

YMCA: benefit raises \$29k



YMCA Senior Executive Kevin Osborne, left, Mal Brutko, YMCA board member, and Mayor Rick Murphrey at the Y's Moon over the Mountain benefit which raised over \$29,000 recently for a total of \$250,000 over recent years at the annual event.

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Financial Group, Dilling Heating & Air, Florrie and Larry Hamrick Jr., Harris Funeral Home, City of Kings Mountain, Dellinger's Jewel Shop, Phil and Sandi Dee, Harvest Tunes, and Pete Douglas Signature Meals.

Committee members for the gala were Mal and Shirley Brutko, Ashley Harris, Marle Brinkley, Larry Hamrick Jr., Anne Brooks, Becky Hasty, Gina Collias, Gina Ayscue, Juli Moore, Rhonda Hollifield and Gail McGinnis.

"Thanks to all the sponsors, donors, and volunteers who make this event possible," said Osborne.

ENERGY CENTER: will provide big boost to Kings Mountain, county economy



Rep. Tim Moore (left), and NC Secretary of Commerce Sharon Decker were among those in attendance to celebrate Monday's announcement of the future construction of Kings Mountain Energy Center with Mayor Rick Murphrey (right), the Kings Mountain City Council, and NTE Energy.

Photo by ELLIS NOELL

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runs through the property.

Shortlidge said he had found the same warmth and camaraderie in the audience Monday night as he had found for 18 months working with professionals in the city and partnering with the city and county. He founded the company in 2009 to be a good steward and a strong neighbor. NTE represents the names of his three children. "I want to pass on a better environment for them and for everyone," he added.

Mike Greene, Vice President of Development for NTE Energy, said that as a natural gas electric generating 480 megawatt facility the plant will power up to 400,000 homes. Unlike Southern Power, also a Kings Mountain customer, the new industry sells its power to electric cooperatives, municipal run utilities and major power providers.

"Kings Mountain is an ideal location on Transco's natural gas pipeline, we've worked with city and county officials for over a year now and the Kings Mountain Energy Center will be one of the cleanest and most efficient power plants in the Carolinas," said Greene, adding that private/public partnerships are in the works for the site. NTE Energy has begun the permitting process and submitted its transmission interconnection request to Duke Energy Carolinas. He introduced a leadership team of a dozen "experts" on the project, he said the third NTE Energy has announced since January 2014.

Additionally, NTE Energy is developing the Pecan Creek Energy Center in Texas and the Middletown Energy Center in Ohio.

The Kings Mountain Energy Center will utilize a M501GAC advanced combustion turbine and a Mitsubishi steam turbine in combined cycle configuration. The power generation equipment will be supplied

by Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Americas, Inc. This highly efficient design captures exhaust heat from the combustion turbine and utilizes it in a steam cycle, allowing the facility to generate approximately 480 MW of clean and reliable electric power, according to Bill Newsome.

The project will result in a significantly expanded tax base for the region, according to Secretary of Commerce Sharon Decker who paid a surprise visit to offer congratulations. "You didn't come knocking at my door for incentives, a rare thing from new industry," said Decker, congratulating Kings Mountain and Cleveland County leaders for being models in economic development for the rest of the state. You seized the opportunity and you made it happen," Decker said to the mayor, city council, city staff and county commissioners.

County commission chairman Jason Falls invited commissioners Eddie Holbrook, Ronnie Hawkins, Susan Allen and Johnny Hutchins to join him at the podium at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life and Conference Center, recognizing the group as "a team" and bringing congratulations, on behalf of the 100,000 residents of Cleveland County. He also recognized County Manager Jeff Richardson,

Holbrook, vice chairman of the commission and the board's Economic Development representative, said "it's not about who gets the credit but who gets the job done" as he thanked Mayor Murphrey for "leading the charge" and pledged the full support of the commission.

"A great partnership starts with the city council, a great staff, and Economic Development support," said Murphrey who recognized City Manager Marilyn Sellers, Energy Services Director Nick Hendricks, city councilmen Howard Shipp, Mike Butler, Tommy Hawkins, Rodney Gordon,

Rick Moore, Curtis Pressley and Keith Miller, city department heads, county commissioners, state officials, and Sheriff Alan Norman.

The three members of Cleveland County's delegation to the N. C. House and Senate stood together as a "team" as Rep. Tim Moore acknowledged State Senator Warren Daniel (R-District 46) and Rep. Kelly Hastings (R-District 110) for the work they all do together. He congratulated the city and NTE Energy as being on the cutting edge of energy and welcomed the new industry to Kings Mountain.

The mayor said the company will provide additional energy capacity for any expansion of Kings Mountain Utility in their fast-growing southwest region with enhanced infrastructure extended to the southeast of I-85 (water, sewer, gas) The company will also voluntarily annex into the city.

NTE Development will provide Kings Mountain Utilities the opportunity to site their new, state of the art Operations Center, providing much needed expansion capability for their water, electric and gas operations and through public/private partnership provide the ability to create an industrial complex. NTE Development would be the anchor tenant for Kings Mountain's expanding water infrastructure project and enhance city revenues from the planned purchase of an average up to 2 million gallons per day of raw water. The Energy Center would also be a large customer to the city's wastewater treatment system.

The mayor said the city will assign a special team to assist the new industry during construction including infrastructure and prioritize and expedite all permits and inspections.

"This is a special, red letter day for Kings Mountain," said the mayor, presenting a key to the city to President Shortlidge.

DEE: celebrates 100 years

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Mrs. Dee is the mother of five generations of family: five children, 11 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and 12 great-great grandchildren. She went to school at the old Compact School, the two-room schoolhouse that was located on Margrace Road. Her mother was a midwife and every family in the Compact Community depended on her when they got sick. "Mama could treat just about every illness," said Lucy.

She also remembers that her father used car tires on his wagon and hitched his horses to it to drive to town and that the family worked 25 acres of cotton and her

dad worked at Foote Mineral.

"Times were hard in those 'good ole days', said Dee. Five pound of sugar was a nickel. Land was 50 cents an acre. A gallon of gasoline was a quarter. A farmer got 50 cents for 100 pounds of cotton.

The proud grandmother has been a member of Mount Olive Church since she was a young child. A former Sunday School teacher, she was honored on her birthday by the church with an appreciation plaque.

"I used to sew for the kids and loved to quilt but I can't do that anymore," says Dee. She enjoys her family, likes some TV programs. "Andy Griffith" is a fa-

vorite. She doesn't watch news programs much. "Too many bad things going on," she says.

Her five children are the late James Edwin Dee, caregiver Mary Frances Dee Adams, Myrtle Dee Thompson, George Alexander Dee and Tara Dee Brandt. Her husband was the late George Washington Dee who died in 1969 at age 63.

Her family and friends honored her on her birthday last Thursday at Mount Olive Baptist Church Fellowship Hall and her favorite meal was served: fried chicken, baked chicken, green beans and macaroni and cheese with a decorated birthday cake.

MOLLETTE: speak English

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the English language!"

I am happy for people to come to America. He is trying to work. I wonder how many people need a job but would never consider driving a cab? My hat is off to the people who are coming to America legally and working jobs that average Americans won't work.

One big problem is that these well meaning residents need to learn English. I realize this is tough to enforce since many Americans have trouble passing an English class.

The national language for South Africa is English. Unfortunately there are at least 10 other official languages and a multitude of unofficial languages. Many people in the country never become fluent in speaking English. They are brought up to learn the language of their tribe and struggle with English throughout their lives. This scenario makes it tough for everyone to be on the same level when it comes to national communication.

I love South Africa, Mexico and a lot of other places but this is still America. Let's keep the conversation in English.

SCHOOL: sets snow make-up days

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would have had students attending class after graduation, a plan he acknowledged would severely complicate end-of-year testing and require seniors to bank days ahead of their imminent graduation date.

Another plan would have had students in class for up to three Saturdays, two more than the plan that was settled

on. There was intense interest about how students, parents and teachers would arrange it so local schools would be able reach the state-mandated 1025 instruction hours per year.

"They were able to bat it around and the school board was able to come up with a plan that would suitable for all parties," said Greg Shull, the system's spokesperson.

The area was stunned by a big snowstorm two weeks ago that paralyzed schools, government and some businesses. Public school students in Cleveland County missed two and a half days during that storm.

Earlier, in January, a run of extremely frigid weather -- and fleeting day of snow -- stole the equivalent of another day and a half from the schedule.

FILING: only 3 days left!

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the prayers of our family and friends as I ask for the support of voters in the Tenth District."

McHenry is being challenged by Democrat Tate Queen of Asheville.

In the US Senate race four Republicans have filed to be on the ballot in May. They include Ted Alexander, former mayor of Shelby, Mark Harris and Greg Brannon, both of Raleigh, and Heather Grant of Wilkesboro.

Other candidates who have filed with the Board of Elections:

Warren Daniel, incumbent Senator from NC District 46. He is Republican.

Kelly Hastings, incumbent NC State Senate District 46, Republican, from Cherryville.

Michael Wayne Miller, Republican from Shelby, District Attorney District 27B.

Mitzi McGraw Johnson, Democrat, incumbent, Clerk of Superior Court, Cleveland County.

James Alan Norman, Democrat, incumbent, Sheriff of Cleveland County.

Mark Dean Martin, Apex, Supreme Court Chief Justice (Parker) seat.

Robin Hudson, Raleigh, Supreme Court Associate Justice (Hudson) seat.

Bob Hunter, Raleigh, Supreme Court Associate Justice, (Martin) seat.

Lucy Inman, Raleigh, Court of Appeals Judge, (Hunter) seat.

Donna Stroud, Garner, Court of Appeals Judge, (Stroud) seat.

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Mr. Davis is a 5th grade math, science and social studies who has 20 years of experience working for the state of North Carolina, most of it in teaching. Davis holds a masters degree in school administration from Gardner-Webb University. He says that life has taught him that "being book smart is OK, but having common sense is priceless." Outside of teaching, Davis enjoys TV, the Internet and the music of Belinda Carlisle.

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