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Page 6-10B



Police collecting toys, see page 3

# Kings Mountain HERALD

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View captured at Mountain Rest Cemetery on Christmas Eve. File photo

## Christmas luminary service Dec. 24

City-owned Mountain Rest Cemetery will be aglow with candles Christmas Eve from 5:30 p.m. until 11 p.m. as citizens continue a Christmas Eve tradition in Kings Mountain.

"We had thousands of people drive through the cemetery last year and we expect crowds this year," said Mayor Pro Tem Mike Butler, who said he needs help in lighting the candles on 5,000 graves in the cemetery. "We want anyone who will help to come to the cemetery at 2 p.m. next Wednesday, Dec. 24," he said.

City crews will place milk jugs filled with sand and a candle on each grave early next week.

This is the 22nd year that the luminaria service will be held for people to pay respect to their loved ones, riding through the beautifully decorated grounds where families have placed poinsettias and seasonal flowers on the graves.

## Woodbridge Parade Sunday

The Woodbridge Lawn-mower Christmas parade has always been one of the most unique events in Cleveland County.

This year, due to the parade being so close to Christmas, getting Santa back home as soon as possi-

ble becomes very important for organizers of the parade.

To accommodate Santa, arrangements have been made with Bird's-eye Balloon Rides of Boiling Springs to take Santa away

See WOODBRIDGE, Page 6

## Human skeletal remains found

Human skeletal remains have been found in the woods near a home at 823 Long Branch Road near Grover, according to Sheriff Alan Norman. Norman

said the scene was cleared and processed Sunday afternoon and the remains have been sent to the Charlotte Medical Examiner's Office for autopsy.

The decedent's identity is unknown at this time and the case remains under investigation, Norman said.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office at 704-484-4822 or 704-484-4788.

## Board settles on transfer policy change; calendar tweaks proposed

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After months of debate and discussion on the matter, the Cleveland County Board of Education on Monday voted to approve an amendment to its student transfer policy dealing with student-athletes. The move is a tightening of previous rules and brings more oversight into a process that board members concede affects only a minority of students.

The new policy imposes a 365 no-sports-participation rule for student athletes who are unable to prove the move to a new school was precipitated by unavoidable circumstances, such as divorce, physical and/or educational disability, or change of domicile, or court system mandates.

"It's not a complete overhauling, said Greg Shull, the school system's

communications director. "The change is really just about the athletic eligibility component of the transfer policy." Student-athletes who are rejected for transfer approval will have an opportunity to appeal the decision before a School Transfer Committee, which will be created in the coming months. The committee's decision would not be final. Any contested decisions could still come before the overall board.

The new rules, which take effect at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year, are in line with the recommendations of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

Although the rule change won unanimous support from board members in Monday's vote, several on the panel said they were apprehensive about implementing a rule that might hurt students whose interest



Newly-elected board of education chairman Philip Glover, left, and Dr. Linda Hopper, right, Assistant Supt. of School Improvement and Administrative Services, congratulate Chad Beam, English teacher at Burns High School, runner-up to Regional Teacher of the Year.

Photo by GREG SHULL

in playing sports was secondary to their academic pursuits.

"We've become a very

mobile society," said board member Jerry Hoyle.

See BOARD, Page 7

## No room in the mall say church workers

For nearly a dozen years volunteers from Family Worship Center, 1818 Shelby Road, have wrapped Christmas presents at Cleveland Mall for benefit of missions project.

Vickie Black, project chairman, said they were told this season they could no longer have space at the Mall to gift wrap.

"So, we are wrapping in the vestibule of our church from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20 and the gift wrap price will be by size with limited boxes available," said Black. A nice selection of papers and bows are available. She suggests that by calling 704-418-0418 you can schedule a time for wrapping of a large volume of gifts and save time. Black said the church is beautifully decorated for Christmas and those taking gifts for gift-wrapping can enjoy the décor while their

See NO ROOM, Page 7



Mayor Rick Murphrey and Mayor pro tem Mike Butler, far right, prepare to cut the red ribbon showing off the new children's train table at Mauney Memorial Library's Harris Children's Wing. The State Library awarded a LSTA E2Technology grant to fund the project. The top of the table is removable and the top can be used as a train table, a Lego building top and a Tinker Toy top. Children enjoyed story hour by Children's Librarian Christy Conner, pictured at left of the mayor, prior to the presentation. The children's staff at the library will switch the tops every several months to give children a change of play experiences.

Photo by ELLIS NOELL

## Casino opposition group takes petition to Washington

Five members of the Kings Mountain Awareness Group went to Washington, DC Monday and hand-delivered city councilman Tommy Hawkins' letter retracting his support of a

casino and 1500 signatures on petitions opposing a proposed casino/resort by the Catawba Indian Nation on Dixon School Road at I-85.

Adam Forcade, his wife Cynthia, Marie Jackson,

Pastor Marti Ramey, and Sheila Leonard met for 45 minutes with Sarah Harris, Assistant Secretary to the Chief of Staff of the Bureau

See CASINO, Page 7



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