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SPORTS.....8

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Kings Mountain HERALD

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Saturday is Decision Day for NC House Republicans

Who wants to be Speaker of the N.C. House of Representatives?

Tim Moore, Kings Mountain lawyer who has served six terms in the N.C. House, represents Cleveland County in the 111th District and current rules chairman, is in the running to succeed Thom Tillis, who was elected to the US Senate during the recent midterm elections.

Republican House members are expected to make their choice for speaker at a caucus meeting Saturday.

The full House will vote Jan. 14, 2015, but with Republicans holding a 74-46



Tim Moore

the elections and the House select committee on UNC Board of Governors nominating committees. Five other Republicans seek the top leadership post.

The House speaker can set the legislative agenda for the entire state, since that person makes committee appointments and decides when and if legislation comes up for a vote in the House.

Moore was unopposed for reelection to his 7th term in the House in the November elections.

He is the son of Kings Mountain councilman Rick Moore and Mrs. Moore. He has two sons.

majority, the GOP has the votes needed to carry the vote.

In addition to the Rules committee, Moore chairs

KMPD Honor Guard – specially trained for special events

DAVE BLANTON

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For special events, the City of Kings Mountain calls on a unique division of police officers who have been trained to solemnly present the flag. You have seen them – in their crisp uniforms, marching synchronously while wearing the customary white gloves – at Memorial Day, Veterans Day and July the Fourth events.

Began in the mid-1990s, the Kings Mountain Police Department Honor Guard continues the proud tradition of providing a strong sense of ceremony at city events, including the annual



Christmas parade. The duty of the Honor Guard belongs to 14 members of the KMPD, ranging from patrolman to corporal, young and old, from rookie cops to law enforcement veterans.

Sgt. Bob Myers, who, at 76, is the oldest member

of the force, is in charge of recruiting and training those who choose to serve in the Honor Guard, a job he's had since 1998.

For special events such as the recent Veterans Day

See KMPD, Page 10

Lottery theft charges land KM man in jail

A Kings Mountain man is in custody after allegedly stealing N.C. lottery tickets from his job and cashing in the winning tickets. According to Lincolnton police and N.C. Lottery Commission investigators, Christopher L. Rathbone, 40, 418 Belvedere Circle, stole the tickets from A-1 Express in Lincolnton. Information was

See LOTTERY THEFT, Page 7



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Christmas Yule Tree Lighting Monday



The "Home for Christmas ~ Kings Mountain" begins this Monday evening at 7 p.m. with the annual Children's Tree Lighting at the Jacob S. Mauney Memorial Library.

The Bethware and North Elementary School Singers, directed by Susan Gray, will sing Christmas carols. While waiting for Santa Claus to arrive

See CHRISTMAS, Page 10

City of KM signs 20 year deal with NTE Energy



ENERGY SIGNING - NTE Chief Executive Seth Shortridge, seated left, and Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey affix their signatures to a 20-year agreement for power from the plant beginning Jan. 1, 2019. Back row, city council members Rodney Gordon, mayor pro tem Mike Butler, Curtis Presley, Keith Miller, Tommy Hawkins, Rick Moore, and Howard Shipp. Photo by ELLIS NOELL

ELIZABETH STEWART

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"This is a historic day," said Mayor Rick Murphrey Thursday as he signed a 20-year energy agreement with CEO Seth Shortridge and NTE Energy effective Jan. 1, 2019.

Kings Mountain will be cutting ties five years from now with its wholesale electric supplier Duke Energy after 108 years of doing business with the power company.

Earlier, the seven members of city council added their blessings to what will include a new power plant

to be built by NTE Energy and a projected 29% cost savings in 2019 for the city and its customers.

"Our customers are our No. 1 priority," said the mayor, adding savings will be passed on to citizens.

During the brief city council meeting in which the vote by seven councilmen was unanimous, Murphrey said, "We had a responsibility to provide our customers, our citizens, with the best low cost product, the best price and the best service. I think we have done that with this agreement."

The mayor estimates the

city will save \$4-5 million each year by switching to NTE.

The City of Concord is also in negotiations with NTE Energy for power, also beginning Jan. 1, 2019, NTE Energy CEO Seth Shortridge announced later Thursday evening at a sit-down dinner hosted by the City of Kings Mountain for city and county officials, city staff, and visiting staff from NTE Energy.

In addition to the agreement signed Thursday, NTE plans to build Kings Mountain Energy Center, a natural gas

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All Aboard: Toys, Games and Trains makes debut

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The trains clicked and whistled by the general store, the police station, a Ferris wheel, a Christmas village and a supermarket Saturday at the Kings Mountain Historical Museum's annual Toys, Games and Trains exhibit. The trains carried lumber, coal, tractors, tanks and of course people. All to a 1:64 scale of course.

Model train enthusiasts from the Piedmont S-Gaugers club again blew into town last week to undertake the hard work of setting up the large track and tiny town.

Something was different this year, though. At times on Saturday you could see 7-year-old Hayden Gleason



Piedmont S-Gaugers Pete Hillenbrand and Hayden Gleason talk trains at the opening of the Kings Mountain Historical Museum's Toys, Games and Trains exhibit Saturday.

take the helm of the big display, which runs two trains on two tracks simultaneously. Gleason, who lives in Kings Mountain, is by far the youngest member ever to belong to the group, which has members ranging from Charlotte, Asheville and parts of South Carolina. "He's loved trains since right before he turned 2 years old," said mother Carrie Gleason, as her son and

See ALL ABOARD, Page 10

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