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# Kings Mountain HERALD

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## KM's Tim Moore in line to be next Speaker of House local lawyer choice of GOP for powerful position in state

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North Carolina's next speaker of the House of Representatives is a Kings Mountain native and lawyer who may be Cleveland County's first in recent history and one of the youngest to serve as one of the top three political leaders in the state.

Rep. Tim Moore (R-Cleveland 111th District) scored a first ballot victory Saturday for the nomination at a GOP caucus in Asheboro, beating out five other House members who had also sought the Speaker's job.

The telephone hasn't stopped ringing in Moore's King Street office this week as he prepared to return to Raleigh for a meeting with newly-elected US Senator Thom Tillis, outgoing Speaker, who is cleaning out his office in Raleigh for Moore and taking his staff

to Washington, DC in January.

"My voice mail has never been fuller and I have never received as many emails or texts," said Moore, who said he is very appreciative of the outpouring of support he is receiving. "I am thrilled and humbled," he said.

One of his first orders of business will be to hire an expanded legislative staff. He will be meeting with his new chief of staff, Clayton Sommers of Durham, in Raleigh this week and they and Tillis will be putting together a transition team. Since winning the Republican nomination he has received "a very fine pool" of resumes which he will take with him this week as he begins screening applicants.

Moore said he won't be formally elected until January 14, the opening day of the 2015 General Assembly. Since Republicans have the majority vote—74 of the 120 House members—

Moore's election as Speaker is expected, and following election on Jan. 14 by the full body of the House he would be the first to be sworn in at 12 noon and then would preside with the election of a speaker pro tem and adoption of temporary rules.

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, making Rep. Moore one of the top three political leaders in the state, along with Governor Pat McCrory and Senate leader Phil Berger, both Republicans.

McCrory called Moore in Asheboro Saturday to congratulate him and also came to Kings Mountain Sunday to join Moore, his father city councilman Rick Moore, McRae Moore, 14, and Wilson Moore, 12, sons

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**BBQ WITH GOVERNOR** – Governor Pat McCrory congratulated Rep. Tim Moore, the Republican House members' choice for speaker, at a barbecue stop in Shelby Sunday at Red Bridges Barbecue Lodge. Seated on the left are Moore's son, Wilson, his dad, Rick Moore, and Tim's son, McRae Moore. On the other side of the table are Rep. Moore, McCrory and Moore's law partner, Justin Brackett.

Contributed photo

## KM woman remembered

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When a three-car accident last week took the life of April Terry, the tragedy left behind a large circle of family and friends who remember the wife and mother of two as a fun-loving and uniquely generous person who had her priorities in order.

In the days following the fatal wreck, her family said they were touched by the outpouring of love and support that came from the community.

"It's been a big, horrific shock, but everyone's really coming together," said



April Terry

Wanda Allison, the mother of the 35-year-old Terry. "It's been an outpouring of love like I've never seen

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## Christmas tree lighting kicks off holiday season in KM

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Children welcomed Santa Claus to town Monday night with songs and Christmas wish lists at Mauney Memorial's annual Christmas tree lighting. "This is my favorite time of year," said Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey, who delivered the welcome address. "It reminds me of what Christmas was like for me as a child, and for my own children. It's a season for caring."

Kids gathered around to hear the mayor give a dramatic reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Later, ahead of Santa's arrival on a noisy fire truck, a group of North Elementary and Bethware Elementary students entertained the crowd with upbeat renditions of several Christmas carols.

Not long after the man of the hour made his entrance, he was besieged with requests for presents: video games, puppies, bicycles and of course computers and other gadgets. But not before the visitor from the North Pole ceremoniously flipped a switch to light up



**A young boy sits on Santa's lap so he can tell the man in red what he wants for Christmas this year.** Santa chatted with nearly 100 children at Monday night's Christmas tree lighting ceremony at Mauney Memorial Library downtown.

photo by DAVE BLANTON

the biggest Christmas tree in town.

To the delight of adults and children alike the tall spruce gave off a brilliant glow against the dark night sky.

A troupe of dancers from Dance Reflections was also on hand to put on a dynamic Yuletide-themed show.

And the crowd was

treated to a soaring rendition of "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town" sung by Grand Majestic Miss North Carolina Sophia Kellstrom, a sophomore at KMHS. Monday night's festivities at the library kicked off a month of Christmastime events in town, including the YMCA's Jingle Bell Rockin' Run on Saturday, Dec. 6.

The 13th annual road race expects to see more than 500 runners and participants join in for a 5K walk/run, a 10K run and a Kid's Fun Run at Patriot Park. The fun starts at 9 a.m. The city's annual Christmas parade takes place later that day at 3 p.m. Throughout the holiday

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## Costner lights to glow

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Twenty years of work, all handmade in his shop, is sitting in Grady Costner's yard ready to sparkle with thousands of Christmas lights on

Thanksgiving night.

For the Kings Mountain man and his wife, Katie, decorating for the holidays is a present they give to Kings Mountain and they plan to continue for years to come. Last week, Grady was finishing up a new archway decorated with dolphins and reindeer on motorcycles plus some little pieces and, of course, contacting Santa to welcome his guests at 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

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