



Local veterans honored at Woodbridge blood drive

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BILL ALEXANDER

Mountaineers heat up the court in basketball action

SPORTS 1B

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Kings Mountain

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NEW DEVELOPMENT
Duke Energy training plant coming to KM

By ELIZABETH STEWART
 Staff writer

Duke Energy will build a 150,000 square foot training and support facility on 30 acres in Cleveland County Industrial Park in the new year, Brett Carter, Duke Energy Carolinas President, and VP Bill Pitesa announced Thursday.

Local, county and state leaders including Lt. Governor Walter Dalton and Secretary of Commerce Keith Criscoe lauded the move, making Duke the 5th new business coming to Kings Mountain in the new year. Four will be located on NC 161, York Road, providing hundreds of job opportunities at Bell Lines Inc., a trucking company; a new Dollar General; a Cook-Out restaurant and Qual-Tech Industries, a high tech machine shop.

See TRAINING, 7A

DOWNTOWN
50 year old landmark to close shop

By ELIZABETH STEWART
 Staff writer

McGinnis Department Store, a landmark Kings Mountain retail business since 1952, will close its doors later this month.

John McGinnis, co-owner with his brother-in-law, Doyle Campbell, said the closing marks "signs of the times."

Although he said he would miss his customers, the Kings Mountain businessman says he's ready for retirement and

See LANDMARK, 3A

Mountaineer Christmas Friday downtown

Parade moved to Friday

Due to the cold and wet weather predicted for last Saturday, the Kings Mountain Christmas Parade has been moved to Friday and will now be held at the beginning of Mountaineer Christmas.

The parade will step off from the corner of Battleground Ave. and Gold St. at 4 p.m. with dignitaries and this year's grand marshals leading the pack. In honor of the Boy Scouts of America's 100th anniversary, local scouts have been appointed grand marshals.

They will lead the procession along with Melvin Proctor of the

Kings Mountain Police Department, Frank Burns of the KM Fire Department, J.R. Scruggs of KM Rescue Squad, Danny Gordon of the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, Cindy Pruitt of the county environmental enforcement agency, Sgt. Luckadoo of the NC Highway Patrol, the KMPD Explorer Unit Color Guard, and city representatives: Mayor Rick Murphrey, Mayor Pro Tem Rodney

See PARADE, 3A

Parade Line-up Page 3A

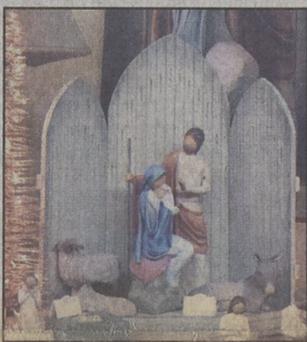
Mountaineer Christmas activities set downtown

The spirit of the season will come to life in downtown Friday night for Mountaineer Christmas 2009: "The Nativity Celebration".

Several merchants and associates will be offering family-friendly yuletide activities in this Mountaineer Partnership-sponsored event. The celebration will kick off at 4 p.m. with the Kings Mountain Christmas Parade and will last until 9 p.m.

Fitting with this year's theme, a live nativity scene will be set up in the courtyard behind the old First National Bank building on Mountain St.

A documentary of the Bethlehem Star will be playing for free at the Joy Performance Theatre at 5 p.m., 6:15 and 7:30. Saint Nick will be at Hometown Hardware, listening to Christmas requests, posing



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD
 This manger scene is at Suzy B's Gift Shop.

for pictures with the children and handing out themed gifts to the kids.

Gingerbread nativity scenes, nativity-themed cookies and "birthday" cakes iced for the King of Kings are just a few of the treats

See ACTIVITIES, 3A

Police need toys for kids

By ELIZABETH STEWART
 Staff writer

An out-of-work single Mom of three told KMPD Det. Todd McDougle this week that it "breaks my heart" to have to ask for Santa Claus gifts for the kids.

"It breaks our hearts too," say police who are seeing a usually full Training Room of toys in the Police Department almost bare of toys and clothing for needy children.

Police are scurrying to fill empty stockings this Christmas.

From all accounts, it will be a bleak Christmas for many families without the help of the community.

"Because there are so many families out of a job this holiday season the need is genuine," says McDougle, who is heading up the project for police. New toys, winter coats and gloves, and any donation for comfort items may be turned in at the dispatcher window at KMPD or delivered to Joy Theatre this Friday from 4-9 p.m. during Moun-

See TOY DRIVE, 3A



LIB STEWART photo
 KMPD Det. Todd McDougle stands in the Training Room of the Police Department where a room of toys at this time of the year is almost bare.



Nearly 1,200 turn out for job fair on Thursday at the YMCA, looking to fill a prospective 400 positions. See story, 4A.

SWEEPSTAKES



Cars line up at the "business center" offering sweepstakes in the old diner at the Dixon School Road truck stop.

Cities look to freeze growth of sweepstakes

Grover asks county for moratorium, KM looks at own moratorium to pause the spread of sweepstakes machines

By EMILY WEAVER
 Editor

A soft red light radiated from a new business on Main Street in Grover Monday night. The name of the new establishment is The Red Room. And inside town hall the mayor was seeing red.

The Red Room is the newest sweepstakes operation to open in Grover. The town has six now. Kings Mountain has about 10.

"We have three, probably four operating illegally," said Mayor Robert Sides.

Five of the establishments fill all but three of the storefronts downtown. In the dark of night and shaded behind blackened windows, they light up the business district with colored floodlights and neon signs announcing the games are here.

Cyber Line, M&M; The Trading Post, The Red Room and This-N-That make up the downtown block. Across the railroad tracks is another business with gaming machines, according to the mayor.

Only one of the businesses - M&M - has the proper permit to continue operating. Cyber Line Internet Cafe filed for a conditional use permit, but was denied. Business owner Reggie Medlin is appealing the decision in the courts. As long as his case is under appeal he can continue operating without being fined.

But what about those fines?

The \$25 a day penalty, which is set in current ordinances to be charged to businesses who don't comply with zoning,

See SWEEPSTAKES, 7A

TUESDAY NIGHT

City council to take oath

By ELIZABETH STEWART
 Staff writer

Swearing-in of three newly-elected councilmen will highlight Tuesday night's 6 p.m. meeting of Kings Mountain City Council at City Hall.

Mike Butler, Ward 2, Tommy Hawkins, Ward 3, and Dean Spears, At-Large, will take the oath of office with members of their families holding the Bible as they raise their right hands and repeat the oath administered by State Rep. Tim Moore.

Hawkins, who defeated incumbent Jerry Mullinax, represents the new face on the seven-member board. Board members whose terms did not expire in December are Howard Shipp, Ward I; mayor pro tem Rodney Gordon, Ward 4; Rick Moore, Ward 5; Houston Corn, At-Large commissioner and Mayor Rick Murphrey.

The mayor said that business on the agenda for the outgoing board will include two public hearings.

Council is expected to set a temporary moratorium on

See COUNCIL, 3A

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