



**Carmen Scism**  
promoted to  
**KMHS softball**  
head coach  
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# Kings Mountain HERALD

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## KM and NTE Energy City's huge development project breaks ground

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Mayor Rick Murphrey and county and state officials touted the Kings Mountain Energy Center as a major cornerstone in economic development Tuesday morning as city officials and dozens of NTE Energy officials broke ground for the proposed \$450M facility on Gage Road, off Dixon School Road at I-85.

"Historical day for a historical community" is how the mayor welcomed NTE Chief Executive Seth Shortridge and NTE Vice President of Development Michael Green, and local, county and state officials to the site of the proposed 480MW natural gas electric generating facility which will be capable of powering 400,000 homes and touted by city officials as the largest development project in the city's history.

Shortridge said that power lines are being located and site clearing and grading is underway and a road leads to the site of a project that was in the talking stage nearly three years ago. In 30 months he hopes the plant will be operational.

N.C. House Speaker Tim Moore of Kings Mountain, Jason Falls, chairman of the county board of commissioners, N.C. Senator Warren Daniel and John

E. Skvarla, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce, echoed the mayor's remarks that "this is an important day for Kings Mountain and a significant day for the county and North Carolina."

Speaker of the House Tim Moore said "You've made a wise choice in coming to Kings Mountain. There's a lot of excitement about this project."

Senator Daniel said "You

See KM/NTE ENERGY, Page 3



**GROUNDBREAKING** — Pictured are officials and speakers at Tuesday morning's groundbreaking at the Kings Mountain Energy Center. From left, Jason Falls, Bill Griffin, Tim Moore, John E. Skvarla, Seth Shortridge, Warren Daniel, and Mayor Rick Murphrey. Photo by HALEY WILSON

## An African trip they will never forget



Dellinger gets in a group hug with students at a school for the deaf in Kijabe, Kenya.



Barnes shares a moment with Junior, one of her Kenyan charges. Photos by DAVE BLANTON

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Few summer adventures could measure up to those had by recent KMHS graduates Lindsey Barnes and Mary Catherine Dellinger. Nor could many be more

eye-opening.

On Independence Day the pair hopped on a series of jets en route to Kenya, where they were provided mission work for a school for the deaf, an orphanage and a hospital in and around the poverty-stricken city of Kijabe, which is about two hours from the teeming capital city of Nairobi.

It was the first trip to Africa for both of the 2015 grads, who both say the experience gave them a new

See AFRICAN TRIP, Page 12

## Casino branding: Catawba Indians in talks with Hard Rock

ROCK HILL, S.C. — The Native American tribe aiming to build a gaming and resort complex in Kings Mountain has announced it is in negotiations with Hard Rock International to provide the branding for its proposed casino.

Catawba Indian Nation Chief Bill Harris said over the weekend that partnering with a strong casino brand is an important element in

making any resort his tribe would operate competitive.

Hard Rock-themed casinos are already in place in ten locations worldwide, including Orlando, Fla., Hollywood, Fla., Las Vegas, Tulsa, Okla., Vancouver, British Columbia, Manchester, England, and Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Tribal officials discussed the possibility of working

See CASINO BRANDING, Page 8

## 90th birthday for Paul Ham

Paul Ham, 90, is always in his pew at Boyce Memorial ARP Church where he is a 63-year member.

The well-known Kings Mountain man joined the church when he married Dorothy McCarter. They will soon celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary.

"You don't need to do so much for me on my birthday," he told his wife who planned a birthday party for him Saturday at the ARP church. Over 175 friends and relatives called from 3-5 p.m. to wish Paul a happy 90th birthday.

Paul enjoyed visiting with guests and reminiscing

about the good times. Although he uses a walker and at times a wheelchair, he attends church every

See 90 BIRTHDAY, Page 8



PAUL HAM

## KM singer's story from rags to riches

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James Wayne Barber didn't grow up in the most comfortable of circumstances.

His family was poor growing up in King Mountain and by the time he was old enough to know what a father was, that man in his life had long disappeared. His mother for her part clung to family connections a few years longer, but by the time Jimmy was in his early teens, he found himself alone, out of school and scratching out a life on the streets in seedy Gaston and



**JIMMY WAYNE**  
Photo by Alan Poizner

Cleveland County neighborhoods populated by hustlers, drug dealers and alcoholics. See KM SINGER, Page 8

## Leisurely walk for Smiths turns horrific for couple

Mike and Gail Smith walk two miles every day from their home at 311 Scotland Drive with their pet Chihuahua on a leash. It was a leisurely walk and an ordinary day for

them July 18th until a Great Dane suddenly came out the front door of a home at 406 Scotland Drive and mauled Gail before her husband could pull him off and in the process both sustained

injuries to their arms before the dog backed off when his owner, hearing screams, came running.

"The dog has never done this kind of thing before," according to the

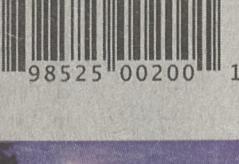
owner who said her son was skateboarding at the time the couple walked by their house. She speculates that the dog was acting as a protector to her son. The rest See LEISURELY WALK, Page 9

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