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# Kings Mountain HERALD

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Volume 126 • Issue 42 • Wednesday, October 15, 2014

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## KMHS athletes tops in grades; board weighs driver's ed funding

DAVE BLANTON

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Kings Mountain High School's varsity athletes topped their district counterparts academically in the 2012-2013 school year, pulling down an average GPA (unweighted) of 3.18.

That distinction earned them the Coach Jim Taylor Academic Excellence Award given to the high school with highest unweighted GPA of all varsity athletes.

The trophy was presented at Monday night's meeting of the Cleveland County Board of Education.

Superintendent Dr. Stephen Fisher called the accomplishment "a tremendous feat" for the school where he taught math for several years. KMHS is also his alma mater.

Dr. Brian Hunnell, the district's director of administrative services, said the GPA is based only on the 2012-2013 school year and isn't cumulative. Hunnell also noted that all Cleveland County high schools' athletes averaged higher than a 3.0 GPA in the same period. Crest High School collected the award last year.

Julie Rikard, an assistant principal at KMHS, and Mark Latham, the school's defensive football coordinator, accepted the award Monday night.

In other school board news, the panel heard about the progress and success of a Summer Literacy Academy that was held over a four week period during the summer.

Laura Beaver, who is the school district's Title I Curriculum Coach and Parent

Involvement Coordinator, said the program seeks to fill the gap for younger students who are at risk of falling behind in reading.

She was joined by Ryan Etheridge, a Title I teacher who helped run the academy and since then has been appointed to lead Burns High School's Freshman Academy.

Staffers from the academy said parent involvement in the program exceeded their expectations and said they hoped to expand the program in the future. Two elementary schools – Graham and James Love – participated in the academy. From 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the students participated in a variety of learning experiences designed to teach and

See KMHS ATHLETES 7A



Kings Mountain High School assistant principal Julie Rikard, at left, and the KMHS defensive football co-ordinator Mark Latham, at right, accept the Coach Jim Taylor Academic Excellence Award from Jim Taylor at Monday's school board meeting.

**Early voting starts Oct. 23**

Early voting for the November 4th general election will begin in Kings Mountain Thursday, Oct. 23 at the Kings Mountain Woman's Club on East Mountain Street.

Election officials will give you your ballots from 7:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 23, Friday, Oct. 24, Saturday, Oct. 25, Monday, Oct. 27, Tuesday, Oct. 28, Wednesday, Oct. 29, Thursday, Oct. 30 and Friday, Oct. 31 and on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Same day registration won't be allowed during early voting in North Carolina and Election Day ball-

## Major remodeling for McDonald's



Framing sub-contractors work on the exterior of the Shelby Rd. McDonald's Thursday afternoon. The fast food restaurant is getting a new look inside and out and expects to hold a grand opening in mid-December.

DAVE BLANTON

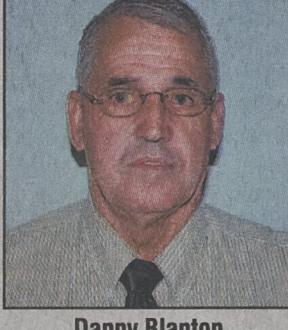
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The McDonald's on Shelby Rd. is in the middle of a major renovation project that's giving the fast-food joint expanded drive-thru capabilities and a fresh look inside that will include a variety of electronic games aimed at its younger customers. "It's going to be a more modern look inside," said store manager Brittany York, who said her store handles about 1,400 transactions on a typical day. "We're also installing a double drive-thru." That McDonald's location is planning a grand opening to

coincide with new neighbor Wal-Mart's grand opening on December 10. McDonald's hasn't set a grand opening date yet, but York said it would be in early to mid December. On hand for the big day? The company's instantly recognizable spokesperson Ronald McDonald. Also planned are raffles for free prizes and a host of kid-themed games. Construction began last Monday. By late last week the restaurant was shrouded in plain lumber boards as contractors built a new outer shell. Construction on the additional drive-thru got

See McDONALD'S 7A

**Speak Your Mind On Schools**



Danny Blanton

## Kiser family star in Liberty Mountain Drama

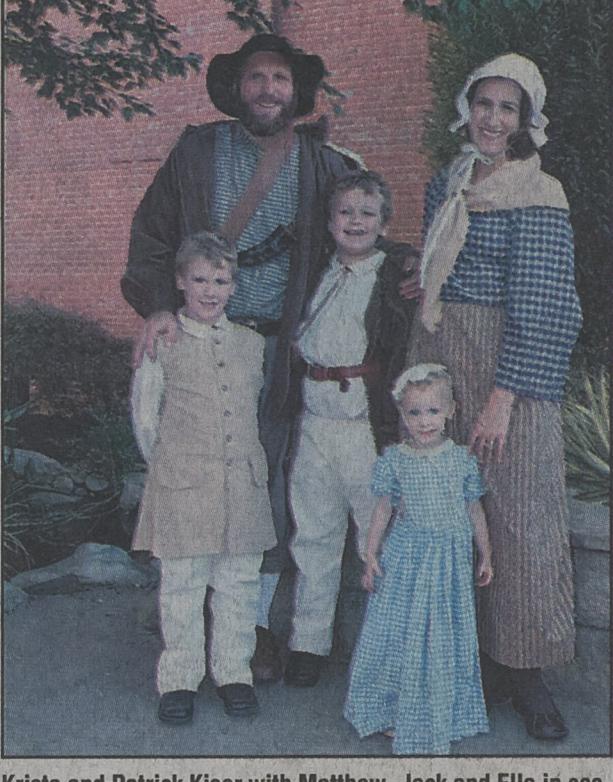
ELIZABETH STEWART

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Krista and Patrick Kiser and their children, Ella, Matthew and Jack, are among Kings Mountain families in the large cast of "Liberty Mountain," the drama by Bob Inman about the Revolutionary War Battle of Kings Mountain, which ended a two weekend run by the Kings Mountain Little Theatre Sunday to sell-out crowds.

"Our sons are fascinated with stories about the 18th century and the boys have collected artifacts and enjoyed Living History presentations at the Battle-ground," said Krista Kiser, a psychologist with Cleveland County Schools working with pre-schoolers and elementary children at Graham Elementary School.

Krista said that when she



Krista and Patrick Kiser with Matthew, Jack and Ella in costume for "Liberty Mountain".

See VOTING, 7A

## INSIDE



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See SPEAK YOUR MIND 7A



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