

It PAYS to be a
Mountaineer!
FAN
of the week
CONTEST
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Kings Mountain HERALD

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29 charged

with prescription drug crimes

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The Cleveland County Sheriff's Department has arrested 21 people for prescription medication crimes, including a Shelby doctor, and arrest warrants are outstanding for another eight people, according to Sheriff Alan Norman.

The 29 are charged with 88 felonies and 20 misdemeanors for a total of 108 charges.

The arrests follow a drug diversion investigation program federally funded in 2012 in which one full-time investigator and one part-time investigator focused on prescription drug crimes within the county.

Norman said that shortly after announcing the program the Sheriff's Office started to receive complaints on several area doctors for aggressive prescribing practices.

"Prescription drug abuse and misuse has become an epidemic in Cleveland County and throughout North Carolina," said Norman. He said that combating the problem takes more than law enforcement, it takes everyone who takes, dispenses and prescribes medicines.

Said Norman, "We will continue our efforts not only with the enforcement part but the preventive part which is educating the public about this problem and asking for their help." The Sheriff's Office has purchased prescription drug drop off boxes and they are located throughout the county for residents to dispose of their unused and outdated medicines properly.

On Thursday, Aug. 21, investigators executed a search warrant at Carolina

See DRUG BUST, 7A



Legacy Run pulls in \$375,000

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After a long ride that was at times hot and dusty and other times stormy and rainy, more than 500 American Legion Riders pulled into town Thursday on the last stop of a fundraising rally that pulled in more than \$375,000.

"It's been a long five days," said Ron "Gypsy" Moore, the chaplain for the American Legion's Department of Friends. "It's been hot. It's been rainy. And no-

body complained ... not very much anyway." The American Legion Legacy Run took riders 1,336 miles through eight states before ending up in mid-afternoon at American Legion Post 155, where they were greeted by old friends, cold beers and barbecue. The money raised provides college scholarships for the sons and daughters of those killed in action since Sept. 11, 2001.

No accidents or injuries were reported in the long

run, which began in Indianapolis, the national headquarters of the service organization.

Members of the American Legion and a host of veterans, biking enthusiasts and city officials were on hand to greet the tired bikers, who had left out that morning from near Atlanta.

American Legion's National Commander, who made the trip with the other riders, was on hand to congratulate the group's fundraising. Meanwhile,

Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey declared Aug. 21 American Legion Riders Day.

"There's a lot of history and a lot of patriotism in Kings Mountain," Murphrey said, referring to the 1780 Battle of Kings Mountain and Patriot Park, where the fallen veterans from five American wars are honored. "I can't tell you how proud we are to be your host." The Legacy Run took the riders through Kentucky, Virginia,

See LEGION RIDERS, 8A

Reverse Raffle & Auction

Tickets on sale now!

Get your tickets now for Kings Mountain Historical Museum's "Tracks Through Time" event, our 11th Annual Reverse Raffle & Auctions, which will be held on Saturday, September 13, at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life & Conference Center. Tickets will be on sale at the Museum from now until the day of the raffle. Tickets may also be purchased at the door starting at 5:30 pm on the night of the event.

As a nonprofit organization, Kings Mountain Historical Museum depends on the revenue generated from this event to provide exhibits and other educational programming to our visitors free of charge. Each \$100 raffle ticket provides dinner for two guests; the grand prize winner will receive \$10,000 and at least every fifth ticket drawn will win a fabulous door prize. Ticket holders do not have to be present at the event to win these great prizes.

"This is one of the best ways people can support their local history museum," said Board President Susan Champion. "The event is very exciting, it's a lot of fun, and everyone walks away with something - be it dinner with friends, a door prize, an auction item - and especially the satisfaction of supporting a good cause. It's a win-win for the community."

Last year, the Museum sold 286 tickets to individuals throughout the region. The goal this year is an even 300, and we are currently about halfway to that goal. Three hundred is the maximum number of tickets the Museum will sell this year, so odds will be 1 in 300 (or better!) for each ticket holder to win the \$10,000 grand prize. "A one in 300 chance at \$10,000 and a 100% chance of supporting the Museum - you can't beat those odds!" said Director & Curator Adria Focht. For more information, including an up-to-date listing of sponsors and donors, please visit our web page: <http://www.kingsmountainmuseum.org/annual-fundraiser.html>. You can also call (704) 739-1019, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, & Pinterest.

1 in 300 will
win \$10,000
& 1 in 5 will
win a fabulous
door prize!

Schools open doors to kick off new year

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School buses and, hopefully, thinking caps along with them roared to life early Monday morning as more than 16,000 Cleveland County students flowed into classrooms on the first day of school.

Principals and teachers across the county's 29 public schools said the transition - which marks the unofficial end to summer to many families - was going as well as expected given the numbers and logistics involved.

"It's going very smoothly for the first day," commented East Elementary Principal Becky Bailey, who said beginning of year enrollment was expected to be 270. "There's been a little



Hunter Cruise, a 3rd grader at West Elementary, is all smiles as he gets off the bus at the high school drop-off after school.

See SCHOOL, 8A

Wounded Warriors bike the Garden

By Alan Hodge
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Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden is well-known for its beautiful flora, but Saturday the grounds saw a new type of beauty there in the form of more than 50 Wounded Warriors bicycling their way in colorful outfits through the foliage.

The Wounded Warriors that visited DSBG were taking part in "Soldier Ride North Carolina."

Wounded Warrior Project Soldier Ride is a rehabilitative cycling event designed to heal the physical, mental and emotional wounds of war. Every Soldier Ride begins with a bike fitting,

See WOUNDED WARRIORS, 7A



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