

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



Kings Mountain native Calvin Edwards, who now lives in Japan, will present a jazz concert Saturday at 5:30 p.m. at the new gazebo at the corner of West Gold Street and Railroad Avenue.

SPORTS

NFL star Kevin Mack returns to hometown

Former Kings Mountain High, Clemson University and Cleveland Browns star running back Kevin Mack was in town Friday night to escort his daughter, Roxanne Brown, in homecoming festivities at John Gamble Stadium. 1B

Mountaineers, East in big game Friday

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers face a must win situation when they travel to East Rutherford for a key Southwestern 3A Conference matchup Friday. 1B

BUSINESS

Alexander Park is officially open

Alexander Business Park in Kings Mountain officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony Thursday. 8A

Timms Furniture planning expansion

Timms Furniture of Kings Mountain is clearing land for a major expansion on Grover Road. 9A

New Eckerd's open in Kings Mountain

The new Eckerd Drug Store is open for business at the intersection of King Street and Cleveland Avenue. 9A

PEOPLE

Lib Stewart gets Long Leaf Pine award

Kings Mountain's Lib Stewart received the state's highest honor - the Order of the Long Leaf Pine - at homecoming festivities honoring her as National President of the American Legion Auxiliary. 3A

A Losing Hand

Supreme Court decision dooms S.C. game establishments

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

Video poker was given a poke in the eye last Thursday when the S.C. Supreme Court ruled that a scheduled November 2 referendum on the industry was unconstitutional. The 5-0 decision by the justices effectively spelled doom for the \$2.8 billion video gaming industry. Adding salt to the video gaming wound is the fact that businesses will be left holding over 36,000 video game machines. Governor Jim Hodges declared that "video gaming

will no longer exist in South Carolina."

One of the hottest video gaming spots is just across the state line from Grover at the U.S. 29 and I-85 interchange where no less than ten casinos are located. Like neighbors who barely get along, the casinos and their bright lights contrast sharply with Grover's small town demeanor. Earlier this year, casino operators had petitioned Grover for water and sewer service, including a pipeline extension, but were turned down.

Like many controversial subjects, the topic of video gaming

raises strong opinions. For their part, video gaming proponents say the industry brings jobs and tax revenue to the communities where the parlors are located. Opponents on the other hand, claim that video gaming can become an addiction and takes family money away from children.

Thoughts on video gaming are varied in Grover. Though most people seem to think the casinos across the border have brought problems such as increased traffic and all night goings on, other folks see the casinos as a source of legitimate

income. Lori Naylor of Antioch doesn't live in Grover per se, but comes to town nearly every day.

"I don't go to the video parlors myself, but it's good that they are going to close down," Naylor said. "I only worry about what will come when they stop the gaming business. A man told my father that they would put barrooms in the casino buildings."

Grover firefighter Steven Richardson said he had been inside of a video gaming casino before, but didn't play any of

the games. "When they close down, it will create a lot of unemployment," said Richardson. "I heard each casino employs 30 workers per shift. It's not like the casino owners are pushing the games down anyone's throat. If people want to play video poker, they'll find a way to do it."

Grover retiree J.D. Bolin minced few words when it came to how he felt about the video poker casinos.

"I'm 100 percent against

See Poker, 3A

Mountaineer Days



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD

Heather Wright of the Kings Mountain High band performs for the opening of the new downtown gazebo during Mountaineer Days celebration Thursday. Jazz musician Calvin Edwards of Japan will perform at the gazebo Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Jessie Detter home, improving from wreck

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Less than two weeks after being in a car wreck that could have cost her her life, 16-year-old Jessica Detter of Kings Mountain is home and doing well.

It will still be awhile before she rejoins her classmates at Kings Mountain High School because she has to undergo several weeks of extensive therapy, but her mother, Trudy Detter, says Jessica is improving every day.

"She's doing remarkable,"

Mrs. Detter said after bringing Jessica home from Carolinas Medical Center Monday. "It's just amazing. God has just kept His hand on her and she gets stronger every day."

Jessica lost control of her car on Saturday night, Oct. 9, overturned several times and landed in a creek on State Road 1001 between Bethware and Four Points. She was in a coma until the following Monday with injuries to her head and back.

Miraculously, all the tests made on her back came back negative. However, the head in-

See Detter, 3A

Cleanup of King is a city priority

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

The City of Kings Mountain is putting some teeth into its clean-up ordinances, hoping that King Street will soon become a gateway to Cleveland County and not an eyesore.

Local businessman Mike Heath loves that idea and plans to do all he can to make it a reality.

Heath recently purchased the old Pure Oil Station and Kings Mountain Bus Station at the corner of West King and Battleground Avenue. He has already demolished the Pure Oil Station, which most recently served as a car wash, and in six weeks he plans to raze the old bus station which at present houses a tanning salon.

Heath is not sure at present what he will put on the site, but whatever it is he says it will be something Kings Mountain will be proud of.

"It's kind of up for grabs right now," he said. "We're just now putting our heads together."

City Manager Jimmy Maney said the old Carquest building on East King is also under order for demolition, and if that property is not demolished soon by the owner the city will pursue "demolition or condemnation, or whatever we have to do to clean that up."

Maney said the city had been working with the previous owner of the old Pure Oil Station for six months to get that property cleaned up. The former owner was given an

October 1 deadline to clean up the property.

"The property was sold to Mr. Heath prior to that and his intentions were to clean it up anyway," Maney said. "He's doing a good job up there."

Maney said there are many other buildings in town that are targeted by the city, and if the owners don't bring them up to codes the city will.

"We're putting teeth into our ordinances," he said. "When you start talking condemnation you have to work through the legal framework of the law and make sure you're abiding by the statutes. You can't just go in and take someone's property just because you think it looks bad."

Maney said the remains of the old hotel across from The Herald and adjacent to the site for the new Kings Mountain Senior Center, is also targeted for cleanup.

"We're going to be pursuing either clean-up of the property, or we'll clean it up and attach a lien to it," he said.

"We're going to move on clean-up," he added. "We're going to be very aggressive. I feel like we have been but we're going to make sure that when the property owners tell the city they're going to do something, they're going to do it."

"There are other properties that we're going after next. If you're on King Street, or any other street, if the residence or the business establishment is beyond repair, the city is going after demolition at the owner's expense."



Tommy Willis operates a front end loader that was used to help demolish the old Pure Oil station on King Street in Kings Mountain. The station came down to make room for a new business.

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