



Sports.....starting on 1B

County Fair opens Thursday! .....3A

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## Candidates speak out at KM forum

DAVE BLANTON

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Candidates seeking seats on the Kings Mountain City Council and the Cleveland County Board of Education introduced themselves to the public and explained their plat-

forms Monday evening in a forum hosted by the Kings Mountain Woman's Club.

"My kids are grown, but I still believe our children deserve the best," said Jeff Gregory, a retired Postal Service employee running for a seat on the school board. "I'm

all about family, all about family and all about doing the right thing."

Other candidates for the school board echoed those and similar thoughts before about 35 people assembled in the downtown club.

"I have a big heart for our children ... we need to supply what-

ever it takes for those teachers," said Danny Blanton, who said that while technology has its place in education, it should not replace traditional instruction.

Darius Griffin, Kenneth Ledford and Donnie Thurman Jr. rounded out the candidates for

school board. All candidates were given three minutes to make their case. The format didn't allow for questions from the audience but members of the public mingled with the candidates over refreshments afterwards.

See CANDIDATES, 6A

## Police hunt robbery suspects

Police are looking for two men they say robbed a Kentucky Fried Chicken employee after smashing her car window and threatening her in the restaurant's parking lot Saturday evening.

A female employee had just closed up the store for the night and was in her car about 10:15 p.m. when two black males approached her and demanded money, according to Kings Mountain Police Department detectives. After the victim complied and handed over cash from the day's business receipts, the two robbers fled north behind KFC. Police did not disclose what kind of weapon was used or how much money was taken. The victim was not hurt in the incident.

Police have released the following descriptions of the suspects: 1)- Light-skinned black male with slender build standing 5'10" to 6' wearing a black hoodie, black hat and black face mask. 2)- Black male standing 5'10" to 6' wearing a red hoodie and a red bandana.

Police are asking the public to report any information they may have on the case to Det. S.D. Shockley at (704) 734-0444.

## More forums are scheduled

The Cleveland County Branch of the NAACP is hosting forums for the 2013 candidates for the board of education and the City of Kings Mountain.

The Cleveland County school board forum will be held Monday, Oct. 7, at 6 p.m. in the Library of Cleveland County School's Service Building, 400 W. Marion Street, Shelby.

The forum for candidates for three seats open on the Kings Mountain city council will be held Tuesday, Oct. 15, at 6:30 p.m. At Bynum Chapel AME Zion Church Family Center, 213 N. Cansler Street, Kings Mountain.

All candidates seeking office for the school board and city council have been invited. Contact Brenda Lipscomb, Political Action chairman, for further information at 704-974-9721.

Early voting for school board races and the Kings Mountain municipal election will begin Oct. 17 and end on Nov. 2 at the Board of Elections office, 215 Patton Drive, in Shelby.

Also of interest to Kings Mountain

See EARLY VOTING, 6A



## Jousting, Knights, Ladies and more!

Read all about it on page 3A

## Benefit planned for Surber

Sandy Sheppard Surber, 47, is in the battle of her life fighting cancer at Kings Mountain Hospice House.

The single mother's close-knit family is sponsoring a benefit Saturday at 1 p.m. at 2049 Bethlehem Road to help pay for medical expenses, household bills and needs for Sandy and her two children.

Fighting colon cancer since late last year, Sandy lost her mother to cancer. Her father, Randy Sheppard, died in an accidental explosion in his garage January this year in the Love Valley community.

Shrimp boil and fish fry plates will be available for \$5 and \$7 and entertainment during the day will include a Spacewalk, raffle, auction, corn hole tournament, music, Southern Drawl concert, and karaoke, culminating in a bonfire. The family is asking for a \$2 donation per carload at the gate.



Sandy Sheppard Surber, middle, with her two daughters, Hannah and Magan

Sandy's sister, Sharon White, and her brother, Scott Sheppard, will be assisting in the benefit. They invite the public to attend.

"Our thoughts will be on Sandy but we want her friends to enjoy the entertainment planned and the fish fry and shrimp boil," said White.

## Farmers Market will be 'cooking' in downtown KM this weekend!

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Saturday's Farmer's Market in downtown Kings Mountain will be a little different.

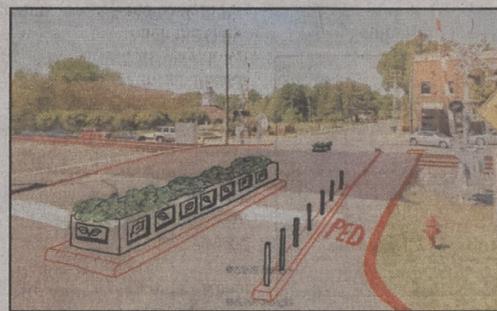
In addition to the vegetables on display and available to the public Nancy Pinkerton, a chef with Black Tie to BBQ, will be cooking on site and live music will entertain shoppers.

A culinary instructor at Central

Piedmont Community College, Pinkerton has been in the catering business 12 years and is a National Restaurant Association Certified ServSafe instructor and a National Restaurant Association Certified Culinary Instructor. She is also a Kansas City BBQ Society Certified Master Judge and Table Captain and a member of the Central Piedmont Community College Hospitality

See Farmers Market, 7A

## \$5.2M water line project to begin



This drawing by city staffer Holly Black depicts how the downtown railroad area is proposed to look after a beautification and enhancement program proposed by railroad officials and the city with the railroad paying the tab. The railroad closed two crossings to truck traffic after a slew of wrecks caused by truck drivers not heading "do not cross" signs. The area of the downtown tracks will get a new look when the project is completed.

ELIZABETH STEWART

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The city is expected to begin in October a \$5.2 million water line rehabilitation project, the start-up of major water and sewer improvements expected to be completed in late 2014, at a price tag of \$33.8 million.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said the money to pay for the projects will come from a no interest 20-year loan from the State Revolving Fund.

He made the progress report at a city-sponsored customer appreciation breakfast Thursday morning at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior

See WATER PROJECT, 6A

## 5K to open Gateway Fest

"Gateway to a Cure 5K" will open the 11th annual Gateway Festival in Kings Mountain Oct. 12 in Patriot Park.

The 5k run/walk event is a benefit for Scotty Hill, a freshman at Kings Mountain High School, who is battling Rhabdomyosarcoma Renal Tumors.

The young man missed most of his 8th grade year. Proceeds from the race at 8 a.m. will help him and his family with medical expenses.

Runners and walkers will step off at 8 a.m. at Patriot Park and wind its way down Gold Street through the Crescent Hill area and back to Patriot Park. Festival events downtown kick off at 10 a.m. And continue until 5 p.m.

Register before Oct. 1 for the race and receive a t-shirt. For details and race information call 704-692-8141 or email thewytes@carolina.rr.com or click on racesonline.com for registration information.

The Gateway Festival draws hundreds to the city for a variety of events sure to please the whole family.

Artisans, craftspeople and

vendors can still register to set up a booth for their displays by clicking on the city's website - cityofkm.com - for registration information. Colonel Frederick Hambright Chapter DAR is sponsoring this portion of the event and



Scotty Hill

the \$30 fee for vendors goes to the chapter for its scholarship fund.

Music, muskets and merriment are all a part of the big event. The cute critters competition is always a crowd pleaser as well as the Revolutionary War historic encampment and battle re-enactment. A free shuttle is available to all venues, and much more is being planned by the Special Events committee headed up by Ellis Noell.



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