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Board approves spending \$297k

Softball facility, gym, robotics get school funding

The Cleveland County Board of Education on Monday approved spending \$297,000 to build a new ladies' softball field house at Kings Mountain High School. The move comes after a Title IX audit found the school did not offer equal facilities to male and female student athletes.

School administrators had opened construction bids for the project in late March. It was not clear when construction on the facility, which is situated between the baseball and softball fields, would begin. The bulk of the cost — \$269,500 — will go to general contracting, with the balance slated for architect fees, dressing room lockers, benches and printing.

The board also gave the green light for spending around \$130,000 for renovations to the Kings Mountain Middle School gymnasium. A new wooden floor will replace a worn out rubber one at a cost of a little more than \$71,000. The second largest part of the expenditure is replacing 12 rows of bleachers for slightly more than \$55,000. Part of the renovation costs also includes removing and replacing the bleachers and adjustments made to the court's basketball

See SCHOOL BOARD, 4A

Moore tops for effectiveness

A ranking of North Carolina lawmakers for effectiveness by the North Carolina Center for Public Research, a public policy think tank, has Rep. Tim Moore (R-Cleveland) in the number two spot.



Rep. Tim Moore

Only Speaker of the House Thom Tillis ranked higher than the Kings Mountain lawyer, who represents the 111th House District and is on the short list of seven legislators being mentioned as a possible candidate for the House's top leadership post in 2015.

Tillis is not seeking re-election as he runs for U. S. Senate.

Moore is chairman of the powerful Rules Committee, which helps determine the flow of legislation to the House floor. Running for his seventh term in the NC House, he faces a Democratic challenge from Nick Carpenter of Shelby, immediate past chairman of the Cleveland County Democratic Party.

Moore has said consistently that part of being effective comes from working together and that legislators from Gaston and Cleveland have formed a bond to make economic development and jobs high priority.

The ranking of area legislators included: Rep. Kelly Hastings (R-Gaston/portion of Cleveland) No. 74.

Senator Warren Daniel (R-Cleveland/Burke) No. 28.



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Who's got the best barbecue?



KMH File Photo

DAVE BLANTON
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It will be a weekend of barbecue in Kings Mountain as nearly 70 teams from around the Carolinas, Virginia and as far away as Florida and Maryland pull into town to vie for the North Carolina Firehouse Barbecue State Championship.

The 18th annual Firehouse Cook-Off is sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society, which is supplying more than 70 trained and certified judges. Those judges will grade the delicacies in four categories — appearance, taste, tenderness and overall impression.

The deadline for registering for the competition is 5 p.m. Friday.

"We're at a size we like — it's very manageable," said Kings Mountain Fire Chief Frank Burns. "But we won't turn anyone away." The registration fee is \$300 after April 1.

The prize money for the best cooks is as savory as the meats at this year's contest. The State Champion — the team that gets the highest combined score for beef brisket, pork ribs, pork (shoulder or butt) and poultry — is \$4,000. Second place pays \$1,000. First place in each of the four categories pays \$550, with second, third, fourth and fifth collecting \$300, \$200, \$150 and \$100, respectively. The highest placing team from Cleveland County will also pick up a \$100 prize. Judging for the State

See FIREHOUSE BBQ, 4A



Children invited to annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday

Hundreds of children are expected at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Mayor Rick Murphrey Children's Park at the YMCA on Cleveland Avenue for the city's annual Easter Egg Hunt to greet the Easter Bunny who will arrive in a city fire truck.

"We invite children to bring their baskets and fill them up with hundreds of colorful eggs that the Easter bunny will hide," says Ellis Noell, Events Director for the

City of Kings Mountain. He said the children who find the three gold eggs hidden with hundreds of other eggs will receive \$25 gift certificates from Toys R Us.

"It's a fun morning for children who can enjoy a petting zoo, baby bunnies, ducklings and peeps," says Noell. Games, storytelling and other activities will be led by the staff of Mauney Memorial Library.



Mayor Rick Murphrey presents the plaque that will be permanently displayed on the brick column at Shu Carlton Stadium. Formerly City Stadium, the stadium where Carlton's teams began the great Mountaineer football tradition was dedicated Sunday. Looking on are George Harris, left, and Coach Carlton's widow, Louise.

Photo by ELLIS NOELL

See the complete story on page 3B

YMCA, city partnership is a win-win

ELIZABETH STEWART
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A 14-year partnership between the City of Kings Mountain and the YMCA has taken recreation to a level it's never been before.

Obviously, Kings Mountain taxpayers are getting the bang from their buck for recreation.

"It's a win-win situation for citizens," said Mayor Rick Murphrey and Kings Mountain Family YMCA Director Kevin Osborne Monday morning as they recounted how the recreation program has grown in Kings Mountain.

Improved playing fields, the popular city swimming pool, the adjacent, renovated Mayor Rick Murphrey Children's Park in the Jake Early Sports Complex, and the nearby city walking track all add up to more amenities people enjoy.

The Y — once the Kings Mountain Community Center — is operated seven days a week from 5 a.m.-9 p.m. and on all holidays except Christmas and Easter. Additionally, it serves a host of groups at no cost to them for meetings, a church which holds services on Sundays and Saturday nights, and the previous site for three voting sessions in the Y gymnasium.

Last year some 419 people used the facility every day with over 150,000 visits

See MOSS, 4A,

See YMCA, 4A

Moss using experience from stage and screen to enrich lives

ELIZABETH STEWART
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If you noticed a familiar face on a recent WalMart TV commercial you were right, it was KM hometown girl Laura Beth Moss.

The successful Broadway, film and TV actress is also a top-tier New York City real estate professional who grew up in Kings Mountain. She graduated from The University of North Carolina School of the Arts and went straight to the Big Apple.

Laura Beth played the leading role of Amanda Corry on the former NBC soap opera, "Another World," and was on Broadway in "Death of a Salesman." She had an independent film released last year, Cloned. She has been on Law and Order and done many national commercials in her career.

Moss was in town last week to introduce her fiancé, Evan

Lozada, to her parents, Linda and Larry Moss, and to talk with them about a new direction her life is taking and share the good news that she hopes to start spending more time at home.

"I want to give back to people," said Laura, who attended Kings Mountain schools, completing her Senior year at N. C. School of the Arts at age 17 and then graduating from The University of North Carolina School of the Arts in '96.

In order to begin her new journey, she became a Certified Integrative Life Coach through the International Association of Counselors and Therapists and went on to become a Certified Anger Management Specialist III (CAMS-III) as an Authorized Supervisor for the National Anger Management Association (NAMA).

Laura is now a Diplomate with the NAMA and flies all over the world training men and women to



Laura Beth Moss

become specialists who help people deal with their anger. She teaches and gives trainings with Dr. Rich Pfeiffer, of Arizona, co-director and founder of Growth Central as well as president of NAMA. Dr. Pfeiffer is moving to



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