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INSIDE...

- Obituaries 2
- Police Log 2
- Lifestyles 3

SPORTS.....9

■ **KM Sports
 Hall Of Fame
 Inductees
 Announced**



Move Clocks Forward Saturday Night



**Kings Mountain
 HERALD**

kmherald.com

Volume 127 • Issue 9 • Wednesday, March 4, 2015

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**Race Day Saturday
 at Gateway Trail**



Pictured are some of the participants in last year's big race at Gateway Trail headed for the finish line. This year's race on Saturday starts at 9 a.m. (file photo)

Gateway Trail is gearing up for its big race day Saturday. There's fun for all, including a 5k run/walk, a 10 mile run, and a kid's fun run.

Trophies for winners this year will be unique railroad spikes, a nod to the fact that the first quarter of a mile the Gateway

Trail is on the old rail bed and since the trail is part of Rails to Trails for North Carolina.

Participants can pre-register at: www.racesonline.com/www.racesonline.com for \$25. On race day the registration fee is \$30. The event

See RACE DAY, Page 7

City Council okays YMCA contract

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Fifteen people spoke in support of the Kings Mountain Family YMCA last Tuesday night as city council voted 6-1 to approve a 20-year contract with the YMCA to operate the city's recreation program.

The city will pay the YMCA \$400,000 annually with a two to four percent increase each year. The Y has been running the program for 15 years at the city-owned former community center on Cleveland Avenue but the lease was up.

Councilman Curtis Pressley cast the no vote. "Times have changed, we're putting our money into one basket and we owe it to our citizens to operate our own recreation. We're missing a lot of kids in the program," he said, questioning the

cost. Ward 4 councilman Rodney Gordon said he thought the price "is too good a deal for the city to walk away from." It's a responsible decision," he added. Gordon noted that his dream for the future is the building of a sports complex in Kings Mountain.

"This is a win/win situation for the city and YMCA," said Mayor Rick Murphrey.

City Manager Marilyn Sellers explained why she recommended the council approve a 20-year contract. She said for the city to run the program the cost would be approximately \$900,000 per year.

With the new contract, the city would receive \$2 million approximately over a 20-year period in utility payments from the Y. Sellers said the cost for the city to run the recreation program back in the late

1990s was \$407,000. "To run only ball programs the first year it would cost the city \$743,000, add fitness programs and that's another \$156,000," she added. Sellers said that for the 2014 year just the salary item for the YMCA was \$352,628.

"If the city ran recreation we would have to pay the utilities, pay 100% of the upgrades to our building, we would not have other organizations to pull programs from at a low cost and we would have to take on 100% liability," said Sellers.

Maurice Tate, founder and President of Kings Mountain Elite which serves 200 youth in the area after school and in other programs, said KM Elite is not in competition with the YMCA. For the past five years Elite has increased its program offerings but survives on donations from the public. "We serve many

disadvantaged kids," said Tate, who asked for the city's endorsement of its programs. He agreed with Pressley that times had changed in the 15 years since the YMCA began operating the city's recreation program. "We have a more diverse population," he said. For over an hour speaker after speaker spoke in support of the YMCA.

Rev. Eddie Gray, a charter member of the Y, referee for basketball and flag football and a baseball umpire for the Y, set up a baseball scenario where a home team's biggest slugger was up to the plate with the bases loaded in the 9th inning. "I believe that if you vote no on this new contract with the YMCA you'll be left in the same position as that home run batter standing at the plate with the bat on his shoulders and not doing a thing about it."

See COUNCIL, Page 7

Bakers complete pro-bono work in Dominican Republic

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In the days before the calendar flipped to 2015, many took the opportunity to take a quick vacation or spent their time gearing up for a big New Year's Eve party. Not so much for Kings Mountain dentists Bryan and Steve Baker.

Instead, the two packed up their bags and their extensive professional experience to make a mission trip to the Dominican Republic's capital city of Santo Domingo to perform dental implant surgery on more than 30 patients who otherwise would not have been able to afford the expensive procedure.

The brothers headed to the poor island nation as part of a mission organized by the International Dental Implant Association. From



Drs. Steve (at left) and Bryan Baker work with a patient during their December mission trip to the Dominican Republic. The two Kings Mountain dentists joined about 25 other dental professionals from around the globe to help patients in the impoverished island nation.

Dec. 27 through Dec. 31, they teamed up with more than 25 other dentists from around the globe to com-

plete the first phase of tricky implant procedures.

"We definitely didn't

See BAKERS, Page 7

Taking 'Polar Plunge' for good cause Saturday

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There was no shortage of 'cold enough for ya jokes' at Moss Lake Saturday morning. 35 degrees in late February isn't exactly shockingly frigid weather. With warm clothes and a decent hat, most can get by.

But for nearly 100 folks who took the "Polar Plunge" into the lake's near-freezing waters, it was a different kind of cold indeed. They went in pink and shivering and came out numb and maybe even a little blue.

"It's so cold that politicians have their hands in their own pockets," quipped WBTV co-anchor John Car-



This unidentified man was among 91 who took a cold dive in Moss Lake for benefit of Special Olympics.

ter, who emceed the event, which drew hundreds of spectators and aimed at raising money for the Special

Olympics. "And hey, folks, I'm just now hearing that spectators are now required

See POLAR PLUNGE, Page 6

Police nab one suspect, looking for second man

It was quick work by Kings Mountain Police. A day after a reported

robbery at Sun Trust Bank on Shelby Road, police had warrants and the suspect in custody on Feb. 27.

Police also have warrants for a second suspect in the armed robbery of Linwood Family Mart, also on Tuesday, Feb. 24.

William Grant Sand-

ers, 28, of 806 Landing St., faces felony counts of larceny and possession of stolen goods in connection with the robbery of Sun Trust Bank about 12:30 last Tuesday afternoon. His \$25,000 bond was secured

See POLICE, Page 7

Partnership for children hosts Rise and Shine breakfast

Downtown Kings Mountain businesses are invited to join fellow business and building owners for the Quarterly Rise & Shine Breakfast.

Come for the networking and information for you to use while enjoying a light breakfast courtesy of The Partnership for Children located in the Central School

building, 105 E. Ridge Street, Kings Mountain. Featured speaker will be Andy Neisler, Attorney with Cloninger and Neisler. Mr. Neisler will talk about the basics of business building leases and the relationship and responsibilities for tenants and property owners.

Sponsored by the City of Kings Mountain Main

Street Organization Committee, the Rise and Shine will be held in the Central School Building Partnership for Children offices, Thursday, March 5th from 7:45 to 9 a.m. This is a free event.

The Mauney Memorial Library is a municipal library founded in 1936 and funded by the citizens of Kings Mountain, NC.

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