

## LOCAL

# Mountaineer Christmas Friday night downtown

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Trains and trolleys will add to the new sights and sounds of Mountaineer Christmas Friday, December 7, 5 p.m.-9 p.m.

Entertainment will be held at the Gazebo in Patriots Park from 5-7:30, just before the doors of the Joy Theatre open for a live production of "Snow White."

"I encourage people to come downtown, support your local businesses, enjoy shopping, the food and remain for Snow White at the theatre," said Brenda Lovelace, one of the organizers for Mountaineer Christmas.

A new addition this year, will

be the free trolley rides offered by Travelinx trolleys, taking bundled passengers on special wintery tours through Kings Mountain. The trolley will begin at the Chamber office on the corner of Mountain Street and Battleground Avenue. It will take passengers through the KM historic district, past the Old Depot, by the KM Historic Museum, through downtown and back to the Chamber.

A stop at the historic museum along the tour will introduce Christmas wanderers to the trolley's locomotive cousin: the train. The museum's Fifth Annual Trains, Trains, Trains

exhibit will be open to the public from 5-9 p.m.

The Atlantic Coast 'S' Gaugers will be running their interactive trains and memorabilia from several other railroad collectors will be on display. The Barber Log House behind the museum will also be open for candle light tours.

"There will be fun for the whole family," Lovelace said.

Kings Mountain Little Theatre will be serving hot dogs and chili in front of the Joy, before 7:30 p.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will be stationed at This-N-That

Novelty Shop on Railroad Avenue for last minute wish list updates. Santa will be giving each of the children a small gift, reminding them of the big day at hand. Children can have their pictures taken with Santa for \$3 each.

"Most of the businesses downtown will be open during Mountaineer Christmas," Lovelace said. Bellus Tu, between the Joy and Hometown Hardware, will be open, giving free chair massages and hot cider. The spa will also be offering entertainment. Toni Jones, wife of the spa's masseur Kevin Jones, will be singing Christmas

carols to the keyboard accompaniment of Vickie Valentine Jones, said Aesthetician Laurie Mancuso.

Most of the store fronts will also be decorated for the Christmas storefront decorating contest. Shirley Brutko, with the Kings Mountain chapter of the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce, said that the store fronts will be judged on Thursday, December 6. Winners will receive special prizes.

Cleveland Music will be providing melodic entertainment and accompaniment at the Gazebo, along with other entertainers.

# Rose's to open store in former Badcock building

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The store that once housed Badcock Furniture in Kings Mountain, next to the Food Lion on Shelby Road, has been empty for quite some time.

But a new tenant will soon change that lonely atmosphere. Rose's Stores, Inc., based out of Henderson, NC, has decided to call that vacant building home to one of their future Rose's department stores.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said that crews are already working onsite. Rose's spokesman Wilson Sawyer said, "We hope to be

open probably by mid-February or certainly by the first of March (of 2008)."

Wilson said that they made the decision to locate in Kings Mountain a few weeks ago, after knowing that the property was available. "We're very excited about locating a Rose's store in Kings Mountain," he said. "We think it's a great opportunity for the company and we believe it will be a benefit to the community."

He said that the Rose's stores of today, which began in 1927 as 5, 10, and 15 cent stores in Charlotte and Henderson, are more like the neighborhood

stores of yesterday. Wilson added that he hopes this new Rose's will provide the people of Kings Mountain a place to shop in their own neighborhood.

The nearest Rose's Department Stores are located in Belmont and Forest City, he said. "We think Kings Mountain is just a great opportunity for us and for the community."

This will be the company's 99th Rose's store in the southeast market. However, Wilson said that Rose's Stores, Inc. owns a few other retail chains, including Maxway, giving them a grand total of about 450 stores nationwide.

One of the main reasons the company decided to locate a Rose's in the KM area, is because of the success of the Maxway store, located in the old Winn-Dixie shopping plaza. "We have a Maxway in Kings Mountain that has done well for a number of years. So we felt a desire to put a larger store there," he said. "This store will replace the Maxway."

Wilson said that the new Rose's may create the possibility of 40-50 jobs, some of which will be filled by the current staff at Maxway.

Design plans are presently in the works for the approximately

30,000-square-foot facility. But Wilson said that half of the store will probably house apparel, including shoes and clothing for men, women and children. Another part of the store will be reserved for "hardlines," which he said include items such as home furnishings, housewares, and toys. There are also plans for the store to have a seasonal area or a garden shop. "We will also have the usual candy, health and beauty aids and things like that," Wilson said.

"We're proud to welcome them to our community," Murphrey said. "They'll be a real asset to our community."

# One bad test but KM says its water is still good

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A public notice explaining that the city's water failed to live up to state standards in last year's testing period, was tucked inside of Kings Mountain utility customers' bills last week. But by the time citizens received the bulletin, the problem had been fixed.

The notice stated that results from the testing period of July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007 showed that the city had failed to reduce the Total Organic Carbon to appropriate levels.

Testing TOC levels provides a way of determining the degree of organic contamination in the source of water. Dennis Wells, the director of Kings Mountain's Water Department, said that when measuring the TOC they have to take the accumulative

average over a four month period. Testing found one inappropriate level of TOC in March, but the period did not end until June.

"That's why we couldn't post anything until the quarter was over in June," Wells said. "But next quarter (TOC) was back up to normal or above." He added that when the time came when they were able to file, the problem had been fixed. The notices

explained that TOC requirements have been met as of September 2007.

The federal Clean Water Act mandates that states and municipalities undergo regular and often thorough testing of the city's water supply to ensure that the water meets safety and environmental standards. The state requires municipalities to report testing irregularities to the pub-

lic. Wells said that they had to put the bulletins in the bills because of those requirements. But he urged people have nothing to worry about. "TOC has no

health effect," he said. "Everything is in good shape. The water is fine. I drink it all of the time."

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