

Happy New Year

Would you like an 18 acre home site?



Privacy & 50+ pecan trees
Boiling Springs, NC
Excellent Elementary & High School

Priced to sell!

Call 312-371-4349



*****FIRM 28086
4903 04-17-15 0024A00 5P 3S
MAUNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY
100 S PIEDMONT AVE
KINGS MOUNTAIN NC 28086-3450 ##

kmherald.com Volume 126 • Issue 53 • Wednesday, December 31, 2014 75¢

Good team work equals success

Good team work spelled success in 2014 for the city, according to City Manager Marilyn Sellers who said that new projects in the works this year will ensure that rates are kept low and progressive strides will continue as the staff, mayor and council work together in 2015.

Sellers, who has been manager for nine years, joined the city staff 26 years ago and is a former city clerk. Rick Murphrey, who has 21 years with the city, was on city council six years before being elected mayor and has served 15 years as mayor.

Jobs continued to be a priority of city administration. The opening of the

Walmart Neighborhood Market brought nearly 100 jobs to the city in the last month of the old year. Major Metals added 25 jobs in 2014 and O'Riley's Auto, a new business, is promising 10 new jobs when this new building is completed.

Among the big news items for the city was the signing of a 20-year contract with NTE to provide wholesale electricity to the city beginning in 2019. The current supplier (Duke) contract ends in 2018.

During construction of the Kings Mountain Energy Center by NTE, a total of 300 construction jobs will be available and 30 perma-

See GOOD TEAM, Page 8

New year, new names Two area hospitals change names Jan. 1

Cleveland Regional Medical Center at Shelby and Kings Mountain Hospital will be known as Carolinas HealthCare System Cleveland and Carolinas HealthCare System Kings Mountain beginning January 1.

The name changes reflect the continuation of the hospitals' integration with the region's largest healthcare network.

"Our relationship with Carolinas HealthCare System began in 1994," said Brian Gwyn, president of Carolinas HealthCare System

Cleveland. "Since then, we have made over \$200 million dollars in improvements, including better imaging cancer-care and a women's center."

Carolinas HealthCare System managed the hospitals for almost two decades before buying the facilities from Cleveland County in 2013.

"Our community has seen lots of positive change as a result of our hospitals' connection to Carolinas HealthCare System," said Gwyn. "That connection is now very evident in our very name."

"Hope" is the theme

"Hope" is the theme of the annual photography contest hosted by The City of Kings Mountain in observance of Martin Luther King Day, January 19, 2015.

The competition is open for all adults and students in the Cleveland County school system. There will be cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in both adult and student divisions.

"The competition is taking its cue from the Martin Luther King, Jr. quote "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope" said Ellis Noell, Special Events Director for the City. "We are encouraging young and old to share their vision of Hope and believe that this theme will provide great latitude in artistic interpretation," added Noell.

Photographic prints (minimum size 8" x 10"/maximum size 12" x 18") can be submitted at City Hall or mailed to P.O. Box 429, Kings Mountain, NC 28086. Submissions can be made digitally through a disk dropped off or mailed. Electronic submissions should be sent to ellisn@cityofkm.com and submissions must be received by the 5:00 P.M. deadline, Friday, January 17, 2015. Eligibility and rules for submission are available on the Events page at the City's website, www.CityofKM.com or by calling Karen Tucker at 704-734-0333.

The exhibit and reception with the entrants will open January 19, 2015 at the Southern Arts Depot at 6 p.m. The art center will serve as the gallery for all the submitted photographs with winners announced at 7 p.m. The exhibit will remain in the art center in January and move to the Patrick Center in February for Black History month.



Year In Review: 2014

ELIZABETH STEWART & DAVE BLANTON

lib.kmherald@gmail.com

1. Casino limbo

There were rumors. And there were arguments and protests. But 2014 brought no official word on the progress of a proposal that would put a casino in Kings Mountain.

City and county leaders announced what could potentially be the largest economic development proposal in decades more than a year ago, in the fall of 2013.

That built excitement for some, but for others it led to irritation and the formation of a vocal group who sought to highlight the dark side of having a large gaming resort situated so close to this working-class community.

The members of the Kings Mountain Awareness Group, headed by Adam Forcade and his wife Cynthia, have confronted local leaders at City Council and Cleveland County Board of Commissioners meetings. They've also spearheaded what they call an information campaign in area newspapers.

Meanwhile, many in the business community have more recently appeared to embrace the inevitability of a casino built by the S.C.-based Catawba Indian Tribe. Several parcels of land around the proposed site - located at the Dixon School Rd. exit off of Interstate 85 - have traded hands since the sell of the land was made to the tribe in the summer of 2013. The owner of the Silver Villa - which for more than three decades was located on King St. - publicly explained that he was moving to a spot nearer I-85 to capitalize on "casino traffic."

But at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, mum is the word on the fate of a pending request to put the land into trust, which would be the lynchpin to developing the site for gaming purposes.



This artist rendering shows the proposed Catawba Indian Nation resort and casino that could be built in Kings Mountain.

2. City signs 20 year deal with NTE Energy

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.

"This is a historic day," said Mayor Rick Murphrey as he signed a 20-year energy agreement with CEO Seth Shortlidge and NTE Energy effective Jan. 1, 2019. The full city council unanimously approved the deal and looked on at the signing before dinner at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life & Conference Center.

A new \$450 million power plant, Kings Mountain Energy Center, will be built by NTE Energy, St. Augustine, Fla., at a site off Dixon School Road near the proposed site of the Catawba Indian Nation resort/casino. Ground-breaking is expected to be held in early April 2015. The new plant will occupy 20 acres of a 290 acre site expected to be completed for an industrial park. Once completed

Kings Mountain Energy would be capable of powering 400,000 homes.

The NTE plant (Kings Mountain Energy) will start construction of its new 480 MW natural gas fired power generating facility in the summer of 2015. The plant's commercial operation will begin the first quarter of 2018.

The mayor said that since 2010 the city has been evaluating, along with five other municipalities, several power companies to provide wholesale electricity. Energy Services Director

See YEAR, Page 8



NTE Chief Executive Seth Shortlidge, seated left, and Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey affix their signatures to a 20-year agreement for power. Also present were all city council members.

Waffle House starting over in KM

DAVE BLANTON

dave.kmherald@gmail.com

Late night and middle of the night dining options in Kings Mountain are about to get a lot thinner for the next several months.

On Saturday, Hillcrest Foods Inc. plans to close the doors of the Waffle House it operates on York Rd. The familiar restaurant will be torn down and within about three months replaced with a new, larger one at the same location.

Waffle House employees at the current restaurant, which was built in the early 1980s, say the building is too old to repair and that the re-start is paving the way for a Waffle House with a fresher look and slightly more square footage and seating options.

Although the chain has been long associated with over-the-road truckers for its broad menu and 24-hour availability, the location in Kings Mountain has proven to also be a local favorite that patrons say they'll miss in the coming months.

"I probably come here on average about once a month," said Howard McLeod, after dining on a sausage and egg sandwich Monday morning. "They serve good food, but (while the



The franchisee that operates the Waffle House on York Rd. is demolishing the building and putting up a larger one that will likely open by early April.

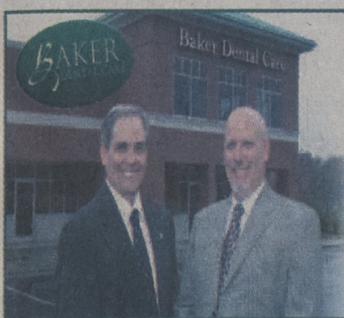
restaurant is being rebuilt) I'll probably eat at Subway instead."

Mack Robinette, who said the Kings Mountain Waffle House is one of his favored places to get a bite in town, had a quick alternative lined up.

"I'll probably just eat at the one in Belmont because it's on the way to my job in Charlotte," he said over a plate of eggs and toasts, adding that he's fond of most items on the menu.

Looking for a last meal at the Waffle House before it reopens in the spring? Store employees said the doors will close on the old building at 7 a.m. Saturday morning.

Hillcrest Foods is a Suwanee, Ga.-based franchisee that operates 55 Waffle Houses in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Waffle House has more than 2,100 locations in 25 states.



Creating Dazzling Smiles that Brighten Your Life!

Preventative, Restorative & Cosmetic Dentistry

To schedule an appointment contact Baker Dental Care today! Call 704-739-4461

703 E. Kings St., Suite 9, Kings Mountain • www.BakerDentalCare.com

Now
Open on
Fridays!