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**SPORTS**  
 Pages 11-14

**INSIDE...**

- Obituaries ..... 2
- Police Log ..... 2
- Lifestyles ..... 6

**Children hunt  
 100 Easter  
 eggs Saturday**  
 See Page 3



# Kings Mountain HERALD

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75¢

## TD Club eyes more upgrades at Gamble Stadium

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A plan to update Kings Mountain's John Gamble Stadium with new concessions and restroom facilities won the approval of the Cleveland County Board of Education Monday.

The school board heard detailed plans for the upgrade from David Brinkley, the founder and president of the non-profit Touchdown Club.

"This will be designed to benefit all athletic program at Kings Mountain High," he told board members, adding that it will have a larger capacity for cooking with the addition of a grilling station and 14 bathroom stalls.

The Touchdown Club last year unveiled a new state of the art field house that sits adjacent to John Gamble Stadium. Brinkley led the group in raising close to a million dollars (some of

the labor and materials were donated in kind) to build the new facility.

Calling the concession and restroom upgrades Stage 2 of the long-range plan to modernize the stadium, he said its design will benefit a lot of fans. Also, the design will allow concession volunteers to watch the game because it will set off to the side of the press box area.

Brinkley said all funds needed to build the new

facility will come from donations in the community, as was the case with the construction of the new field house, which broke ground three years ago. The plan went before the school board mainly because it will be built on state property and maintained by public money. He estimated the building costs for the planned facility to be less than \$200,000, and said he's estimating that a ground-breaking that could

take place by mid-summer.

"I'm hoping people will see the quality of what the Touchdown Club has done," he said. "The community has really come out in full support of these needed projects and I couldn't be more proud of the results we've gotten."

Brinkley isn't stopping with a brand new field house and concessions stands though. He said the group's plans down the road include a final Stage 3 of

improvements and updates. That stage would primarily be about replacing the old press box that has served the stadium since the late 1960s.

"Ultimately, I hope to be able to tear down the entire structure holding the current press box and start over so we can have a world class facility for our athletes, their families and the fans."

See proposed floor plan on Page 7

## Top speller looks to D.C. bee

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Rexen Venevongsoth first battled through the competition at Kings Mountain Middle School and then among fellow spelling bee champs at the Cleveland County Schools to win the title as the county's best speller two weeks ago. That win earned him a ticket to the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., in May.

And yet for all that momentum, the cheerful and soft-spoken 7th grader has a self-deprecating response when asked what he thinks his chances are at winning the top title in the nation's capital, where he'll face up to 1,000 other expert spellers from around the country. "Zero percent," he said calmly during an interview in a conference room at his school Monday afternoon.

But by all accounts, Venevongsoth, who is 12 and lists math and physical education as his favorite subjects, seems well prepared.



Rexen Venevongsoth says he always has some butterflies in his stomach when competing in spelling bees, but also says "You can't win if you're not nervous."

He aced the spelling of "cygnet" at the school level to take that trophy, and later spelled "tamale" correctly to win the county title, which was sponsored by the Shelby Star.

The Herald fired off a couple of hard-to-spell words without much warning in our chat with him.

"Antecedent?" Nailed it.

"Colleague?" Perfect, no

See TOP SPELLER, Page 7

## Tonal Spectrum in town Saturday at Joy Theatre

Want to see one of the region's hottest a cappella acts in advance of a hopeful showing in a big New York City competition?

You'll have your chance this Saturday evening at the Joy Theatre when Tonal Spectrum and Friends, a singing group comprised of Crest High School students, puts on a show.

Tonal Spectrum is reaching out the community in trying to raise \$25,000 so it can take the trip to the Big Apple to participate in the Varsity Vocals International Championship for High Schools A Cappella competition on April 17. The trip is expected to cost about \$500 per person.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. performance are just \$10, and

See TONAL SPECTRUM, Page 3



## New apartments close to open on King St.

Cambridge Oaks is taking applications

After many months of construction, Cambridge Oaks Apartment Homes is set to open up its first units in just a few weeks.

Located on the east side of town close to the U.S. 74 and I-85 interchange, the 56-unit tax-credit/affordable housing complex will upon completion offer a clubhouse, fitness center, business center, playground and a covered picnic area.

Depending on the qualifying income of applicants, two bedroom apartment homes are priced in the \$330 to \$525 range. For three bedroom units that range moves up to between \$380 to \$605. Application fees are \$19.50 per adult. Successful applicants must have no felonies in their past, and misde-



Cambridge Oaks Apartment Homes. Project managers say all 56 units will be available by late summer.

meanors more recent than seven years. Deposits are \$300 to \$600.

Officials from the management company said that they're beginning to set up appointment with applicants this week. Those interesting may call (704) 414-7435 for more information about the

application process. By mid-April, Royal American Management, which has offices in Charlotte and Gastonia, will be set up to meet applicants at the Kings Mountain site.

"They're among the nicest I've ever built," said Tony Horn, who is the site

superintendent for WXZ Construction, which has built a handful of tax-credit apartment complexes in the Kings Mountain area in recent years. "They're designed with residents in mind, and that includes sound barrier systems between units."

## Workers out in spring weather laying water lines in city



Workers complete work on the waterline project along Battleground Ave. on Friday. The waterline that was being rehabbed lies beneath the sidewalk, which means that the neighborhood is seeing its sidewalk completely replaced. It amounts to about a half of mile of smooth new sidewalk from Gold St. to Wells St. It's not wider than before, although it does appear that way because grass and other vegetation had crept along the edges of the old sidewalk, making it look thinner by comparison.

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You can't miss the stop and slow signs on South Battleground Ave. where the city is laying water lines and replacing sidewalks.

Other areas of the city - Ridge Street and behind Tom's Market on Oak Grove Road and at Moss Lake workmen are out on Spring days and in good weather hoping to make

See workers, Page 7

## LGC Visits Grover addressing financial issues

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GROVER - In this town of a little over 700 people residents and five council members appeared overwhelmed Wednesday night at news from a state official about town finances.

"This is a pretty healthy list of discrepancies and

things not being done," said mayor pro tem Bill Willis. "It seems like a dire situation."

And what happens if we can't fix it? was the next question.

Sharon Edmundson, director of Fiscal Management of the State and Local

See LGC, Page 7

## Tickets now available for "Liberty Mountain"

Tickets for 'Liberty Mountain' are now available online at www.km-libertymountain.com for performance dates beginning on Saturday, June 26, 2015.

All tickets are assigned seating, so purchase early to get your preferred seat selection. Tickets are

\$15, plus tax and a small transaction fee. Questions should be directed to jim@kmlt.org or call the box office at 704-730-9408.

Tickets to the opening night performance will be limited in number, as

See TICKETS, Page 7

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