

School board OKs science kits, Grover right of way

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Mere hours after area schools opened their doors to students for the first day of a new year, the Cleveland County Board of Education heard from Superintendent Dr. Stephen Fisher about his day-long road trip that saw him visit every campus.

"It was a great start," Fisher told the board, adding that he logged 137 miles. "My staff and I visited all 29 schools and met with all the principals and spoke with many of the teachers."

He also told the board that enrollment system-wide was up slightly, a direction that reversed a downward trend observed in recent years.

He drew some chuckles from board members and others in attendance while characterizing the mood of students he chatted with on his schools tour.

"There were lots of excited students," he said. "Only a few said they were sad that school had started back."

School officials did not cite specific figures about enrollment for the district, but in previous years total enrollment has hovered around 16,000.

Fisher said that other than the usual bus schedule tweaks, the first day got off with no major operational glitches.

In other business, the board swiftly approved the \$83,420 purchase of science kits aimed to round out elementary science education. The hands-on kits include materials that demonstrate the life cycle of a butterfly, magnets,

electric circuits, a biology set that includes a microscope, and a weather station.

Board members also approved two contracts with a total value of \$169,401 with Communities in Schools. Communities in Schools is a federation of tax-exempt non-profit organizations that work to address drop-out rates and achievement gaps in American schools.

A motion that sought to grant the City of Grover right of way on a parcel of land that was a part of Grover Elementary School was approved. The agenda item had been tabled in August 11 Board of Education meeting pending further analysis.

Board member Danny Blanton called the plan a "no-lose deal," reiterating support for the right of way grant that had been expressed by assistant superintendent of operations John Yarbro. Cleveland County Schools has the option of reacquiring the right of way in the future.

Attendance was sparse at Monday's meeting. With the exception of high-level administration staff, technical support staff and media representatives, there were only seven members of the public in attendance. None chose to take part in the public participation portion.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES FROM EATON - Employees of Eaton Corporation collected school supplies for Grover Elementary School students and presented them to Principal Dr. Janet Anthony recently. Pictured with Dr. Anthony are Donna Borders, Carl Fortenberry, Rick McCluney, Rodney Smith, Terry Wentz, and Jay Powers. Not pictured: Vivian Washington. "We appreciate the employees of Eaton Corporation who helped meet the needs of our children as we begin a new school year," said Anthony.

'Liberty Mountain' - Meet Katy the costume lady

By Robert Inman
Special to the
Kings Mountain Herald

These days, Katy Biser may well be the busiest person involved with the upcoming premier of "Liberty Mountain," the Revolutionary War drama which opens in early October at Kings Mountain's Joy Performance Center. For sure, she's in charge of one of the most essential parts of making the play authentic for audiences. Katy is the costumer for the show, and also serves as the drama's stage manager.

Katy has designed more than 60 costumes for the actors and actresses who will bring the script to life. "It's important for the costumes to be historically accurate," she says. She has done extensive research to make sure every piece of clothing reflects what Carolinians were wearing in 1780. "We use a leather and fabrics that settlers would have had available during that period."

Most of the men who made up the Patriot force that defeated Major Patrick Ferguson's Loyalist militia at Kings Mountain were Overmountain Men from the lands beyond the Blue Ridge in what is now Eastern Tennessee. "They were hunters," Katy says, "and they had access to a variety of animal hides which they tanned and used for clothing

items. Most of the other fabrics, they made themselves."

Another consideration for Katy and her team as they sew costumes is longevity. "Liberty Mountain" will be performed at the Joy in summers beginning in 2015, and the costumes will be used repeatedly over the years. "It's important for the clothing to be sturdy, and also be adaptable for various body sizes," she says. "Costuming a show such as this is a huge job, and we want to be sure that it doesn't have to be repeated every year in the future. There will be some wear and tear, of course, but it's much easier to replace occasional items than to start from scratch each time."

As stage manager, Katy is also in charge of the dozens of jobs that involve the vigorous rehearsal schedule. She is the primary contact for cast members, making sure that the large volunteer theatre company is where and when they need to be. Her job also includes gathering props and set pieces, and assisting artistic director Caleb Sigmon at evening rehearsals. When performances begin in October, Katy will be something like a traffic cop, coordinating lights, sound, and the movement of actors on and off stage.

"Katy is the glue that



holds this whole process together," Caleb says. "Liberty Mountain" wouldn't exist without her."

LEAN CUISINE® selection recalled

Nestlé Prepared Foods Company, a business unit of Nestlé USA, is initiating the voluntary recall of a limited quantity of LEAN CUISINE® Culinary Collection Chicken with Peanut Sauce/UPC code 13800 10154 because it may contain undeclared shrimp. People who have an allergy or severe sensitivity to shrimp run the risk of serious or life-threatening allergic reaction if they consume these products.

The affected product is marked with a production code of 4165595911U and has a "best before" date of JULY 2015. A small quantity of LEAN CUISINE Culinary Collection Shrimp Alfredo was inadvertently placed into packaging for LEAN CUISINE Culinary Collection Chicken with Peanut Sauce.

Three consumers who purchased the mislabeled product alerted Nestlé to this issue. To date, no illnesses or allergic reactions have been reported. Nestlé issued this voluntary recall of one hour code of production to ensure the safety of consumers with shellfish allergies.

Consumers who may have purchased LEAN CUISINE Culinary Collec-

tion Chicken with Peanut Sauce /UPC code 13800 10154 should look for the manufacturing code, located in the grey box, on the right side panel of the package.

The manufacturing code of the recalled product is: 4165595911U.

No other LEAN CUISINE items are impacted by this recall. The affected product was distributed to retail customers in Washington State, California, Louisiana and Texas, and can be found in the frozen food aisle.

Nestlé asks consumers to contact us for a full refund by calling Nestlé Consumer Services directly at 1-800-392-4057 Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM EST.

The quality and safety of our products are the top priority for our company. For these reasons, the company initiated this recall. We apologize to our retail customers and consumers and sincerely regret any inconvenience created by this product recall.

We have advised the U.S. Food & Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture of this voluntary recall and will cooperate with them fully.

Youth needed for upcoming KMLT auditions

Kings Mountain Little Theatre will be hosting auditions for the upcoming production of "Junie B. Jones, Jingle Bells, Batman Smells". The cast consists of 10 students ranging in ages from 14 to 20 years. We are expanding the age to 12-14 years to cast the character of Junie's toy elephant.

Due to another production rehearsing at theatre, auditions will be held at Central United Methodist Church in Kings Mountain. Auditions will be on Sunday, Sept. 21 from 2-4 p.m. and Monday, Sept. 22 from 6-8 p.m. Callbacks on Tuesday, Sept. 23.

School performance dates are Nov. 13 & 14 with morning shows at 9:30 am. Weekend performances Nov 14-16. Rehearsals will begin on Oct. 6 and will continue until the date of production. Contact Page Thompson at pagethompson1@gmail.com for more information.

Technology classes offered

Learn more about technology at Mauney Memorial Library Starting in September, the Mauney Memorial Library will begin hosting a drop-in Open Computer Lab. The Computer Lab will be open on Mondays from 10 a.m. to noon in the Library Community Room. This is an excellent opportunity for you to receive one-on-one assistance on the computer topic of your choice. Sample topics include: how to navigate the Internet; how to create an email address; how to format a Microsoft Word document; how to create formulas in Excel; how to create a mail merge document; and more. Bring your questions and come learn tips to enhance your computer experience.

Tips for parents: Smart back-to-school shopping

AG Cooper offers advice to help parents, students get good deals

RALEIGH: Across North Carolina, students returning to schools from summer break, which means stocking up on the necessary back to school supplies.

"Families getting their kids ready to start a new school year can benefit from a few smart shopping tips," Cooper said. "Shopping around, using price matching policies, buying from reputable retailers, and checking refund and return policies can help you avoid back-to-school shopping headaches."

Cooper offered the following tips for back-to-school shoppers:

Know what you're shopping for

Study school supply lists carefully before you shop and make sure you know specifics on size, quantity and type needed. Buying the right supplies to start with saves you the time and trouble of returning the wrong items, and the expense of not being able to return an item that's been opened.

Shop around

Many retailers offer promotions on popular back-to-school items but compare prices to be sure you're getting a good deal. Ask if the retailer offers a price matching policy if you find a product you bought offered or advertised for less at another store. This can save you time and money.

Buy from stores you know

Buying from well-established retailers improves the odds that you'll be able to return or exchange a purchase if needed. To check out a company's track record, call the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM or contact your

local Better Business Bureau. Also, check with your school to see if it has a recommended retailer that will send a portion of your purchase price back to the school.

Shop safely online, too

If you shop online, stick to well-established companies with secure web sites (look for a lock icon on the site and a web address that starts with "https"). Get the company's street address and telephone number and verify them before you place an order.

Consider buying used or second-hand

Buying certain items used, especially expensive text books and electronics such as graphic calculators, can save you a lot of money. Check out local resale stores as well as websites such as eBay or Craigslist for second-hand deals.

Learn about refund and return policies

Stores aren't required by law to accept returned items, so ask about refunds and return policies before you buy. Many retailers offer store credit instead of a cash refund, and some charge a "restocking fee" for returns. Hang on to receipts, including printed receipts for online purchase. If your purchase came by mail, you may have to pay shipping to return it.

Consider paying by credit card to improve your chances of getting a refund if the retailer goes out of business. If you order supplies that never arrive, you may be able to dispute the charge.

To check out a company with the Attorney General's Office or file a consumer complaint, call 1-877-5-NO-SCAM toll-free within North Carolina or visit www.ncdoj.gov.

Concert Sunday

First Wesleyan Church, 505, N. Piedmont Ave., presents Shaine Locklair in concert on Sunday, Aug. 31, at 10:50 a.m. The public is invited.

CORRECTION

A story in the August 20 issue of the Herald about staffing at the Kings Mountain High School gave the incorrect first name of a member of the varsity football staff. Kevin Cruise is a P.E. teacher and an assistant coach for the Mountaineers.

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