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KM Hospital expanding care

The grand opening of the Long Term Acute Care Hospital (LTACH) on the second floor of Kings Mountain Hospital will be held Thursday, Feb. 27, from 4-7 p.m. with ribbon cutting at 6 p.m.

The announcement was made by Carolinas Healthcare System, Cleveland County HealthCare System and Carolinas ContinueCARE Hospital at Kings Mountain.

The Long Term Acute Care Hospital is relocating from Crowley Memorial Hospital in Boiling Springs to provide service for the



most complex patients needing long-term care and inpatient rehabilitation. Locating the LTACH inside Kings Mountain Hospital allows more efficient access to services such as radiology and pharmacy services.

A long-term acute care hospital, or LTACH, serves the needs of pa-

tients with medically complex conditions, especially those suffering from multisystem complications and needing extended recovery. A patient is usually admitted after a short term, acute-care hospital stay. After care in an LTACH, patients may be able to transition to acute rehab, skilled nursing home or

home. Hospice care is another option, depending on the individual.

Carolinas ContinueCARE at Kings Mountain will have 28 beds, and the care team will treat patients who have conditions including ventilator dependence, respiratory failure, chronic pulmonary problems, complex and severe wounds, and infections requiring long term antibiotic therapy. LTACH patients come from all over the region, including Cleveland, Rutherford, Gaston, Burke, and Lincoln counties and the upstate area of South

Carolina.

The community is invited to the ribbon cutting at 6 p.m. and the grand opening from 4-7 p.m. which includes tours. The tour will begin in the front lobby of the hospital.

Alex Bell, Vice-President of Cleveland County Health Care System and administrator of Kings Mountain Hospital, and Denise Murray, CEO of Carolinas ContinueCARE Hospital, will lead the tour to include patient rooms and treatment areas.

The living is lovely in KM! City shivers, skids in big snow storm

ELIZABETH STEWART
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Want to make the best of your golden years?

Kings Mountain has been picked as the 5th best place to retire in North Carolina by Movoto Real Estate.

How did we win this distinctive spot among 82 places ranked as the best places to retire in the state? PR Associate Chad Stiffney said the company looked at cities with populations of at least 10,000 and ranked them on cost of living, crime rate, weather, ease of travel and amenities. They used census data to find all places in the Tar Heel State with a population of 10,000 and this left them with 82 places and each was ranked based on the number of criteria from 1 to 82 with the lowest number ranked as best.

Out of the five pieces used to judge each place, Kings Mountain ranked well in four, with the only criterion harming the locale's ascent up the listing being its cost of living rank. For this criterion Kings Mountain took the number 76 spot with the area's cost of living on par with the national average.

With population of 10,296, Kings Mountain ranked 12 for weather, 12 for cost of living, 36 for crime rank, 27 for travel rank, 31 for amenities, and 22.08 for big deal score.

The top 10 were: Morrisville, Mount Holly, Apex, Holly Springs, Kings Mountain, Mint Hill, Stallings, Sanford and Matthews.

The company on its website also listed pictures of 10 new homes constructed in the city in recent months ranging from \$49,000 to \$531,000.

Tremors felt in KM

Tremors from a 4.4 magnitude earthquake were felt by some Kings Mountain residents Friday night about 10:30 p.m., according to the Kings Mountain Police Department.

KMPD dispatchers got calls from area residents. No damages were reported.

Other Cleveland County residents, including those in the Dixon Community, said they felt the tremors.

The Associated Press reported that the earthquake was centered seven miles west of Edgefield, SC, southwest of Columbia, SC.

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No one, at least, could claim they weren't warned.

As a sustained blast of wintry weather swept over the Southeast last week, Kings Mountain-area residents hunkered down in warm homes as schools and many businesses closed for most of the week and road conditions were at times treacherous and unpredictable.

It was the biggest weather calamity to smack into Cleveland County since a January 1999 ice storm that spread a dangerous sheet of ice over roads, power lines and homes. But outside of a few minor traffic accidents — no more than average for the same span of time during mild weather, according to police — residents remained safe and city services were maintained.

"We had no major problems," said Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey, who said city officials established a command center ahead of the storm. "No outages from electric or gas," both of which are supplied by the city.



Isabel and Phin Hines weren't shivering after last week's storm, they were too busy having fun sledding with their dad, Adam (not pictured).

In preparing for the storm, police officials consulted the National Weather Service and allotted manpower and scheduling accordingly. The result of the planning and citizens' wariness of the inclement weather was fewer problems than officials have seen in previous, lighter winter storms.

"This is the first time we've seen people adhere to the warnings," said Kings Mountain Police Chief Melvin Proctor. "We've had very few issues. My congratulations to the public."

Cleveland County Government offices, including the Courthouse, were shuttered Wednesday and Thursday after a

countywide state of emergency was declared. Gov. Pat McCrory declared a state of emergency for the state of North Carolina on Tuesday, as did Mayor Murphrey for Kings Mountain, as the storm was just beginning to dump heavy snow on the area. Kings Mountain recorded about

See STORM, 3A

'Hairspray' coming to KMHS Feb. 26

The Kings Mountain High School Performing Arts Department will present its Disney's Beauty and the Beast - "Hairspray" Wednesday through Friday, February 26, 27, 28 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, March 1 at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, March 2 at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets for the show at Barnes Auditorium on the campus of KMHS will be \$8 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and Cleveland County Renaissance Blue, Black and Silver Card holders. Renaissance Gold Card holders and children 5 and under get in for free. A raffle for several items includes two tickets to Rock of Ages, playing at the Belk Theater in Charlotte later this year. You must purchase a show ticket to be eligible for the raffle. Proceeds from the raffle will go to help the Performing Arts Department raise money for use in the department.

"Hairspray" quickly became a fan favorite when it appeared on Broadway in 2002, starring Harvey Fierstein as Edna Turnblad. Winner of eight Tony Awards including Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical, Best Original Score, Best Actor in a Musical, Best Actress in a Musical, Best Featured Actor in a Musical, Best Costume Design, Best Direction of a Musical, it follows the never-to-be-counted-out Tracy Turnblad as she attempts to integrate Baltimore through her dancing on the Corny Collins Show. A favorite among students and adults alike, this show brings music to the stage that is sure to have your feet tapping.



Jordyn Peterson, Austin Willis and Allen Williams, left to right, are among the cast of "Hairspray" which opens Wednesday, Feb. 26, put on by the Kings Mountain High School Performing Arts Department at B. N. Barnes Auditorium on campus.

Fresh off one of its most successful seasons, the Kings Mountain High School Performing Arts Department continues its tradition of excellence with this production of "Hairspray". Starring award-winning actors Jordyn Peterson as Tracy Turnblad, Jensen Fleisher as Penny Pinkelton, and Jack Pierson as Corny Collins, this cast also features the talents of stage veterans Allen Williams and Kelton Stone as Seaweed J. Stubbs and Amber von Tussle. Stepping into lead roles for the first

time with energy and enthusiasm, Austin Willis and Kat Carpenter impress as Link Larkin and Velma von Tussle. Playing Tracy's mother, Edna, is newcomer Derek England, who is joined in stage matrimony by Nick Lease as Wilbur Turnblad. This group of actors creates a strong core ensemble that gives the play a unique and catchy energy. The rest of the cast matches their enthusiasm and works to create one of the most energy-driven shows in recent Kings Mountain High School history.



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