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# Kings Mountain Herald

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## County looking at big changes

### New health dept. building, shooting range, 2016 tax revaluation

DAVE BLANTON

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Jeff Richardson, who has been on the job as county manager for just over three months, says he's settling into the job and preparing for a year of big changes in Cleveland County.

He and his staff, along with county commissioners, have been looking ahead to the groundbreaking of both a new health department building and a shooting

range, which he hopes will be a strong regional draw.

Site plans for the new health department building have been submitted to City of Shelby. Richardson said he'll be meeting with commissioners in late February to hammer out final details. After that, the county will move to acquire construction bids on the roughly \$18 million project.

"We'll probably get started in earnest by April or May," said Richardson, a Black Mountain na-

tive who previously worked for the county before a turn as Asheville's assistant city manager.

Toward the end of 2013, Richardson joined County Commissioner Johnny Hutchins and Sam Lockridge, the county's health services coordinator, on a trip to Melbourne, Fla., not for the sun and fun, but to tour a county-run shooting range that he says officials here would like to emulate.

They were impressed and inspired by what they saw, Richard-

son said last week.

"It operates with limited or no tax subsidy," he said of the facility, which is run by Brevard County and has been in operation since 2001. "We met with every elected official and found out how it fit into the broader



Richardson

recreational picture there."

Richardson said the visit lasted less than two days, but he and Hutchins and Lockridge were able to cover a lot of ground.

"We visited with customers, patrons up and down the range," he said. "We talked with some who drove as much as 100 miles to get there and called it one of the best in the state. We thought it captured the attitude of what we wanted to

See CHANGES, 4A

## KM man faces murder charge

A Kings Mountain man has been charged with first-degree murder after police found another man dead Saturday in the house they apparently shared on Phenix St.

Police charged Robert Henry Lovette, 38, in the death of Donald Howard



Robert Lovette

Lovette, 68. He is currently jailed in the Cleveland County Detention Center, without bond.

He made his first court appearance Monday on charges he killed his father and was denied bond.

Authorities were releasing few details about the case on Monday, but did say that police officers were called to the residence at 504 Phenix St. to perform a well-being check. Once there, they encountered the younger Lovette, who was described as being uncooperative. Officers then made an emergency entry into the small house and found the elder Lovette deceased inside.

Robert H. Lovette was arrested at the scene.

He had his first appearance before a judge on Monday. Lovette's next court date — a probable cause hearing is set for Jan. 28. A press release from the Kings Mountain Police Department said Lovette has also been charged with possession of marijuana.

## KM shivers in cold snap

DAVE BLANTON

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Kings Mountain and much of the nation was hit by a deep freeze early this week thanks to what meteorologists call a polar vortex — strong winds that normally stay confined to the North Pole.

Residents in the area awoke Tuesday to record lows — 6 degrees Fahrenheit in Charlotte at dawn, which broke a 130-year-old record of 12 for that calendar day — accompanied by stalled cars and numb fingers.

Nearly 3,000 Cleveland County residents were without power Monday and Tuesday.

The City of Kings Mountain opened a warming shelter, a temporary reprieve for those who may be lacking adequate heat or shelter during the extreme weather. The shelter is located at the Kings Mountain Fire Department's main fire-

See COLD SNAP, 4A



Contractors working for a Monroe company brave record cold temperatures to install an 8-inch water line at the corner of Sims and King Streets for the city Tuesday morning. When the men arrived for work at 7 a.m., the mercury had dipped to 4 degrees.

## Crawford playing on

### Young athlete's diagnosis can't keep him off court

DAVE BLANTON

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Landry Crawford spent Saturday racing down the basketball court — dribbling, passing and shooting with other boys on his YMCA recreational team.

It turns out that not many things can keep the Kings Mountain 8th grader from the sports he loves and excels at — even the jarring news he and his family got from doctors recently.

In fact, Crawford is hardly missing a beat after a roller coaster holiday season that found him at doctor appointments, in two surgeries and undergoing several rounds of chemotherapy.

It was in late November that Crawford — who also plays football, baseball and wrestles — found a large lump in his groin. At first he

See CRAWFORD, 4A



Landry Crawford was the high scorer on his team Saturday in this YMCA league game. The 14-year-old is undergoing chemotherapy after doctors discovered cancer in his lymph nodes in December.

## Does Moore have an eye on the House?

ELIZABETH STEWART

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Tim Moore (R-Cleveland), six term District 111 Representative in the North Carolina House, is rumored a candidate for the Speaker of the House position held by Thom Tillis who is running for the seat now held by Democrat US Senator Kay Hagan.

Moore would not confirm or deny but said there are probably five or six peo-

ple who might seek that position if it becomes available.



Rep. Tim Moore

Moore, a Republican from Kings Mountain, is serving his second term as chairman of the important rules committee. He presides regularly from the

See MOORE, 4A

## Number of sick students rises

DAVE BLANTON

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Kings Mountain area schoolchildren got more than Sony PlayStations and smart phones over the Christmas break.

A few off them also picked up strep throat, stomach bugs and possibly the flu virus, according to some local schools who reported a higher than usual absentee rate for the first few days back to school.

At the Kings Mountain

Middle School, 49 were absent on Friday, said principal Mickey Morehead, who said the average is 25-30 for the roughly 650-strong student body. "The school nurse said a real bad stomach virus is going around," he said.

Forty-four missed classes Thursday at the Intermediate School, followed by 47 on Friday, according to officials at the school, which also houses about 650 students. Those figures are well over

See SCHOOLS, 4A

## Haraszkiwicz:

### 'Riding never felt so good'

ELIZABETH STEWART

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Taylor (Faris) Haraszkiwicz, the 20-year-old newlywed who stole the hearts of many Kings Mountain people since her diagnosis with acute Myeloid leukemia, says she has never felt so loved.

The outpouring of love from complete strangers has played a significant role in her fight against cancer, says her mother, Robin Knight.

Taylor thought she would

have to board her horse for an indefinite period of time.

She is home riding her horse, resting and busy planning Christmas on January 12th with husband, Josh, and family members before she returns to Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center Jan. 14 for another bone marrow biopsy and a second round of chemotherapy. If all goes well, she will only spend a week at Wake Forest and then return back home — an ongoing routine for the next

See HARASZKIEWICZ, 4A



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