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Kings Mountain HERALD

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School leaders talk up big issues, ask for input



Cleveland County Schools Superintendent Dr. Stephen Fisher presents the State of District - Kings Mountain Zone at Barnes Auditorium Monday night.

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When school administrators addressed the public Monday night at Kings Mountain High School, the big themes were increasing district's already healthy graduation rate, bolstering the literacy rate at the elementary level and supporting high levels of parental and community involvement.

"I believe in Cleveland County Schools," said Cleveland County Schools Superintendent Dr. Stephen Fisher. "I believe we're doing the right thing to make student education here the best in the state."

Fisher said the path to success is composed of "good communication," "collaboration" and "good decision making."

"Student learning must be priority number one," Fisher said, referring to specific goals of Cleveland County Schools, which is home to about 15,000 students and more than 2,200 employees.

A little more than 100 people - among them school board members, teachers and school administrators - were in attendance for the presentation held at the school's B.N. Barnes Auditorium. Following the address, members of the community were invited to talk with school administrators in the auditorium's lobby.

Fisher also took the opportunity to key those present into his goal of becoming one of the best ten districts in North Carolina. He said by the spring

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NTE Energy eyeing May groundbreaking

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Groundbreaking for the Kings Mountain Energy Center will probably be in May, the city's Energy Services Director Nick Hendricks told city council during a project update Monday night.

By unanimous action City Council authorized Mayor Rick Murphrey to execute a natural gas Interconnections agreement between the city and NTE Energy, motions by Rick Moore and Keith Miller and to execute a water/waste water funding agreement between the city and NTE, motions by Howard Shipp and Mike Butler.

The board also approved a new large water user rate and tariff for customers using one million gallons of water (currently no industry uses 1 million gallons) but with the future development by the 480 MW natural gas electric generating facility, NTE will be the city's largest water customer.

Water Supt. Dennis Wells called the new rate "a wise decision because it defines everything to potential customers."

Hendricks said the city's Energy Services/ IT Departments are looking to partner

with NTE on a Joint Operations Center, giving the city a presence at the site as well as a high profile presence for travelers on Interstate 85. The new facility would be energy efficient and state of the art, he said, and will

BEST OF THE BEST
NTE Energy is required by the state to conduct numerous tests before they start building the Kings Mountain Energy Center. Testing the water quality is one of those tests. "Yours is the best we've seen," company officials wrote Mayor Rick Murphrey. "The water quality is excellent and I am pleasantly surprised," the official of NTE Energy said.

allow much needed space to become available at the city's Citizen Service Center (Public Works) relieving

the general fund and water fund from future expansion expenses.

"I am really excited," said Hendricks, who said a potential win/win scenario for the city and NTE would be the development of an Industrial Park adjacent to the NTE site off Dixon School Road at I-85 south of the city.

Hendricks said the park would be served with all city utilities including fiber. The potential for an industrial presence directly off I-85 would make this park an excellent location for many industries.

See NTE ENERGY, Page 8

WTVI's focus on KM history

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A film crew descended on the town Monday, capturing shots of the Kings Mountain Historical Museum's campus and conducting interviews with its director Adria Focht, playwright Bob Inman, Mayor Rick Murphrey and others in town.

The reason for the visit? WTVI, Charlotte's N.C. public television station, is creating a short promotional video about the museum that will air during the station's airing of 'Carolina Impact.' It will vie with spots about two other non-profit organizations for a chance to win \$10,000. The video profile will provide exposure to audiences across WTVI's 13-county viewing region.

Kings Mountain residents can help KMHM's video win the competition by casting a vote at www.PBSCharlotte.org from April 21 through May 5. The spot will air at 7 p.m. April 21, but will be view-



WTVI videographer John Branscum shoots footage for a promotional video about the Kings Mountain Historical Museum on its campus Monday. Pictured in the scene are, left to right, Mauney Memorial Library staffers Terry Bivens and Christy Conner with museum volunteers Janet Dwyer and Lynn Eskridge.

able online following that.

According to Focht, the museum she heads is one of three finalists along with the Catawba Riverkeeper

Foundation and the Allegro Foundation in WTVI's Community Give Back non-profit spotlight contest.

If chosen by the viewers,

the museum could receive \$10,000 in free underwriting on PBS Charlotte as part of

See WTVI's FOCUS, Page 4

Medicine Drop

Kings Mountain Police will conduct Operation Medicine Drop Thursday, March 19 at Patrick Senior Center and Saturday, March 21 at the Kings Mountain Police Department.

Det. Sgt. Lisa Proctor said citizens wanting to dispose of unused prescription

or over-the-counter medicines may drop them off from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Thursday at the Patrick Center and from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 at the Police Department. Drive up to both facilities and an officer will pick up the medicines.

"You don't have to get out of your vehicle at all," said Proctor.

Operation Medicine Drop is conducted annually as community outreach and also allows citizens to meet some of the local officers face-to-face," said Proctor.



238 Cherokee owner in France for cooking school

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As you read this, one of Kings Mountain's best-known restaurateurs is upping his game at an elite cooking course held in the French Mediterranean port city of Nice.

Robert Bolin, who owns the popular and upscale 238 Cherokee Grill on Battle-ground Ave., arrived in the European country early Saturday morning, primed and

ready to bolster his foodie education.

In a week long series of high intensity courses he'll learn about making sauces, preparing fresh-caught fish from the Mediterranean Sea and other tricks of the trade in the tradition of chef Georges Auguste Escoffier, the famed tastemaker who was considered France's greatest chef until his death in 1935.

On the eve of his departure

See 238 CHEROKEE, Page 4



Robert Bolin stands outside 238 Cherokee Grill last week before making a trip to Europe to extend his cooking and restaurant business education.

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