



SPORTS, 1B

CAN PANTHERS PUT SUPER BOWL IN THE PAST?



LIFESTYLES, 9B

THAT ART NIGHT KICKS OFF AUG. 5 AT BREWERY



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BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING



JAMES NIX/INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE

Carolina Panthers cornerback Bene Benwikere helps a group of kids from the Boys & Girls Club of Cabarrus County shop for school items during a back-to-school shopping spree at Academy Sports + Outdoors in Concord on Tuesday afternoon. Benwikere helps Elijah Smith (middle photo) pick out shoes. The sporting goods retailer gave 50 kids a \$100 gift card to use toward backpacks, shoes, athletic apparel and other school necessities. Next week, the store will welcome 60 kids from Cannon Memorial YMCA for another shopping spree at its Kannapolis store Monday, Aug. 1, and at its Concord store Thursday, Aug. 4. Those kids also will receive a \$100 gift card to use for back-to-school shopping.



Kannapolis City OKs incentive grant for expansion

BY MICHAEL KNOX
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KANNAPOLIS — The Kannapolis City Council has approved an incentive grant that will help a local company create a \$2.75 million expansion, leading to 20 new, full-time jobs.

The City Council approved the incentive grant at its regularly scheduled meeting Monday.

ESC Enterprises Inc. — now known as ISE Enterprises Inc. after a recent merger — looks to develop a new, larger facility to expand its operations.

ISE Enterprises was formed after the merger of Charlotte-based International Display Systems with ECS Enterprises Inc., which already had a presence in Kannapolis, with a 23,500-square-foot location at 1151 Biscayne Drive. That merger was effective July 1. ECS Enterprises Inc. has been in Kannapolis since 2004.

“It makes perfect sense for our two firms to join together,” said John Stilwell, chairman and chief operating officer for ISE Enterprises, in a press release. “Our children all have leadership roles in the new company, which ensures a succession plan in place for the longevity of our company in Cabarrus County.”

The newly named company, ISE Enterprises Inc., looks to build a 30,000-square-foot facility on vacant land at 840 Biscayne Drive for its acrylic fabrication and packaging operations. It also plans to continue some operations at its 1151 Biscayne Drive site.

The expansion would result in 20 full-time jobs, most of which will be new jobs due to the merger of the two companies. Average wages of the new jobs are \$17.87 an hour. ESC already had 35 full-time employees and 17

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KCS opens online classes to homeschoolers

BY ERIN WEEKS
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KANNAPOLIS — Kannapolis City Schools’ student family just got a bit bigger.

Starting this fall, home-schooled children in the district will be able to enroll in the system’s online classes, which range from fun electives to core subjects to high-level Advanced Placement courses.

“It’s been successful in some out-of-the-box kind of situations, so we figured we’d apply it and offer that to our home-school students as well,” Assistant Superintendent Kelly Burgess said of the online program. “Es-

pecially for those higher-level courses — foreign language and AP — or just those high-interest courses like psychology, civics and economics, creative writing, we want to be able to offer that to all students, so we figured that would be a good partnership and a good opportunity for us to reach out to that community.”

KCS began offering online courses to enrolled students three years ago, offering classes written and taught by the system’s own teachers. Middle and high school students can sign up for free, whether they attend public school or not, as long as they live within the KCS district.

To qualify, children must be enrolled in a licensed home school in the Kan-

napolis school district. Students must register in two classes each semester, and those courses can’t replace a home-school curriculum.

“The success of all kids in our community is our goal,” Burgess said. “Whether they’re here enrolled in our schools or in home schools, we want them all to be successful, and we have this resource that it doesn’t cost us anything, or nominally, to offer that and to expand those programs.”

Staff members sent 150 letters to home-school families in the community to spread the word. Classes would start in the fall and operate on a semester calendar just like the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Starting this fall, Kannapolis City Schools is opening online classes to home-schooled children.

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