisdiction.

Among other items on the Tuesday night 6 p.m. board agenda is a public hearing on a voluntary annexation request by In-

Mail carrier recovering after recent dog attack

The animal involved in the attack has been quarantined by county authorities

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When mail carrier Mary Anne Figuerua was delivering packages and letters along one of her routes on a recent Saturday morning, she encountered something that's not unusual to her or to her line of work: a pit bull terrier, off its leash.

"He popped his head up," she said. "I must have startled it."

Within moments, the powerful male dog was in attack mode and had sunk its teeth into her bare left leg.

Mail carriers are trained to respond to such incidents with a pepper spray, their first line of defense against aggressive dogs they may come across. But the pepper spray wasn't working to fend off this canine.

Fortunately, a man who Figuerua believes was the dog's owner intervened and managed to pull it off of her before she suffered more serious injuries.

"Now I can (laugh) about it," said the eight-year veteran of United States Postal Service. "But at the time I was mad ... and scared."

Figuerua was quickly treated and released at the Kings Mountain Hospital emergency room for the August 10 incident, which occurred



Mary Anne Figuerua

on Baker Street in the neighborhood between N. Piedmont Avenue and N. Battleground Avenue. There she received a tetanus shot and was able to return to work the following day, although her routes were shifted around to put her in a vehicle and off her feet, due to lingering soreness in her calf. The dog, whose owner has not stepped forward, is being held in a 10-day quarantine by Cleveland County Animal Control, protocol for any animal attack. The

See FIGUERUA, 5A



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Drug bust

Kings Mountain's largest criminal roundup ever



Law enforcement officers are arresting and have warrants for 30 suspects on 84 drug related charges in the largest criminal roundup ever, "Operation Summertime Blues." From left to right at a press conference Friday at the Kings Mountain Police Department are Mayor Rick Murphrey, Chief of Police Melvin Proctor, mayor pro tem Rodney Gordon and Cleveland County Sheriff Alan Norman.

Photo by ELLIS NOELL

ELIZABETH STEWART

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"You do drugs in Kings Mountain and we'll put you in jail," Chief of Police Melvin Proctor said Friday morning as the Kings Mountain Narcotics Division of KMPD conducted the largest drug bust roundup ever in Kings Mountain.

Thirty people were arrested on 84 total charges related to drug activity, involving a number of controlled substances, including pain pills, methamphetamine, crack cocaine and marijuana.

Kings Mountain police started picking up suspects Friday at 9 a.m., assisted by the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department and other agencies.

"I'm tired of what drugs have done to this community; we won't

stop until all drugs are off the streets," said Proctor. He added, "Drugs affect everyone economically and a collaborative effort that we have with law enforcement will put a stop to it, that's our goal."

Cleveland County Sheriff Alan Norman echoed the chief's words. "This just goes to show this is a partnership with law enforcement agencies that was developed years ago,"

He added, "The drug dealer knows no city and county boundary and we all work as a unit to use our resources and you see the result of these efforts this morning."

Proctor said "Operation Summer Blues" began in 2012 and another operation is in the works with several agencies involved.

"There are high-risk individuals

that you don't know what they're

See DRUG BUST, 5A

Back to the books

Busy time as teachers and administrators pack in training, hammer out new schedules and get classrooms ready.

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Nearly 15,000 students will pour into Cleveland County school campuses on Monday, and for the last two weeks or so teachers, administrators and other staff have been getting ready for the late August rush of orientation, scheduling and training that accompanies a new school year.

"It's a pretty crazy time for them," said Greg Shull, Communications Director for the Cleveland County Schools. "There's a lot of preparation and there's tons of training," referring to new software that is used, among other things, to track grades and attendance. "Basically, they're developing the blueprint for an entire year."

Most teachers reported back to work for the first time on Aug. 14, when administrators held a system-wide staff orientation. New teachers

attended a separate orientation the following day at the system's main offices in Shelby. There was also a teacher assistant rally on Tuesday.

A 7:45 a.m. breakfast honoring 2012-2013 Teacher of the Year, Principal of the Year and Teacher Assistant of the year is scheduled for Friday at the LeGrand Center in Shelby.

For Sharon Brown, a 6th grade language arts teacher at Kings Mountain Intermediate School, this is a busy and energizing time of year. She's spent the last several weeks planning activities, meeting with other teachers and, of course, decorating her room at the school.

"My excitement level every year has not diminished one bit," said the seven-year teacher, who fulfilled a lifelong goal of becoming an educator after a first act in life as an office manager and holding other jobs in the manufacturing sector.

For Brown and other teachers working at that grade level, the first week of school is focused on "learning the rules, the expectations."

"That's the starting point—respect for the other students and respect for the teachers at the school," she said.

The Intermediate School functions

See SCHOOLS, 5A

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