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# New housing in the works

56-unit apartment building going up in KM

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Work is under way on a new apartment complex on the east side of town that will include 56 units, a clubhouse, as many as two small ponds and a covered picnic area.

Cambridge Oaks Apartments, which will offer affordable tax-credit housing, will occupy just under eight acres on Hwy. 74, close to Canterbury Rd. and about a mile from the Hwy. 74/I-85 interchange. Builders say the soft projection for completing the project is next spring or early summer.

A sub-contractor based out of Shelby began the grading work in early July and that phase of the project is expected to last three to four months and overlap the start of the building of the dwellings, according to Jason Patterson of Davis Grading.

Charlotte-based Greenway Residential Development LLC is the

developer for the project, which gained zoning approval months ago from the Kings Mountain City Council. The main contractor is WXZ Construction SE, which is a subsidiary of Greenway.

Its recent projects in western North Carolina include a similar complex in Morganton that was completed in 2010 and one in Asheville that is about half finished, according to Mark Richardson, the company's assistant vice president of development. He added that this is the company's first project in Kings Mountain. Ten percent of the units will be

See HOUSING, 7A

Workers for Davis Grading position a storage box Monday at the King Street site for a new apartment complex that is scheduled to be completed by spring or summer of next year.



## Owens thankful

to have survived plunge off waterfall

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By all accounts Patrick Merino Owens, 17, is a walking miracle.

"God was with me," the Kings Mountain High football player and wrestler said Monday as he recuperated at his home on Open Lane in Kings Mountain.

"One minute I was there with my dad and other family members and the next minute I was gone," said Owens, who didn't remember being swept over the High Shoals waterfall in the South Mountains State Park and landing on rocks 92 feet below.

"God was with us every step of the way," say his parents, Ramone and Robin Merino.



Patrick Owens

See OWENS, 3A

## Energy Center funding approved

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Kings Mountain Energy Center is expected to go into construction in the next nine to 12 months. NTE Energy, St. Augustine, Fla., announced this week completion of financing of 1.1 billion dollars to build the Kings Mountain plant and two others, one in Ohio and one in Texas.

Kings Mountain Energy, the \$450 million, 475 MW combined cycle natural gas-fired power-generating facility, will be built across from the access road along I-85 and Dixon School Road, and employ 350 during construction and about 30 once production is underway.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said at the announcement of the new industry in late February that it would be one of the cleanest and most effi-



Kings Mountain Energy Center

cient sources of capacity and energy in the Carolinas. It will employ Mitsubishi's GAC turbine technology in a combined-cycle configuration, recovering exhaust heat from the gas turbine to produce steam, which is then passed through a steam turbine to generate additional energy from the same initial fuel.

Once complete, the Kings Mountain Energy Center will be capable of

powering 400,000 homes.

NTE's development will build on 20 acres of the 290-acre site during the initial stages. At the announcement in February, company officials said the facility could bring a half-billion dollars in financial investments to the county, money that will help lighten the tax load on residents by contributing a prospective \$2.5 million in county revenues each year. And unlike many economic

development projects, the company is not set to receive tax breaks and other incentives from local government.

The site is near the proposed site of the Catawba Indian Nation resort/casino. The Catawbas are also not set to receive local government incentives. The casino project is pending approval by the US Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Seth Shortlidge, CEO of NTE Energy, said, "As we take this important step in the development of these three projects, we are proud to work with industry leaders, Guggenheim Partners and Capital Dynamics. The depth and talent at both Guggenheim Partners and Capital Dynamics only strengthens NTE Energy's ability to bring clean, reliable and efficient power to the market."

## Queen benefit Saturday

Leslie Queen, 51, is waiting on a liver transplant. He will be ready when the telephone call comes from Carolinas Medical Center.

In the meantime, Karen "Doodle" Dellinger, a friend of the family, wants Queen to have everything he needs and Cherokee Street Baptist Church is sponsoring a fundraiser - a chicken dinner and live auction Saturday, Aug. 1, at 4:30 p.m. at Boyce Memorial ARP Church fellowship hall, 111 Edgemont Drive. The auction starts at 6:30 p.m. and includes valuable prizes do-

nated by Kings Mountain businesses and homemade cakes baked by good cooks of the community.

"We are trying to raise \$10,000 to help Leslie and Rosemary Queen," said Dellinger. "They will need help with medical expenses and Rosemary will need to be at the hospital with Leslie."

The chicken dinner also includes baked beans, slaw, rolls and dessert for a \$8 donation or two hot dogs, slaw, chips and dessert for a \$6 donation.

Queen was diagnosed a little over a year ago with non-alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver. The Queens have two children: Justin and Victoria. Mrs. Dellinger welcomes donations of auction items and money for the Queens. Call 704-718-2300 for more information.



**PICKETING CITY HALL** - The Kings Mountain Awareness Group, above, publicly protested during Tuesday's regularly scheduled Kings Mountain city council meeting. The peaceful demonstration was in opposition to city government supporting plans for a casino. The Catawba Indian Nation resort/casino project proposed at Dixon School Road at I-85 is currently being decided by the U. S. Department of the Interior.

Photo by DAVE BLANTON

## Wells honored

Betsy Hart Wells, retired Kings Mountain High School drama/English teacher, community volunteer, political leader and civil rights advocate is a 2014 Distinguished Woman among three nominated from Cleveland County to receive the prestigious award August 8.

The Cleveland County Commission for Women asked for nominations from the public and will honor Wells; Dr. Linda H. Hopper, teacher, school administrator, role model and community advocate; and Libbey Canipe Lavender, businesswoman, community worker, political activist and supporter of veterans at the annual banquet at the LeGrand Center at Cleveland Community College in Shelby.

Tickets for the banquet are \$35 and may be picked up at the Cleveland County Arts Council on the court square in Shelby from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, through Aug. 6. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Wells taught theater and English at KMHS for a total of 24 years and retired

See WELLS, 7A



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