

KELLSTROMS: star in first music video filmed in KM

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purchased on Molora's website and through music retailers (like iTunes).

One of Molora's tracks will also appear on a compilation CD, "I'm Working on a Building", featuring Trace Adkins, Alan Jackson, George Jones, Marty Raybon and Jason Crabb.

Molora said that she was honored and humbled when producers asked her to be on the CD, hitting the shelves in April. Her song had been the only one personally requested. It is also the only bilingual track on the album. Proceeds from the CD are set to benefit an orphanage in the Philippines.

The video of "The River" tells a powerful story of a teenage girl, who has a "serious encounter with God" and who tries to escape all of the world's modern day distractions to get to the river.

"No matter what ordinary life tries to put in her way, she wants to get to the river flowing with the full presence of God," Molora said.

Breathing visible life into the story Molora sings into existence with her lyrics is, well... complicated. A five-minute video takes about two full days to shoot and weeks of editing and splicing with smooth transitions before it's ready for the masses, according to Hill.

And before all of that, there's the hair, the makeup, building the set, setting the lights, testing the audio, rehearsing and - you get the picture.

Molora's mother, Margaret Woodard, was helping with hair Friday night at the Family Worship Center.

Molora said that she was grateful to have the help of KMHS theatre coach Traci Morrison Dill as assistant director on the film.

In addition to her behind-the-scenes expertise, Dill brought a talented cast of Kings Mountain High students with her to the sets.

The supporting stars appear in several scenes throughout the video. Austin Simmons, who starred in the KMHS production of "Seussical", in which Sophia also appeared, returns to the screen with Sophia in the video.

"They were absolutely wonderful and we couldn't have done it without them," Molora said after the shoot.

More than 50 people appear in the video and 40 of them braved the cool temperatures on Saturday morning and stepped or waded into Davidson Lake for the video's climactic scene.

There, waiting for Sophia's character to find her way to "the river" was 86-year-old Lucille Owens, member of the Family Wor-

ship Center. She found her way to "the river" long ago.

Owens is a living, breathing miracle, Molora said.

She had trouble with her kidneys years ago. One was removed and eventually the other one lost nearly all function. Doctors told her she would need to go on dialysis, but after a week of prayer and praise at her church Owens asked the doctors to run the tests again. She felt better.

Flabbergasted they found that Owens had not one, but two, kidneys operating at 100 percent. The doctor, who knew firsthand that one of her kidneys had been removed, was in awe of the miracle he had just seen. He reportedly prayed right then and there with Owens.

"She is such a blessing! We wanted her in our video," Molora said. "Many of our awesome members from Family Worship Center were in it. They prayed and fasted all throughout the week for the video. It was an incredibly anointed experience."

The video was shot at Davidson and City lakes, a field off of Oak Grove Road, the Kellstroms' house and backyard off of Alex D. Owens Drive, at the home of Tommy and Tina Buchanan in Crocker Ridge, at Kings Mountain High School and at the Family Worship Center.

Students from Kings Mountain High appearing in the video were, Jordyn Peterson, Allison Simmons, Nick Lease, Austin Simmons, Kayla Edge, Rebekah Anthony, Taylor Rogers, Chan Champion, Andrew Williams, Andrew Childers, Brittany Poeng, Falicity Gantt, Andrew Lytle, Michelle Philavong and Kimberly Sourisoud.

In the band scene, Curtis Morrison was on piano, Joseph Lowery on drums, Gabriel Ramirez on bass, Jonathan Williams on guitar, Trudy Thomas on violin, and Lakeishea Childress, Jeff Childress and Yvonne Lowery sang backup.

Also appearing in the video is, Spencer Kellstrom, Roger Woodard, Alice Dittman, Rany Miller, Jayne Crawford, Scott Crawford, Penny Crawford, Barbette Morrison, Ciera Buchanan, Tena Buchanan, Andrew Buchanan, Belinda West, Mattie West, Lisa Korch, Jacob Korch, Francisco Benitez, Marvin Ramirez, Yesenia Benitez, Teresa Hartwell, Donna Rayfield, and Melody Murray.

Molora said that she was "very excited" to be doing her first music video. She recently returned from performing live prime time in Europe, Scandinavia and in the Middle East.

LEAP: Day is special for KM birthday girl, who turns 16 and 4

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Three years out of four, the calendar skips her birthday. She sits and watches the date on her phone jump from Feb. 28 to March 1, as if the 29th never existed. But when it's a Leap Year, she feels extraordinary.

"I don't have a birthday every year like everyone else but I feel special to be different," she said.

Usually Megan and her family celebrate her birthday on whichever day, February 28 or March 1, is closest to the weekend so all the family can be together without interruptions of school and work.

"I am very excited to be able to celebrate my sixteenth birthday on the actual day I was born," she said. "We will probably go out to eat and have cake."

Her favorite thing about being a Leap Year baby is that she feels very unique to claim the special day as her own every four years. But being born on a day three out of four calendars forget can have its bad side. Last year when she turned old enough to get her permit, the state wouldn't let her get it on Feb. 28.

"They said I had to wait till March 1 because I technically wasn't 15 yet, even though March 1 fell on a Saturday and I had to wait a whole weekend to get my permit," Megan said.

When asked if being a



KYRA TURNER/HERALD
Megan Haraszkiwicz poses with her balloon cake, celebrating her sixteenth and fourth birthday today, February 29.

Leap Year baby gave her any special powers, she laughed, "No, but it does make you stand out."

She also loves the fact that, "I will always be young. Even when I am 100 years old I will actually only be 25," she beamed. Turning 40 doesn't seem so daunting when you know you will - technically - have only had 10 birthdays.

Megan is involved in the Kings Mountain High School marching band in which she plays the trumpet. She is active in her church, Bethlehem Baptist, Dance Magic and she loves to run. She is sister to three brothers, Chris, 21, Josh, 20, and Seth, 19.

Leap Year comes around once every four years to keep the calendar in check with the Earth's spins around the sun.

INCENTIVES: for new KM data center bring industry, jobs, tax revenue, big name to county

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"That amount could grow even larger over time," Bailes said, adding that the Cleveland County Sanitary District will provide a backup water source as needed.

Kings Mountain's rich water resource was one of the main drivers in getting the data centers to come, the mayor said.

The city's plans to expand the water treatment plant's production from 8 million gallons a day (mgd) to 10 mgd, will likely increase to 12 mgd, the mayor said.

He noted that the area's mild climate, location, quality of life, available electricity, water and reasonable rates all made Kings Mountain a handsome catch.

But in order to get a shot at those reasonable rates, that break in property taxes, and that abundant water supply, T5 Partners made a deal with the city.

T5 asked to be voluntarily annexed into the city's corporate limits. The city gave them the inside rates. The data centers will save money on utilities and the city will collect on that franchise tax. The county, too, will reap the rewards of increased tax revenue.

Why are incentives so important?

Chairman of the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners Johnny Hutchins said that without incentives many companies "aren't going to talk to you". He added that incentive deals are based on guidelines and if those guidelines aren't met, industries don't get the promised perks.

Cleveland County has agreed to grant back to AT&T - if all benchmarks are met - 67% of all property taxes the company pays over the next 14 years.

County Manager Eddie Bailes said that even with the rebate the county is set to receive a substantial amount of revenue from the taxes of the \$851 million center.

"Even the almost 34 percent we get is still huge and that's a pretty large amount," he said.

If the company pays 72 cents for every \$100 of property value and the property is valued (...eventually) at \$851 million, AT&T would be paying \$6,127,200 in taxes. At a 67% rebate, the company

would be refunded a little more than \$4.1 million and the county would be pulling in more than \$2 million each year.

But the incentives that bring the companies, the expansions and the jobs, Hutchins said, helped the county pass a budget last year without tax increases or new fees. Last year, 21 counties in the state of North Carolina passed budgets with increased tax rates, according to the NC Association of County Commissioners.

With a declining revenue from the sales tax, a poor housing market and an increased need for government assistance, passing a budget without a raise in taxes is not an easy task, Bailes noted.

"What is kind of keeping us afloat is the industrial development that's occurring," he said.

AT&T...err mum's the word

City, county and state leaders fell silent on AT&T's identity in its attempts to attract the industry, claiming any leak of the company's name would kill the deal. But the mixed looks of joy, excitement and relief on faces at Cleveland County Country Club Wednesday seemed to say it was worth it.

"You are the envy of the state," Sen. Protem Phil Berger told county and city leaders at the announcement.

The new AT&T facility will be one of the largest data centers in the state, dwarfing Apple's 500,000-square-foot behemoth and both of Rutherford County's 300,000-square-foot Facebook facilities.

The Kings Mountain data center will be the company's "model facility", said AT&T North Carolina President Cynthia Marshall. It is set to open in 2014. It will help AT&T accommodate the company's ever-growing

computing and data storage needs.

AT&T employs 7,000 workers in North Carolina and plans to add 106 more with the new data center in the T5 server farm off of Countryside Road.

"North Carolina is the place to be," Marshall said. "This is an exciting moment in the history of AT&T and Cleveland County."

"I can assure you that the success Cleveland County has seen over the last few years even in this economy is not accidental," Gov. Perdue told the crowd, citing other recent industry announcements.

Former County Manager David Dear, who is still active in economic development projects, told county commissioners and Kings Mountain councilmen that the industry "will impact our economy for years to come" at a meeting Tuesday.

"This is a great day for the City of Kings Mountain," Murphrey said. "We all definitely have hit a homerun today."

AT&T joins an exclusive neighborhood of data centers including Wipro Technologies' Infocrossing and Disney Worldwide Services in T5's Kings Mountain server farm.

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