

## FIGHTING: for a cure in 2015

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we all work," said emcee and event organizer Colby Brown in Relay's opening remarks.

Relay for Life in Kings Mountain appeared to bounce back to life after a turnout last year that was soured by windy, rainy weather that led to a postponement and a slack turnout for the rain date. It had previously been held at the Kings Mountain walking track. This year organizers sought to breathe new life into the event with a new location, which seemed to ease parking restrictions.

About 25 teams participated in Relay for Life this year, each bringing their own stories, colors, themes and fundraising efforts.

Teams sold hot dogs and sodas, held gun raffles, offered face paintings and offered "jail or bail" fundraising promotions.

"You are a beacon of hope for coming together to fight this terrible disease and raise money for research," Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphy told a big crowd as cancer survivors prepared to take a

ceremonial lap around the football track at John Gamble Stadium under an unrelenting sun.

As "Lean on Me" played over loudspeakers, survivors told their stories.

"Doctors say I'm cancer free now, but it's been some very tough times," said Joan Childers, who said she was diagnosed with colo-rectal cancer a little over a year ago. Before long, the disease had spread to her liver and she was forced to undergo many rounds of chemotherapy and radiation.

The 53-year-old Childers was joined by a team of friends and fellow fundraisers who in honor had named their team "Joan'zin for a Cure."

There was also more good news from Taylor Faris Haraszkiwicz, the young Kings Mountain newlywed who in 2013 was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia.

The 19-year-old's sudden illness captured the attention of city as she underwent several rounds of treatment at Baptist Hospital in Winston Salem.

In early 2014, Haraszkiwicz caught a break when a stem cell donor was found to

be a good match for her. Now, a year later, doctors are calling the transplant a success. At Relay for Life Friday, Haraszkiwicz was cheerfully talking with friends, reporting that her health has almost completely turned around, and she's returned to a part-time position at her job at Walgreen's pharmacy department.

"I'm feeling really healthy these days," she said.

Relay for Life this year featured a number of themed laps including a caregiver lap, favorite sports theme, best of the 80s, Proud to be an American and Mardi Gras. Relay also featured its share of live music, featuring the solo efforts of young Kings Mountain talent Jaiden Huffman and performances by the True Praise Band.

As in year's past, a host of corporate sponsors made Relay for Life successful. They included: Firestone, Joan'zin for a Cure, Boyce Memorial ARP Church, East Elementary, Dream Team, Wannabees, Angels in the Outfield, Walgreens, WTF - Win the Fight!, A.B.C. - Angels Battling Cancer, Advent Lutheran Church, End-

less Dreams Entertainment, Kings Mountain Farm Bureau, KMHS Interact Club, Patriots of KMMS, Scotty Strong, Snapping for a Cure, Team Timmy, Team Trevor and True Gospel Outreach Ministry.

Relay for Life is a community based fundraising event of the American Cancer Society. More than 5,000 Relay For Life events take place across twenty countries. Events are held in local communities, campus universities and through the internet.

As the American Cancer Society's most successful fundraiser and the organization's signature event, the mission of Relay For Life is to raise funds to improve cancer survival, decrease the incidence of cancer, and improve the quality of life for cancer patients and their caretakers.

A Relay For Life event is organized under a volunteer Relay Committee, and implemented by volunteers. About four million people take part in Relay events in over 5,000 communities in the United States. Relay For Life events have raised about \$5 billion to date. See photos Page 8A

## New O'Reilly Auto Parts celebrating grand opening

O'Reilly Auto Parts, 1201 Shelby Road, is celebrating the opening of its new store June 10-June 23 and the welcome mat is out for the public to visit and meet the employees.

In connection with the grand opening a ribbon-cutting will be held at 12 noon on Friday, June 12. Store Manager Stephen Vaughn, on behalf of the entire company, will present a \$200 check to the Kings Mountain Family YMCA.

"When you visit our new store you will find courteous, knowledgeable store personnel to assist you. O'Reilly offers a low price guarantee, plus overnight service from our distribution centers on most parts not in stock," said Vaughn, adding

that O'Reilly has the best manufacturer's warranty policy in the industry and the largest inventory of auto parts, tools and accessories.

Vaughn said that the number one priority for O'Reilly Auto Parts is customer satisfaction which is reflected in the corporate mission statement. "O'Reilly Automotive intends to be the dominant supplier of auto parts in our market a reas by offering our retail customers, professional installers, and jobbers the best combination of price and quality provided with the highest possible service level."

Founded in 1957 by the O'Reilly family, the company operates 4200 stores in 42 states.

## Facility inspections

The Cleveland County Health Department inspected four facilities in the area during the period May 18-22. They are: Thai Hut,

W. Mountain St., 96; East Elementary lunchroom, 99; Grover Elementary lunchroom 98.5; and West Elementary lunchroom, 99.5.

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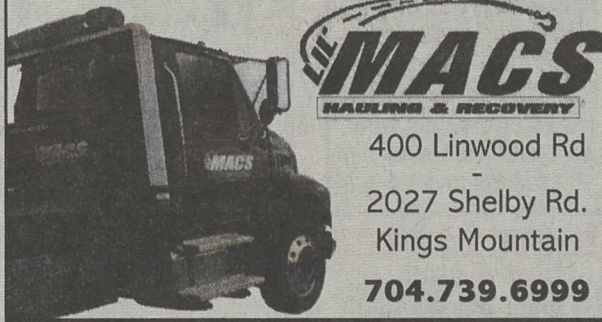
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