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Council renames stadium

In other business: City buys new equipment, moves to demolish two abandoned homes

DAVE BLANTON

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The Kings Mountain City Council met last Tuesday to rename one of the city's sports stadium after a Kings Mountain coaching great, award a commercial mower bid contract, recognize several city employees for their service and set two condemned properties for eventual demolition, among other business.

Parker Farm Service beat three other bidders on the price and delivery of a boom mower, also known as a bush hog, that will be used to cut grass on city property as needed. The cost of the

mower is \$102,000, an expenditure that was already part of the year's budget.

City Stadium, located at W. Mountain St. and S. Gaston St., is set to be renamed "Shu" Carlton Stadium, the Kings Mountain High School's head football coach from 1948-1956, who amassed a 48-25-8 record during his tenure. Carlton won the Southwestern Conference championship twice. He was also a Bronze-medal winner in the Korean War, for leaving his tank and crawling through a minefield to rescue a fellow Marine who was under heavy fire, according to documents pro-

duced by the council.

Carlton is a member of five sports halls of fame, including The Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame, the Gaston County Sports Hall of Fame and the N.C. High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. The Kings Mountain Hall of Fame is set to raise money for any costs associated with new signage and street markings, according to Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey.

The city moved a step closer to demolishing two vacant properties in the Midpines area that are in disrepair and are overgrown with

See COUNCIL 6A,



Mayor Rick Murphrey thanks Maune Memorial Library Teen Volunteers at last week's session. The council praised the youngsters for helping encourage children to read, leading camp songs and helping prepare crafts and activities. In all, they worked over 1,000 hours in the summer reading program.

New hope for Travis

Battle against rare disease continues

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Ashley Milton is standing by her young son in a frightening medical ordeal that has tested the entire family since he got a terrifying diagnosis of a rare and dangerous immune system disorder back in January.

Travis Davis, 8, underwent a potentially life-saving bone-marrow transplant on Aug. 24 at Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte in an effort to reverse the effects of a very uncommon autoimmune disease called hyper immunoglobulin syndrome. In general, the condition causes grave weaknesses in the immune system and results in patients having a higher than normal susceptibility to various infections.

Now, the doctors and family are waiting anxiously to see if the transplant procedure was a success.

"We're hearing it went well ... but we don't know yet if it was a complete success," Milton said. "The bone marrow hasn't starting growing in his body."

Milton said doctors have told her that within the next week her son's white blood count should start rising. That would signal that his body is accepting the donor tissue, and that he may be able to defeat the disease that affects only one in two million males. Females are carriers of the gene that causes hyper immunoglobulin syndrome and are not susceptible to it, as doctors have explained to Milton.

Patients with Davis's condition who do not receive a successful bone marrow transplant face stark odds: eighty percent die before the age of 29 from liver disease, Milton

See DAVIS, 3A



Travis Davis, seated, and cousin Cameron Petti squeeze in some playtime at Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte. Davis's family is hoping a bone marrow transplant he got last month will help him fight off a rare and potentially fatal auto-immune disease he was diagnosed with in the winter.

Make a Wish come true this Saturday

A high school senior project about generosity that leapt from the school grounds to try to do some real good in the world is now in its fourth year. The annual Jammin' for Wishes benefit, a music festival and 5k run that so far has raised \$7,500 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The event, which features live

music, face painting and other family-oriented activities, kicks off at 8 a.m. Saturday at Patriots Park downtown.

Isaac Pearson took an interesting fundraising as a teen at Kings Mountain High School. He wowed judges with a senior project on the psychology of giving and founded

See JAMMIN', 6A

Bethware principal eager to share credit

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Jennifer Wampler is taking her latest accomplishment in stride.

The Bethware School principal who was recently named the best at what she does in the Cleveland County Schools insists the school's success is a team effort.

"It's not determined whether I won the apple," she said, pointing to the glass award in the shape of the red fruit she picked up August 23 at a Shelby ceremony. "It's determined by what my teachers say, and by what my staff says. This school has come a long way in just a few short years."

Going by the student-achievement numbers, she's right.

Three years ago, when she inherited the top job at the school that serves the Oak Grove community and other parts of western Kings Mountain, Bethware was last place in standardized testing for reading and math. Last year, it claimed first in those categories.

Climbing that hill required a solid plan and a steady hand at sticking to a goal of not only im-

proving those scores but making them the best among the district's other 15 elementary schools. She also said getting wouldn't have been possible without a bright and forward-looking staff of teachers and assistant teachers.

"You can't make a change in a year if there aren't people here who get it," Wampler said.

A product of Kings Mountain High School (class of 1994) and belonging to a family of educators, she said she knew early in life she wanted to be a teacher. She earned a B.A. from Appalachian State University and from there moved right into the classroom — teaching chemistry at Wake Forest-Rolesville High School, near Raleigh.

Six years later, she felt a pull toward her adopted hometown of Kings Mountain and moved to the area to take an assistant principal job at Mount Holly's Pinewood Elementary School. Along the way she had earned a master's degree in education from her alma mater.

"I always wanted to be a teacher," she said, speaking of her days as a high school student. "I didn't see myself in administration."

See WAMPLER, 6A

Patriot Day celebration Sept. 11

The City of Kings Mountain will observe Patriot Day on Wednesday, Sept. 11.

This solemn anniversary is an annual commemorative service for those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

"This was a very dark day for Americans and the world," said Mayor Rick Murphrey. "We will never forget the attack on so many innocent people and we honor those whose lives were lost and stand proud of our servicemen and women who continue, to this day, to defend and fight for the freedom we have here in America."

The observance will be held on the plaza in front of Kings Mountain City Hall, 101 W. Gold Street, at 12 noon. Participants will include the presentation of colors by the Kings Mountain Police Honor Guard, an invocation by Police Chief Melvin Proctor, pledge of allegiance by Fire Chief Frank Burns and the National Anthem by Shana Adams.

Mayor Murphrey will speak followed by a moment of silence and the memorial ringing of the Fire Bell.



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