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# Kings Mountain HERALD

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## Moss Lake dam repairs on schedule



David Smith, left, senior project manager Strickland Waterproofing Company, Kassie Brown, engineer Joel Woods & Associates, Mayor Rick Murphrey, Junior Hinson, city water plant manager, and Dennis Wells, city water department director, survey the work underway by the city to repair the Moss Lake dam spillway.

Photo by ELLIS NOELL

### Weather permitting, April is target date for Spillway fix

ELIZABETH STEWART  
 lib.kmherald@gmail.com

Everything is on schedule at Moss Lake dam where city workers expect the repairs on the spillway to be completed in April.

While the schedule is on time, the use of the lake has been suspended.

Water Superintendent Dennis Wells said the water level this week was about seven feet below full pond and workmen are working at the back side of the dam to repair the spillway which protects the lake and the dam.

The repairs are concentrated on a drainage pipe that was left behind when the dam was originally constructed. The pipe is being filled with grout to cap it off.

The spillway rehab project is budgeted at \$611,000 and is not part of the \$34 million water/sewer improvements being financed by a 20 year, no interest loan from the state revolving plan.

The draw down of the reservoir started Oct. 9.

Wells said the raising and lowering of the lake level is driven by the weather.

Repair work is continu-

ing, he said.

Moss Lake is approximately 90 feet deep. It encompasses more than 2,000 acres with 57 miles of shoreline, 1,660 acres of water. Moss Lake was built in 1974 as the city's water source when the area was suffering from drought.

Moss Lake serves also as an active recreational destination for boaters, fisherman and water tournaments.

Moss Lake hosts the national qualifying Over the Mountain Triathlon every year which draws a crowd of participants and spectators.

## New YMCA lease on Council agenda

ELIZABETH STEWART  
 lib.kmherald@gmail.com

By 6-1 Kings Mountain City Council last Tuesday authorized Mayor Rick Murphrey to sign an extended lease agreement with the YMCA so that the terms of a new proposed lease (from 15 to 20 years) can be advertised for 10 days prior to a Council vote on Feb 24.

The lease agreement and operational services agreement between the city and YMCA were set to expire on Jan 31. Council extended the lease to Feb. 28.

Under the terms of the proposed new lease the city will pay the YMCA \$400,000 per year for providing recreational services with a two to four percent increase each year. The proposed new lease excludes the city walking track and children's park.

City Attorney Mickey Corry said the YMCA has expressed an interest in gaining significant funds to invest in improvements to the facility, owned by the city and formerly the Kings Mountain Community Center.

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## State school chief tours West School



West School Principal Heather Pagan and Suzie Roberts, fourth grade teacher welcome Dr. June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction to the school.

DAVE BLANTON  
 dave.kmherald@gmail.com

West Elementary, still in a celebratory mood after picking up a Blue Ribbon School title last quarter, had a few distinguished guests drop by its campus Thursday to cheer on its success and share their vision for education in North Carolina.

The state's highest education official, Dr. June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent for Public Instruction, joined members of her staff, a N.C. Board of Education member, Cleveland County Schools Superintendent Dr. Stephen Fisher and members of the local board of education to talk up the school's success in a tour at the downtown school that

culminated in a question and answer session from the school's staff.

"You should all feel great pride by being one of the five schools in N.C. to be recognized as a Blue Ribbon School," said Atkinson of the recent honor, which spotlights schools across the nation that have either achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvement in closing the achievement gap.

"It's gratifying to see the respect that your students are showing you," Atkinson said in remarks to the staff and local school officials who had gathered in the school cafeteria following the group's tour of the school's classrooms. "It's

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## Faunce property rezoned

Faunce Properties is expanding properties located at 813 W. King Street, 809 W. King Street and 811 West King Street and the city council accepted the recommendation of the planning board last Tuesday night and unanimously rezoned the properties to conditional use office.

David Faunce, 116 E. Mountain St., said the new construction will be a fit for the community. He said he responded to lighting and technical concerns of neighbors.

Planning Director Steve

Killian said that the planning board considered the land development plan of the city and the office use development trends in the area in making the rezoning recommendation. He said the land development plan shows residential in the area of the Faunce property, however, it is likely to convert to Office in a manner that does not negatively impact the West End neighborhood. Killian said that Faunce eliminated uses that he stated

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## Harper low bidder for \$11M city project

Harper Construction Company of Greenville, SC is the low bidder at \$11,565,000.00 for the upgrade of the T. J. Ellison Water Plant pending approval of the NCDENR Division of Water Infrastructure.

Six bids ranging from the low bid of \$11.5 million to a high bid of \$12.4 million

were received on this project and a tentative award was approved by city council at the recent meeting.

Other bidders were Devere Construction Co., Alpena, MI; English Construction Co., Lynchburg, VA; RTD Construction Co., Zephyrhills, FL; State Utility Contractors, Monroe, NC; and Wharton Smith, Sanford, FL.

The upgrade of the T.J. Ellison Water Plant will increase the permitted water treatment capacity from 8 million gallons to 12 million

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## Kelly: no time limit on casino fate

DAVE BLANTON  
 dave.kmherald@gmail.com

The fate of the multi-million dollar casino/resort development planned on a parcel of land at the intersection of I-85 and Dixon School Road still rests with a small group of bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

An application submitted by the South Carolina-based Catawba Indian Tribe has been in the hands of the Bureau of Indian Affairs since September of last year. The BIA is a part of the US Department of Interior.

A long delay in handling such an application is not uncommon, according to

Joseph Kelly, a New York-based attorney who specializes in gambling law.

"It can drag on for a long time," said Kelly, who teaches Business Law at the State University of New York-Buffalo and co-edits "Gaming Law Review."

He said that the Bureau of Indian Affairs is very careful about covering all the environmental bases that comes with putting land into trust, including wetlands protection regulations and ensuring compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

"You can't put a time limit on it," said Kelly in a telephone interview last week.



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