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# Kings Mountain HERALD

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## Stewart, Brinkley honored Monday by school board

The Cleveland County Board of Education moved Monday to name an athletic fieldhouse and a street on the campus of the Kings Mountain High School after several individuals that have contributed greatly to Kings Mountain athletics over the course of several decades.

Visitors to the high school will now drive on Gary Stewart Blvd. on their way into home games and as they make their way past the recently constructed and state-of-the-art Brinkley Fieldhouse.

The Brinkleys helped to found the Kings Mountain Touchdown Club, which in recent years raised millions of dollars

to fund the construction of the new fieldhouse that was opened last year. David Brinkley is also a former member of the KMHS varsity coaching staff.

Stewart is a Kings Mountain sportswriter who has worked for the Herald as a writer and photographer for more than 50 years, the newspaper's longest-serving editor. After his retirement, he continues as Herald sports editor. The board sought to celebrate his legacy of putting a spotlight on Kings Mountain's athletes and athletic programs through his work with the Herald and other local newspapers.

See map on page 3

## Before surgery 7th grader will play ball His heart in GOD's hand

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Blake Broome, 12, says God will take care of his heart and until he has open heart surgery on May 26 he plans to play his heart out for the Kings Mountain Middle School Patriots baseball team.



BLAKE BROOME

A phenomenal athlete with unbelievable faith and courage, Blake was born with Transposition of the Great Arteries, a congenital heart defect that required open heart surgery at the age of nine months. During that surgery he had a conduit (tube) with a pulmonary valve inside placed to reroute his blood correctly.

He's had no complications in 12 years but doctors say he is outgrowing that tube, which will be replaced by an adult size tube along with repairing his leaky mitral valve.

Blake, a 7th grader, is more worried that he won't be able to play ball for six weeks after the surgery than the surgery itself.

The doctor said "no baseball, you can't even pick up a bat or a ball for six weeks. Give me six weeks and I will have you back on the ball field."

"That will be tough," says the handsome redhead who weighs 87 pounds and stands 5 feet tall. Blake started playing tee ball at the KM YMCA at the age of 4 and every year since age 6 has been on the KM All Star team. Just last year, his 11-12 All Stars team won the District tour-



Blake Broome swings his bat at KMMS Patriot game.

name and represented Storm weekend travel team since age 7. They traveled KM well in NC state tournament in Richfield. He has played with the KM

See HIS HEART, Page 14

## State of the District Meeting Monday

The Cleveland County Board of Education will hold a State of the District meeting on Monday, March 16 at 7 p.m. at Kings Mountain High. A variety of information surrounding the Kings Mountain Zone and the district will be presented by Supt. Dr. Stephen Fisher.

He will also introduce principals, assistant principals, and Central Services administrators and highlight their individual roles, because he says he believes it's important for parents and the general public to know who is on the team.

If you would like to suggest a topic for presentation, please feel free to contact Greg Shull at (704) 476-8030

or submit an anonymous recommendation online at <http://goo.gl/kmW06i>.

The intent of the meeting is to provide parents and the community with information about the county schools, while highlighting topics that are important to parents and the community as a whole.

"We share high expectations for our students and want to make sure you remain informed about the direction of our schools and vision for excellence," Dr. Fisher wrote in a letter to parents encouraging attendance at the meeting.

Monday's meeting here is an inaugural meeting but board members expect more in the future.

## New playground addition is disability-friendly

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City and county officials on Friday opened an addition to the Mayor Rick Murphrey Children's Playground that is disability-friendly and 100% handicap accessible.

There isn't another handicap accessible playground in the county open to the public.

The creation of the playground is a partnership between the City of Kings Mountain and Cleveland County Board of Commissioners.

Cleveland County commissioners voted last September to spend \$81K to build it and furnish play-

ground equipment. City Council voted to provide the property, remove trees and concrete in preparation of a pad for the playground, complete wooden fencing and will be in charge of maintenance.

The playground is a completely boundless playground. Any child confined to a wheelchair can access every feature on the elevated decks and all the ground level components. The swing has two handicap accessible seats as well. Picnic tables are in place. The structure is a PlayCraft play structure.

Mayor Rick Murphrey presided at the ribbon cutting and county commission chairman Jason Falls

and commissioners Johnny Hutchins, Eddie Holbrook, vice-chairman and Susan Allen spoke about how much children will enjoy the park. They said the partnership satisfies one of the county's strategic goals for fiscal year 2013-14, which was to work with community partners to provide recreational amenities that are handicap-accessible.

No children were present for the ribbon cutting because of the cold and wind on Friday but spring weather will see



MIRANDA EASTER, North Shelby student (file photo)

a turnout of kids at the park located beside the YMCA

See PLAYGROUND, Page 14

## KM Historical Museum needs your vote

The Kings Mountain Historical Museum has a chance to win \$10,000 but the community's help is needed.

Adria Focht, Museum



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Director, has been notified that the Museum is one of three finalists along with the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation and the Allegro Foundation in WTVI PBS Charlotte's Community Give Back non-profit spotlight contest.

The three finalists will receive a video profile that

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## Race Day at Gateway a big hit

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Racers at Saturday's Gateway Trail run were favored by sweet weather (it was chilly but clear), but they still had to contend with hilly, demanding courses that tested the limits of novice and experienced runners alike.

"It was tough," said Franklin Keathley moments after crossing the finish line in the 10-mile run in a time of 1:04:18. "You can never tail with a trail. But

you can't ask for a better surface than you have out here." The Charlottean is no stranger to doing well at Gateway. He picked up first place in last year's long race, which was a 10K.

Rounding out the top finishers in the 10-mile morning race was Thomas Manning, with a time of 1:09:20, with third place overall going to Rippy Mitchell, with a time of 1:12:30. Beckie Calvert was the fastest racer among females in the 10-miler, with a time of 1:24:39. In the 5K results, there



Carter Bridges finishes third overall in 5K.

were ties in the top two spots. Randy Whaley and Zachary Pierce shared first



Franklin Keathley was the top runner of the day in 10 mile course.

place, while Harry Gregory

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