

Kings Mountain Herald

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Video sweeps debate continues in Grover

Council sets Feb. 6 public hearing to consider moratorium on business permits

ELIZABETH STEWART

lib.kmherald@gmail.com

GROVER - The controversy over video sweepstakes gaming continued Monday night and as tempers flared at the town board meeting Mayor J.D. Ledford called a halt to the "city recognition portion" of the meeting but not before Don Johnson, who rents his buildings on Main Street to sweepstakes parlors and Dennis Moss, who operates Cyberline, had their say.

The discussion came minutes before the board unanimously set a public hearing for Feb. 6 to consider a moratorium on issuing conditional use permits for video sweepstakes. The change in the ordinance requires public notice and a public hearing.

"We just want to operate our businesses and not be harassed by police," said Johnson. Deputy Roy Dyer, a new councilman, took issue and denied the accusation.

"It's against the law to operate against the conditions of conditional use permits and po-

lice are doing their job and our two auxiliary policemen work for free," he added. "I personally don't want that kind of element in this town but the bottom line is that we don't want criminal activity in this town, we had rather have nothing."

The two uniformed auxiliary and part time officer stood at the back of the meeting room and the chief of police sat at the table with council members.

Chief Eric Buff said a police car was parked for a day or two in the parking lot

across from the sweepstakes parlors because of complaints by a citizen of traffic violations.

"We're legal," said Dennis Moss of Cyberline. "Do you want business in this town or a ghost town?" to which board member Brent White responded, "We want business that is legal."

Johnson said that the town was stagnant before new businesses opened on Main

See GROVER, 7A

Pryor in hospital after getting struck at church

Mom seeks prayers for both families

Samuel (Junior) Pryor, 62, of 106 Misty Lane, remains in Intensive Care at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte where he underwent surgery Tuesday after being struck by a car Sunday night by off-duty KM police officer Bob Myers.

Pryor's mother, Kathleen Pryor, said that her daughter-in-law, Debbie Pryor, is staying at the hospital with her husband who may have more surgery later in the week. "He is doing well but we need your prayers," said the mother.

According to Kings Mountain Police Ptl. K. A. Wajda the accident happened at 7:02 p.m. Sunday night in the parking lot of First Baptist Church on West King Street. Bobby Maurice Myers, 73, of 124 Dixon School Road, had just let his wife, Martha, off at the entrance to the church and was driving through the parking lot to park his 2008 Ford. Samuel Pryor, 62, of 106 Misty Lane, had just dropped his wife, Debbie, off at the church entrance, parked his car and was walking back to the entrance.

See PRYOR, 7A

Hutchins, Hawkins announce run for 2012

ELIZABETH STEWART

lib.kmherald@gmail.com

A week into this new year and local candidates are eyeing 2012 elections.

County Commissioners Johnny Hutchins and Ronnie Hawkins announced jointly this week that they are in the race for re-election in 2012.

Hutchins, chairman of the county board, is running for a third four-year-term, and Hawkins, vice-chairman, is running for a fourth four-year-term on the commission's five member board.

Both Hutchins, 65, and Hawkins, 59, said their experience and common sense approach to government have made them a part of a hard-working, progressive team that has worked successfully

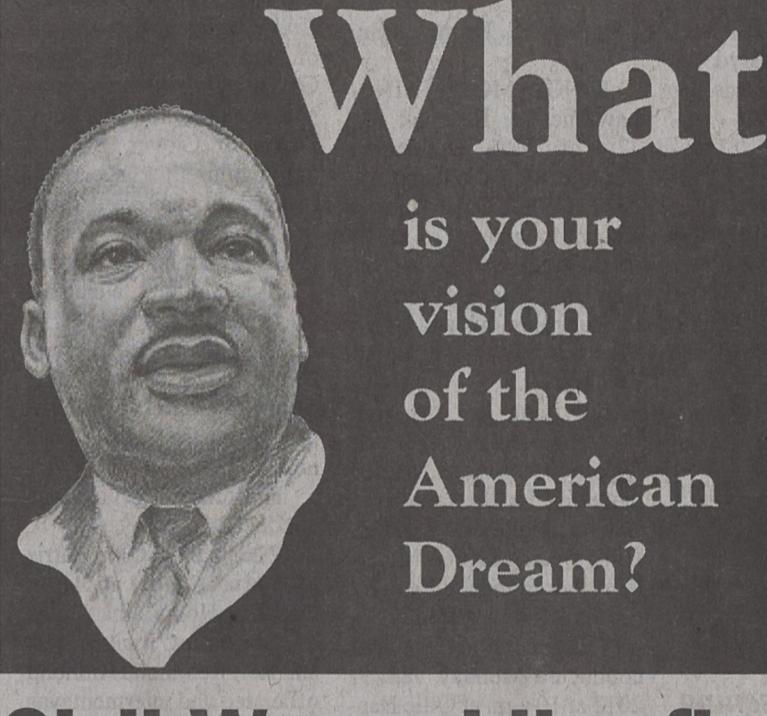


HAWKINS



HUTCHINS

See COMMISSIONERS, 7A



What is your vision of the American Dream?

You can win big prize money if your photograph on the above subject is chosen as one of the three winners in the 2012 Dr. Martin Luther King Photography contest Monday, Jan. 16 as the feature of the ML King celebration sponsored by the City of Kings Mountain.

The first place winner will receive \$150 in prize money. Second place will win \$100 in prize money and third place will take home \$50. There is no cost to enter.

Each entry must be a photograph, reflect the theme, and in color or black and white. Entry forms are available at City Hall and deadline to submit an entry is Friday at 5 p.m. Email your entry to

See CAPTURE, 7A

Civil War soldier finds final resting place 128 years after burial

KYRA A. TURNER

kyra.kmherald@gmail.com

Civil War soldier, William Madison Wright, has found his final resting place 128 years after he was first buried. His descendants were there to carry him home.

The remains of 14 graves were unearthed and moved from the old Bostic-Wright Cemetery off of West Dixon Boulevard, December 30, to clear land for the new 74 bypass. Wright and his two wives are now buried among their kin, other Wrights, Bostics and Washburns in the cemetery of Double Springs Baptist Church, where Wright's son, John B.

Wright attended.

Wright was a Confederate soldier with the 56th North Carolina Infantry Company F in the Civil War. He married Susanna Bostic Wright on May 12, 1859.

Susanna "was born July 18, 1832 and died in childbirth in October of 1863," wrote Wright's descendant Jeffrey L. Martin on the Web site genealogy.com. "My great-great-grandfather William Matison Wright came home from the Civil War to find his wife, Susanna, had been pregnant when he left for war and both her and the babe were lost," Martin wrote.

See SOLDIER, 6A

William Madison Wright's headstone and grave, along with his two wives and 11 others who are unknown, is shown at their final resting place, Double Springs Baptist Church Cemetery, after being moved from the Bostic-Wright Cemetery for road construction.

KYRA TURNER/HERALD



Whose King of the Mountain?

EMILY WEAVER

Editor

Part 1 of 2

Once upon a time a man named "King" lived on a mountainside near a creek. It was King's Mountain, near King's Creek, or so the story begins.

The apostrophe has since faded into the murky annals of time, but studies done by the American Revolutionary



Snapshot of Kerr's 1882 map

War Living History Center reveal it did exist on maps and in journals – once upon a time.

The National Park Service, which now claims the mountain, reminds visitors that its land was not named for King George III, although it may have been settled by George King I. The will of George King (Senior)

was recorded on February 26, 1796 and is held in York County, South Carolina. According to his will, George King, husband of Mary King and father of George, Samuel, Benjamin and John, had already given a "plantation" to his eldest son George and his heirs and asked that the rest of his land be divided amongst his other three sons.

He signed his will: "In testimony whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seal this twenty six day of November – In the year of our Lord, one thousand, seven hundred, and ninety two and in the twentieth year of the sovereignty and independence of the United States of America."

Innkeeper of the Inn of the Patriots and ARWLHC founder Martin Mongiello said that they are studying the original King family to uncover its ties to the battle fought on King's Mountain.

The ARWLHC plans to commission a painting be done of the long lost "King" in their series of local heroes of the Battle of King's Mountain.

Although only a King by

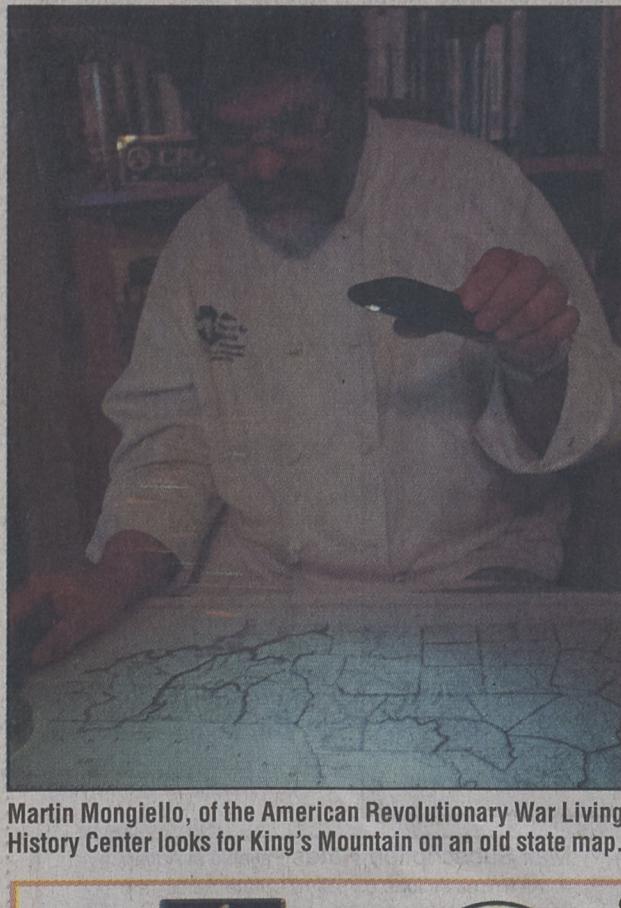
his last name, this early settler's namesake spread far beyond his first realm on that mountain near that creek. The entire range of that special geologic formation now carries his name – the Kings Mountain Belt. The battle that historians say "turned the tide" of America's Revolution and spoiled the Loyalists' plans to conquer the south went on to inspire the new name of a town and one of its main streets.

Where would we be without the King?

See KING, 7A



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Martin Mongiello, of the American Revolutionary War Living History Center looks for King's Mountain on an old state map.

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