

# KINGS MOUNTAIN

# The Herald

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A last look at Grady Costner's Christmas light spectacular

10A



## KM mourns death of Carl DeVane

Former councilman succumbs to ALS

ANDIE BRYMER

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Just days before Christmas, Kings Mountain lost one of its biggest advocates. Former city Councilman Carl DeVane died Dec. 21 at Hospice in Shelby.

DeVane announced in late June that he had Lou Gehrig's disease, also known as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. He opted not to run again for his Ward Five city council seat.

DeVane, a Florence, S.C. native, served on the council for six years and was Mayor Pro-tem for two years.

"The City of Kings Mountain is a better place because of Carl," said Mayor Rick Murphrey.

Murphrey and DeVane's friendship started over 30 years ago before either man ran for elected office. Murphrey remembers meeting DeVane when he managed Duplex, a textile company. Murphrey was a young textiles salesman calling on DeVane for the first time. The textile executive immediately made him feel welcome, Murphrey said. A friendship quickly developed.

"He was a lot of fun. He put you at ease," Murphrey said.

The two later became neighbors. After Murphrey gave up his Ward Five council seat to run for mayor, DeVane successfully ran.

"I was very excited about that," Murphrey said.

The two hunted and golfed together and their families remain friends.

"He cared very much for his church, family, community," Murphrey said.

Some of the projects DeVane championed included a hotel occupancy tax to be used for tourism development. Initially some other council members didn't

See DeVane, 8A

## 4-car wreck snarls traffic on interstate

Traffic was slowed on Interstate 85 in both directions due to a four car collision on Monday afternoon. There were no serious injuries.

Robert Dixon of Supply, N.C. was driving north on Interstate 85 just south of the Dixon School Road exit when he came to a quick stop to avoid hitting another vehicle which was driving slowly.

According to the Highway Patrol, Jason Michael Wilson of Gastonia struck Dixon's vehicle in the rear setting off a chain reaction. Carrie Milton of Greensboro then hit Wilson's vehicle and Andrew Kreger of Sharpsburg, Ga. then hit Milton's vehicle.

See Wreck, 8A

50 Cents

## VIDEO POKER BUST



Joseph BRYMER / HERALD

Paul Leigh, a Cleveland County Sheriff's officer working in the community oriented policing vice/narcotics unit, loads a video poker machine seized from Silver Villa Tuesday afternoon.

## Machines seized at Silver Villa, Youngins Store and KM Games

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Cleveland County Sheriff's officers seized video poker machines Tuesday from the Silver Villa Family Restaurant and Youngins Store and on November 29 from KM Games.

Officers visited the Silver Villa mid-afternoon Tuesday, confiscating three machines. Charges of gambling and operating illegal gaming machines are pending against owner Kenneth Hamrick, according to the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office. These charges are a misdemeanor unless there are past gambling convictions. Hamrick made a payout to a confidential informant in July, according to the CCSO. The Silver Villa Family Restaurant is located at 606 East King Street.

Hamrick was in the process of applying for a renewal of his conditional use permit from the City of Kings Mountain which enables him to operate the machines.

Tuesday's seizure may mean that permit is denied.

Immediately after that seizure, officers confiscated three machines at Youngins convenience store located beside Bethlehem Fire Department. Two clerks made cash pay-outs to two confidential informants in early March, according to the CCSO.

Jerry Ruppe owned the store at the time and it was called Ray's Quick Stop. He is not being charged. Officers did not immediately know if the current owner was involved in any illegal pay-outs.

North Carolina law allows stores to have up to three machines; however, prizes may not be over \$10 in value. Municipalities are allowed to use



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

Officer Paul Leigh loads a video poker machine seized from the Youngins on Tuesday afternoon.

zoning to limit where the machines may be operated. The City of Kings Mountain has a

Board of Adjustment which hears requests for video poker machine See Poker, 8A

## Stethoscope not cop's usual weapon

Sgt. Brad Bumgardner completes training as Drug Recognition Expert

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Kings Mountain Police Sgt. Brad Bumgardner is armed with an unusual tool for a police officer - a blood pressure cuff and stethoscope.

Bumgardner, who recently completed Drug Recognition Expert School, uses the blood pressure assessment and other tools to evaluate individuals suspected of driving under the influence of a prescribed or illegal drug.

"It's much more prevalent than

you would think," he said.

In the past Bumgardner would stop a driver who appeared impaired. If alcohol was ruled out the officer had few options. Often drivers using drugs can pass a standard sobriety test. Now Bumgardner can assess blood pressure, pulse, muscle tone, temperature and pupil size.

"You can't fake that," he said.

With this information, Bumgardner decides if the suspect is taking one or more of seven categories of drugs. These include cen-

tral nervous system depressants like Xanax, central nervous system stimulants like cocaine or meth, hallucinogens like acid or mushrooms, disassociative anesthetic like PCP, narcotics which include analgesics, heroin, OxyContin and other opiate derived drugs, inhalants (huffing of aerosols) or cannabis which includes marijuana and hashish.

The next step is a trip to the hospital for blood testing for the specific drug.

Bumgardner said that as far as he knows, he is the only law enforce-

ment officer in Cleveland County to have the certification. The training first began in California 30 years ago and has slowly made its way across the country. Bumgardner took the four-month training at Asheville-Buncombe Technical College. He first heard about it when a Gaston County Highway Patrol trooper made a presentation to Kings Mountain Police Department. Bumgardner is available to do the assessments for other officers at Kings Mountain Police Department See Cop, 8A