Lake Keowee restaurant taking form

BY CARLOS GALARZA
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — A new Lake Keowee restaurant is quickly taking shape.

In less than five months, the Lighthouse Restaurant has risen off the ground to dominate the skyline at what used to be called Mosquito Point.

The restaurant and adjoining Lighthouse Event Center cover a footprint of 11,000 square feet. A signature green and white-striped lighthouse peaks high above the restaurant's second-story rooftop.

Developer Richard Cottingham of Lake Keowee Investors Inc. said this week that the project is on target to open in April or May 2012.

"We're making progress," Cottingham said.

When up and running, the Lighthouse Restaurant at Doug Hollow and Kelley Ridge roads will offer diners spectacular views of the lake and mountains.

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Construction of the new Lighthouse Restaurant is quickly coming together at Doug Hollow and Kelley Ridge roads on Lake Keowee. The opening is still on track for April or May 2012.

RESTAURANT: Set to open next year



A worker puts some finishing touches on the roof of the new Lighthouse Restaurant on Lake Keowee.

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The project appeared headed into litigation in May when a group of neighbors challenged developers' plans to redirect and close a section of Doug Hollow Road that would cut their access to a makeshift boat ramp on the lake.

The dispute became so heated that the Oconee County Council filed a motion to have a judge settle the conflict.

However, the parties reached a settlement in July and construction began soon afterward.

The restaurant also features a beach cabana with room for about 45 additional seats and a 10-slip dock.

Management expects to employ 35 workers and pump about $4 million annually into the local economy.

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