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# Kings Mountain HERALD

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## Fisher enjoying new role as Superintendent

The Herald's Dave Blanton had some questions for Cleveland County Schools new superintendent, Dr. Stephen Fisher —

**Q:** You were named to the superintendent job over the summer, replacing Dr. Bruce Boyles. Has this been a busier summer than usual — what with the transition and trying to settle into the new role?

This has been a very busy summer and seems to have been busier than normal. The transition has been good but has made for a busy summer. We have had lots of things going on during the summer from an instructional perspective — Summer Reading Camp, Literacy Camps, Summer Intensives for Teachers, Teacher Symposium, etc. Combining these activities with hiring a new assistant Superintendent and filling a few principal jobs; the summer has gone quickly.



Dr. Stephen Fisher

**Q:** Can you give us an idea of how you'll be picking up where Dr. Boyles left off. Or, alternatively, going in some directions with staffing and other goals?

We will continue to address the goals that are highlighted in our Strategic Plan. Obviously, we want to continue the work we've done with our graduation rate. Continuing to make sure that every student graduates and is post-secondary prepared is our goal.

**Q:** Having served for some years as the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction with the Cleveland County Schools, you already had a working relationship with the members of the Board of Education. Do you see that relationship getting stronger in the coming year or two?

See FISHER Q&A, 7A

## Moral Monday rally

The Cleveland County Branch of the NAACP will sponsor a Moral Monday Rally on Monday at 5:30 p.m. on the lawn of the old Cleveland County Historic Courthouse, 103 S. Lafayette Street, Shelby.

Seating will be provided for older seniors and handicapped.

Rev. Dr. William Barber II, president of the North Carolina State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, will be guest speaker.

Rev. Dante Murphy, Branch president, invites the public to attend.

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**FAN**  
of the week  
**CONTEST**

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## More than just horseplay

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Students, teachers and administrators at East School Elementary got the first taste of the Early Act First Knight program Friday as horsemen dressed as medieval knights put on a show in the school's sunny back lot.

The knights and ladies came for the first time to the school last year, making it the first school in North Carolina to embrace the Rotary Club-sponsored program that emphasizes good citizenship and strong character.

About 300 were in attendance as Queen Suzannah (Kings Mountain Rotary Club member Suzanne Amos) emceed the entertaining cere-

**At right: A knight moves in on his target in a display of sword and horsemanship skills at Friday's kick off to East Elementary's Early Act First Knight program, which will run all year long.**

monies. Three knights, assisted by a number of squires and ladies, demonstrated their skills — at lancing loops and slicing heads of lettuce targets.

"We're very supportive

of the program," said Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey, a fellow Rotarian, who was in attendance with other city officials, including those from the city's police department.

The program last year helped establish a junior Rotary Club at the school.

And at every quarter, students ranging from kindergarten through fourth were recognized for such character traits as honesty, fairness and perseverance.

Early Act First Knight also seeks to motivate and teach children of all back



See KNIGHTS, 7A

## Wal-Mart to bring shifts in traffic

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As residents look ahead to the addition of a new 40,000 sq. foot Wal-Mart store, the City of Kings Mountain and the N.C. Department of Transportation are studying how the fresh influx of cars will affect traffic flow and safety in the changing neighborhood.

The last several years have seen a handful of what transportation experts call traffic stressors pop up on the Shelby Road and King Street.

First came Ingles. Then came a Duke Energy training facility, Telerec, a pharmaceutical distributor and other businesses that found a home in the industrial park near the Hwy. 74 Bus. and Hwy. 74 bypass exchange on the west side of town.

There's also an O'Reilly Auto Parts store that will be arriving soon less than a mile from where Wal-Mart is located. And Dollar General, currently located in the small shopping center next to Love's Fish Box on the Shelby Road, will soon be moving across the street. Additionally, a 56-unit apartment complex on King Street near the I-85 interchange is set to be completed by Christmas.

For Steve Killian, the city's Director of Planning and Economic Development, all these mounting changes to the town's main artery mean that the roads must change too. And based on open lots that are zoned for commercial use along and near King Street, he's counted 25 possible new businesses that could spring up in the near future.

Because Shelby Rd./King St. is a state-maintained road, it falls upon the N.C. DOT to



An intersection that has limited drivers' options will likely have to be re-designed ahead of the crush of traffic that Wal-Mart is expected to bring to the west Kings Mountain neighborhood.

both maintain it and sign off on driveway permits for new and expanding businesses.

Killian credits the state Department of Transportation for being ahead of the game in general and specifically when it comes to needed changes to King Street as Wal-Mart looks to a Thanksgiving opening. He said state engineers have done an excellent job of keeping motorists' best interests in mind.

"That's the reason you want DOT to design (the changes)," he said last week in his office in City Hall. "There's a science to it. Their engineers can review ingress and egress ... and they're striving to come up with a plan that considers the safety and long-term (traffic realities) of the area."

Killian said traffic engineers look at "movement conflict," which is basically the study of reducing the chances that motorists have to collide with each other as they navigate toward or around a destination or intersection.

The changes DOT has planned to accommodate the retail giant's arrival have not been finalized, but city officials feel that the entrance/exit point

onto King Street will get a facelift. Now, motorists leaving the shopping center are prohibited from making a left turn heading west. Meanwhile, cars at that same intersection making an exit from the Kings Mountain Country Club can turn only right.

The DOT passes along the total cost of road modifications and improvements that are precipitated by new businesses to the businesses themselves.

Much of the stretch from around Sims Street to the Food

Lion on the west side of town could likely see some changes regarding lane designations and placement of stop lights, according to Killian, who said that Wal-Mart could radically change the neighborhood, drawing as it has in other locales an array of new businesses.

"Wal-Mart generates enough traffic as a destination that it's nice to be close to," he said, adding that the Food Lion on Shelby Road has renewed its lease for multiple years.

## Moore unopposed

ELIZABETH STEWART  
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Rep. Tim Moore (R-Cleveland), Kings Mountain lawyer and five-term representative from District III in the NC House, is home free for another term after Nick Carpenter, Democrat, Shelby, announced this week he has withdrawn as a candidate.

The Cleveland County Dem-

ocratic Party did not nominate a candidate as replacement for Carpenter on the ballot.

Carpenter has withdrawn to take advantage of new educational and political employment opportunities opening up and relocated in late July to the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill "Triangle" of the state.

Carpenter, 21, will work through the November general

See MOORE, 7A



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