

**INSIDE...**

- Obituaries ..... 2, 3 & 10
- Police Log..... 4
- Lifestyles ..... 6
- Classified Ads ..... 11

**SPORTS..... 7**

■ Mountaineers hold on to beat RS Central 61-58



**Record 1800 love trains page 3**



Caleb Wright

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**Kings Mountain HERALD**

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**Jumping into new year with fitness goals**



YMCA Wellness Director Daron Dwyer explains some of his gym's features to Mike and Susan Johnson giving a tour to the couple, who signed up Monday.

Photo by DAVE BLANTON

DAVE BLANTON

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The leftover turkey sandwiches and Christmas cakes have been gobbled up, and lazily sitting around the fire – or watching college football games on television – with relatives may have gotten a little old weeks ago.

It's that time of the year that many vow to get fit, lose a little weight or simply re-address some health goals that may have gotten

lost in the shuffle during the back to school frenzy and the busy holiday season that followed.

For Mike and Susan Johnson, the first week of the 2015 calendar hadn't yet rolled by when they found themselves signing up at the Kings Mountain YMCA. For the newly retired Bethlehem couple, the move was about intensifying and building more structure into

See JUMPING, Page 3

**KM mayor's race and 4 seats up in new year 2015**

A city election in 2015 will set the tone for the new year in Kings Mountain politics.

Just because 2015 is an odd-numbered year doesn't mean it will lack political activity.

Consider:

The mayor's seat is up in 2015 but Rick Murphrey is expected to offer for his eighth term as Kings Mountain mayor. He joined the city staff 21 years ago and was on city council for six years before being elected mayor

and has served 15 years in the top city spot.

Four city council seats are also up in 2015. They include Ward I, Ward IV, Ward V and one at-large commissioner seat.

Rev. Howard Shipp, Ward I; Rodney Gordon, Ward IV; Rick Moore, Ward V; and Keith Miller, At-Large, are all expected to seek re-election along with the mayor.

Filing for city offices starts in July but you can bet all the candidates will be lining up soon.

**Dickey Mills sold to Valdese Weavers**

The Paul M. Neisler Sr. family of Kings Mountain and Michael Shelton, president and CEO of Valdese Weavers LLC, have an-

nounced the sale of Dickey Mills Inc. by the Neisler family to Valdese Weavers, the leading designer and manufacturer of decorative textiles in the United States for use in residential and contract markets.

Valdese Weavers operates four facilities in Burke County and trades under

See DICEY MILLS, Page 4



**Bitter cold hits area**

ELIZABETH STEWART lib.kmherald@gmail.com

Bone-chilling temperatures will greet Kings Mountain people today with weathercasters predicting a low of 11-13 degrees and not much of a warm-up entering the weekend.

A huge swath of the country is experiencing the wintery blast but the story with this system is cold, not snow.

Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey says the city is prepared for King Winter with a new salt brine system and a new storage building for salt located at the back of the Kings Mountain Public Works Building on N. Piedmont Avenue. Public Works Supt. Rickey Putnam and David Smith took the mayor on a tour of the new facility Monday and explained how the new system will work if and when snow and ice should arrive this winter.



David Smith, left; Public Works Supt., Rickey Putnam and Mayor Rick Murphrey look over the city's new salt brine system which will be put into service on city streets this winter.

Photo by ELLIS NOELL

"We're ready for the winter," says the mayor. Putnam says the new building built by city staff

and the salt brine system purchased recently from stormwater fees charged citizens is safe, more environ-

mentally friendly, requires less clean up and there's less

See BITTER COLD, Page 4

**KM native beset with health struggles**



Misty Whetstine-Polk and husband Michael have endured a bout of health emergencies in the past several months. Michael suffered a medical problem akin to a severe stroke and has been left partially disabled. Misty underwent a colectomy. The couple also have a newborn baby.

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If you talk to Misty Whetstine-Polk on the phone these days you can hear the fatigue in her voice. But you can also hear the hope.

The Kings Mountain native is sounding an extraordinarily upbeat tone after a 2014 that brought a number of health calamities and other surprises to her young family, which now lives in Memphis, Tenn.

Her husband Michael suffered a bronchial spasm in June that nearly killed the father of her two children. In fact, according to Whet-

stine-Polk, Michael did die in the ambulance en route to the hospital. While doctors worked to treat him in the hospital minutes later, they "lost" him again.

The doctors advice to her that day? There's no hope – he will live, but only in a comatose state.

Michael Polk spent the next several months surprising the doctors and nurses who have tried in vain to understand his improbable recovery. By Halloween, he was living at home again and learning to walk again, struggling to re-learn motor skills after the stroke-like

See KM NATIVE, Page 4

**Jobs, expansions Top 2015 city goals**

Jobs are the priority of city leaders for 2015 but running a second in goal-setting is the upgrading and expanding of the city's customer base to keep tax and utility rates low.

City Manager Marilyn Sellers says the city will continue to work with the county Economic Development Commission and N. C. Department of Commerce to bring new industry and provide job opportunities for Kings Mountain area people.

Mayor Rick Murphrey says that several major

projects are in the works. Among them:

The senior center expansion is expected to be completed in the second quarter of this new year. The expansion includes the building of a new multipurpose room, craft room and exercise room which will double in size. A covered entrance and reception area at the rear of the building will be a big asset to those taking part in the activities of the senior center. A walkway will be extended completely

See JOBS, Page 3

**KM man killed on 74 after leaving car**

A man involved in an argument with his girlfriend was killed late Saturday night after stepping out of the car he had been driving and getting struck almost immediately by another vehicle, according to Kings Mountain Police.

The incident happened a few minutes before midnight Saturday night in the

Gaston County portion of Kings Mountain off U.S. 74 Bypass.

Police identified the man who died as Victor Lee Sessoms, 47, of 201 Stowe Acres, Kings Mountain.

Sessoms and his girlfriend, Crystal White-Braswell, had been physically

See KM MAN, Page 4

**Accu Weather**

Wed., Jan. 7 Cold & Sunny, Windy, Colder Low 13 High 40	Thurs., Jan. 8 Sunny Cold Low 20 High 31	Fri., Jan. 9 Sunny, Not as cold Low 22 High 44	Sat., Jan 10 Sunny, Chilly Low 25 High 44
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