



Can BC bring home its second consecutive national title?

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## Video poker 'casino' causing concern in Brevard

### *New Sweepstakes Pot-O-Gold outlet opened Oct. 7*

By Park Baker  
Staff Writer

Sweepstakes Pot-O-Gold is a video casino raising a few eyebrows among community business owners and students alike.

The shopping center where this video casino opened Oct. 7 is home to Fuji Yama Japanese Steakhouse, GO Grocery, Sherwin-Williams Paint, Brevard Goodwill, a formal wear shop, and a feed and seed store. Local business owners are concerned that an establishment like this is not only out of place but could open the door for more places like it.

Student Morgan Sykes described the place as an eyesore that seems out of place in a town like Brevard. "I don't just attend Brevard College," Sykes said. "I live here now, and my family lives here."

Formerly filled by the Egolf Dodge and Ford car dealership, the space where the casino is located is a large room filled with more than

two dozen video gaming machines. According to an Associated Press article about other Pot-O-Gold locations, customers purchase phone or Internet time, then play games on computer screens to win cash and prizes. Sweepstakes are only a way to attract people to the store to use its services.

According to the company's website, the Pot-O-Gold company is the official sweepstakes provider for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of N.C. and the Veterans Foundation of North Carolina.

A man seemingly in charge before opening identified himself as "Bill." He did not reveal his last name or any additional details about the operation, saying only that it would be doing business as Sweepstakes Pot-O-Gold and that his boss did not want him talking to reporters.

Edwin Drake, assistant manager of Sherwin-Williams paint store next door to the video gaming casino, says, "I'm happy for anyone to be able to take advantage of the free market system, but I hate to see anyone throwing money, and time, away." Drake was the manager of a nearby gas station for some time and says that he



Dave Alexander enjoying the video poker.

frequently had to call police to escort people off the premises because they had become addicted to the video gaming. He added, "I don't think it's healthy to allow this sort of establishment, one that feeds people's addictions."

Pam Coleman, owner of Cinderella's Formal Wear, says that Pot-O-Gold is the first of its kind in this town. She says she is skeptical of the kinds of people it will attract.

"Nine times out of 10 an establishment like this attracts a crowd that isn't necessarily looking to shop in our retail stores," Coleman said. Thieves broke into her business and stole \$40,000 worth of merchandise when it was located on Caldwell Street, she said.

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## Foliage experts: Expect peak colors soon

By Caleb Welborn  
Staff Writer

Mt. Mitchell ranger and park naturalist James Michael Sanders expects fall color to rapidly accelerate over the next week.

Additionally, Kathy Mathews, an associate professor of biology at Western Carolina University, told the Knoxville News Sentinel that she expects an above average display this autumn, based on weather patterns this past spring and summer. According to Mathews, "It's been a hot year, with above average temperatures this summer. Rainfall has been slightly less than average this spring and summer. These are two factors I look at when thinking about the timing and quality of the fall color change in the mountains."

Trip Advisor, a popular travel site, listed Asheville as the number one destination in a list of "America's Top Ten Foliage Destinations" released in September 2010, calling western North Carolina "a spectacular location for leaf-peeping." Peak foliage viewing for this

area is from mid to late October, according to the site.

Brevard College is located in a prime location for viewing fall colors, with roads such as US Highway 276 and the Blue Ridge Parkway only a short drive from campus.

### Why do leaves change color in the fall?

- The days are growing shorter, and nighttime temperatures have been dipping into the 30's
- As a result, leaves stop producing green chlorophyll
- The absence of green reveals leaves' spectrum of fall colors