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## Gambling or marketing?

Grover board concerned of Internet sweeps facilities, denies permit for one, approves permit for another

ELIZABETH STEWART  
 lib.kmherald@gmail.com

GROVER - Internet sweepstakes! Is it gambling or harmless promotions?

Split on the legality or illegality of this phenomenon, Grover residents aired their concerns during a lengthy meeting of the Board of Adjustment Thursday where the board approved by 5-0 a conditional use permit for Mike Heath to put in 15 Internet sweepstakes machines on his property at 110 M. H. Camp Highway. It is directly across the railroad tracks a short distance from downtown Main Street where police have shut down game rooms and three have reopened.

In a second vote, 5-0, the board denied a permit to Don Johnson, 126 S. Main St., to put in additional machines on Main Street primarily because of lack of parking spaces. Johnson owns all but one of the store buildings that fronts Main Street Grover and has rented the stores to sweepstakes operators until recently when a police crack down began. Johnson said three sweepstakes

See GROVER, 6A

## LeGrand Center coming along just grand



Greg Melton, right, of Holland & Hamrick Architects gives Cleveland County officials, l-r, CCS board member Kathy Falls, Assistant Supt. Martha Hill, Assistant Supt. Dr. Linda Hopper, and board member Phillip Glover a tour of the LeGrand Center now under construction. AT RIGHT, a rendering of what the LeGrand Center should look like on completion.



## LeGrand Center, grand indeed

EMILY WEAVER  
 Editor

"This building is more unique than anything we've ever done. It's got some neat things going on," said Roger Holland, architect of Holland and Hamrick Architects after a tour of the LeGrand Center Monday evening.

The 89,000-square-foot facility, its main entrance soon to be encased in glass, will be the new home of the Cleveland Early College High School, Cleveland Community College's Continuing Education department and Cleveland County's economic development offices. It also features a grand ballroom and conference center of more than 13,000 square feet. All three owners look forward to using it.

Cleveland County School officials gathered outside of the new center at 5 p.m. for an inside look at the towering facility under construction on the campus of Cleveland Community College.

Holland and Hamrick Architect Greg Melton estimated construction should be completed in June.

Cleveland Early College High School Principal Anita Ware said that they hope to move in to their new home in time for the next school year.

"This is impressive," said school board member Jerry Hoyle as he toured the facility.

The early college and CCC's continuing education department will occupy the center's first floor with controlled access between the two and separate entrances for both. Floor plans assign space for nearly 30 classrooms. A faculty lounge is the only "shared space" between the two schools, Melton said.

As the tour group meandered through the early college's unfinished halls, he pointed out the two sets of "gang toilets" for boys and girls.

"One for the Bloods and one for the Crips?" quipped school board member Roger Harris.

"I guess they go in gangs or groups," laughed CCS Spokeswoman Donna Carpenter.

The facility offers three outdoor classroom areas and courtyards for students. A large multi-purpose room will be divided by two skyfold partitions, which will accordion up to the ceiling with the turn of a key, opening the space up to a large cafe-auditorium able to accompany up to 375 people. Holland said that these partitions will provide for better acoustics.

Right outside in a semi-circle drive, students will come and go on school buses.

In the hallways, concrete slabs covering the floors of alcoves are the foundations of lockers yet to be installed, Melton pointed out.

"One thing that we carried over from the (Shelby) Middle School design to this is making sure the corridors were

See LeGRAND, 5A

## City looks to bring Main Street in-house

ELIZABETH STEWART  
 lib.kmherald@gmail.com

City Manager Marilyn Sellers will recommend to Kings Mountain City Council Tuesday night that the city create the position of Main Street Manager (or Downtown Development Director) and assume the primary responsibility of downtown revitalization beginning Jan 31.

If council okays the recommendation and the new policy at its 6 p.m. meeting Tuesday night a full-time Main Street program coordinator would become part of the city staff - with paid benefits - by July 1.

Until a new manager is on board, grants will continue to be managed and reports filed by the city's planning department, design committee work will continue and various committees implementing the four points of the Main Street program will be evaluated.

Sellers is also recommending that the office used by former Mountaineer Partnership Executive Director Adam Hines be retained by the city for use of the new manager. Hines resigned Dec. 30 to join the firm of Edward Jones Investments.

Before making her recommendation for a new policy Sellers said that she contacted four area Main Street cities - Bessemer City, Forest City, Lincolnton and Morganton where a city employee runs the program successfully and also Main Street officials.

See CITY, 6A

## SCHOOLS

### CCS opens bid for new offices

ELIZABETH STEWART  
 lib.kmherald@gmail.com

Cleveland County Schools will open bids Feb. 7 at 2:30 p.m. for a Central Services Building which could top a \$9.1 million dollar cost figure projected four years ago and house all administration as early as December and the Turning Point Academy, the alternative school, by June 2013.

Assistant Supt. John Yarbro said the renovation of the old Shelby Middle School on Sumter Street in Shelby will house offices and 100 employees currently in the School Readiness building on S. Post Road, administrative offices and employees now on

See DAVIDSON, 5A

## FIRST BIG SOUTH VICTORY



Kings Mountain's Treyvon Adams goes in for a lay-up off a fast break in Friday's game with South Point at Parker Gym.

GARY STEWART/HERALD  
 SPORTS 1C

## Touchdown Club gets '1st and 10' with endorsement

EMILY WEAVER  
 Editor

Punting a plea from the "50-yard-line", the Kings Mountain Touchdown Club sought support from the Cleveland County Board of Education Monday night to raise money for a new 12,000-sq.-ft. field house, press box, bathroom and concession facilities for John Gamble Stadium. The club earned its "first and 10" with the board's endorsement of the fundraising campaign.

David Brinkley, serving on the club's board of directors, said that the 501c(3) nonprofit is hoping to raise enough money to build the new field house. Also in the club's game book is to update the existing field house to accommodate other sports and provide offices for coaches and provide new bathroom and concession facilities for the stadium.

See BOARD, 3A



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