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Fall Sports Preview

Beginning on page 1B



KM teachers pumped up for new school year

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For fourth year teacher Meredith Alexander, the novelty and excitement of returning to the classroom in August a few weeks before kids show up for their first day certainly hasn't worn off. The third grade teacher at North Elementary has been busy buying supplies, decorating her room and

otherwise gearing up for school, which begins Monday across the county.

"You're tired but you can't sleep," said Alexander, whose room is covered nearly wall to wall with posters and pictures that evoke tropical, surf and jungle themes. "It's a stressful time for (teachers). But I'm excited."

Alexander's "Wall of

Fame" is empty now, but that will change come the first week back to school because each student will get their picture posted there.

Throughout the year — as achievements, birthdays and other milestones mount — the board will be updated with fresh snapshots of the kids. On the other side of the

See TEACHERS, 6A



Meredith Alexander, a 3rd grade teacher at North Elementary, readies her classroom for the start of school. She and other teachers say August is the most exciting time of the year.

New leadership, counselors at KMMS, KMHS for 2014-15

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Although David Smith has just begun his first year as principal of the Kings Mountain Middle School, he's not exactly a stranger to many on the faculty. As a math teacher, coach and later an executive assistant at Burns Middle School, he was already on a first-name basis with some of his new co-workers. And being picked to lead the Home of the Patriots fit in with another professional connection he had: the school's previous principal, Mickey Morehead, was a mentor to him as he rose from teacher to administrator.

"I'm very impressed with the work of the teachers

here," Smith said last week in his office at the Phifer Road school, adding that he's still in the process of meeting the entire staff, most of whom were getting back to their jobs in the last week or two after the summer break. The first day of school for students is Monday.

In the last year, Smith was the assistant principal at Crest Middle School. Smith has wasted no time embracing Patriot Pride, noting that KMMS has placed close to the top relative to other middle schools in the county in end of grade testing for several years now.

"We want to continue with that success," said Smith, who lives in his hometown of Casar with his

wife Meagan, a math teacher at Burns Middle.



Dr. Stephen Fisher



Jill Cruise

"This is the third year in a row that there's a new principal in this chair ... with regard to the great test scores we've seen out of this school, that's a testament to how strong the staff is."

Morehead, who left an administrative job at the high school before joining the middle school staff in 2013, was over the summer named the Burns Middle School principal.

Smith graduated from Appalachian State University with a bachelor's in Middle Grades Education. He earned a master's degree in Executive Leadership from Gardner-Webb

See NEW LEADERSHIP, 6A



REFURBISHED CROSS — Mountain Rest Cemetery workers have refurbished and repainted the stucco cross and landscaped the surrounding area at the city-owned cemetery. The cross, which centers the cemetery in Veterans Park, was built in the early 1970s. From left, Mayor Rick Murphrey, Tommy Painter, Paul Swink, cemetery supervisor, Daryl Dixon, construction supervisor, and Mike Gaffney. Not pictured: Rick Ford.

Photo by ELLIS NOELL

Post 155 to join in Legacy Run

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The American Legion Legacy Run will traverse 1,336 miles through eight states before ending up in Kings Mountain Thursday at 2:45 p.m. at American Legion Post 155 on E. Gold Street.

Legionnaires of Post 155 will welcome hundreds of riders and serve barbecue with all the trimmings about 4 p.m.

Mayor Rick Murphrey and KMPD Chief Melvin Proctor will greet the riders, which will include Kings Mountain riders led by Rick Hamrick, at Highway 161 and a police escort will accompany the riders to the Post.

The mayor will bring greetings at the Post where a large tent will be set up with tables and chairs to accommodate at least 300 while others can also enjoy the meal in-

side the Post home. Members of the American Legion Auxiliary will help serve the meal.

Murphrey has issued a city proclamation proclaiming Thursday as American Legion Riders Day in Kings Mountain. It says in part: "currently 106,000 American Legion Riders meet in over 1,000 chapters in every domestic department and in at least three foreign countries and have escorted military units returning home from combat tours overseas, conducted massive cross-country fund raising events for wounded warriors from all services, raised millions of dollars for countless local, state and national charities and participated in the Legion Legacy Run to annually raise scholarships for children of US Military personnel killed since Sept. 11, 2001."

See LEGACY RUN, 6A

All invited to prayer walk

Kings Mountain people will be putting feet to their prayers Sunday at 5 p.m., praying as they walk for about 30 minutes through their neighborhoods for school opening Monday and all those associated with the 2014-15 term of school.

Prayer leaders will be at all schools in the county.

In Kings Mountain and Grover, prayer leaders will be at East, North, West, Bethware Elementary Schools, Kings Mountain High School, Kings Mountain Middle School, Kings Mountain Intermediate School, and at Grover Ele-

mentary School. "This is one of the simplest way for us to get to-

gether in a body and pray for our schools," said Buford Burton.



Prayer Walk

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