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## INSIDE

**Gun Control. A topic that's stirring a lot of debate**

3A



## SPORTS, 1B

### — Grover —

## Will the sweepstakes be back?

Dark sweepstakes parlors in Grover tell players much the same thing that similar businesses across the state believe. They'll be back.

As the sweepstakes ban started Thursday town officials said at least one of the business owners vowed to be back.

The machines are silent but councilman Roy Dyer said that some operators say they plan to reprogram the machines with new software to comply with state codes.

The North Carolina Supreme Court ruling overturned on Jan. 3 the State Appeals Court ruling that said regulating the games violated the Constitutional right to free speech.

## Board moves ahead with plant construction

The Grover Town Board moved ahead Monday night with plans for construction of a \$1.9 million wastewater treatment plant.

W. K. Dickson Company engineer Brian Tripp gave an update of the project as board members voted to apply for \$600,000 in grants from the Clean Water Management Fund and applied for a grant to also fund three pump stations.

The board had previously received

See GROVER, 6A

## Business Showcase begins Feb. 19

The 15th annual Chamber Business Showcase Feb. 19-March 15 is gearing up to be one of the best ever and on the theme "The Business of Art."

Space for exhibits by area businesses is assigned on a first come, first served basis and applications can be obtained at the Chamber Office in Kings Mountain or email Shirley@ClevelandChamber.org for details.

Kickoff for the event is Tuesday evening, Feb. 19, from 5:30-8 p.m. with fun, food, music, award presentation and door prizes at Kings Mountain City Hall.

Highlight of the event will be the presentation of Kings Mountain's Outstanding Kings Mountain Business or Businessperson for 2012.

Last year 50 businesses participated and 2,000 people visited the exhibits during the four weeks they were on display at City Hall.

"Chamber members as well as non-members are welcome to participate," said Shirley Brutko, local Chamber office manager. "This is a great opportunity to advertise your business because everyone who visits city hall will be able to view your display and see how your company may be of service to them."



## Welcome baby Leeam

### Cleveland County's first baby of 2013

Leeam Matthew Blanton, an 8lb. 5oz baby boy, snuggled in his mother's arms, unaware of the excitement he created as the first baby of the New Year 2013 in Cleveland County.

His parents, Laura and Matthew Blanton, will have plenty to tell their son. He arrived 38 minutes after the arrival of New Year 2013 in Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

A teacher's assistant in Head Start at East Elementary School, Mrs. Blanton said the baby's due date was December 28 and she worked up until Dec. 20 when schools closed for the holidays.

"My friends at school thought the baby would arrive sooner than Jan. 1," she laughed this week as she and her husband delighted in their first child.

Laura said she met Matthew when they were students at Kings Mountain High School. They married nearly three years ago. Matthew is an employee of UPS Store in Gastonia.

He likes being a first time father. Laura said, after enduring a 16-hour labor, enjoys being "Mom" and both like to hold their baby.

Proud grandparents are Jimmy



Leeam Blanton, the first baby born in Cleveland County in 2013, is seen here with his parents Matthew and Laura of Kings Mountain.

Photo by Lib Stewart

and Lisa Bradley of Kings Mountain, Ronnie and Kim Blanton of Cherryville and Mary Blanton of Maiden.

Proud great-grandparents are Elizabeth and George Ledford of Shelby and Ina Blanton of Kings Mountain.



Rep. Tim Moore is sworn in by Judge Donna Stroud as his sons, McRae and Wilson, right, look on.

Photo by Lib Stewart

## Moore, Daniel sworn-in Thursday

Senator Warren Daniel (R-Cleveland/Burke) and Rep. Tim Moore (R-Cleveland) were sworn-in by the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners Thursday night before a full house of supporters in the commissioners chambers of the Charles F. Harry government building in Shelby.

"It's a great night for Cleveland County," said commission chairman Ronnie Hawkins, welcoming the crowd which also included former Cleveland County Senators Debbie Clary and Wes Westmoreland.

Judge Donna Stroud of the N. C. Court of Appeals administered the oaths. Families of Daniel and Moore held the Bibles for the oath-taking.

Both Daniel and Moore pledged to be "your voice in Raleigh and

welcome your input." County commissioners also took the occasion to congratulate the legislators and thank them for their service.

Daniel recalled the first time he took the military oath as a West Point Academy Cadet "to defend our country and state against all enemies foreign and domestic" and suggested that part of the oath should be included in others taken by legislators.

"I've watched the political landscape and the economy of our area change since I started as a legislator in 2002," said Moore.

"We face a lot of challenges but there is also a lot of good news coming into our area."

Both legislators are lawyers, Daniel in Morganton and Moore in Kings Mountain.

Daniel introduced his wife and daughters, thanking his family for their support.

Moore also took the occasion to recognize his parents, Rick and Jean Moore. His sons, McRae and Wilson Moore, held the Bible as he took the

*Daniel and Moore pledged to be "your voice in Raleigh and welcome your input."*

See SWORN IN, 6A

## Water rate study underway

A water rate study is in the works as Kings Mountain City Council plans to be shovel ready in May for a \$34 million dollar water expansion project.

City Council is expecting the report from consultants soon as well as report from a mayoral finance committee including mayor pro tem Rodney Gordon, Tommy Hall and Keith Miller. Mayor Rick Murphrey said the study is necessary as the city looks for financial means to finance the big project.

The city has applied for a 20-year no interest loan from the state for \$34 million to finance the project which will mean new water lines, improvements, expansion of the water plant, and completion of a 36 inch water line from Moss Lake to the city.

"The finance committee is reviewing water expenditures, we're getting some new customers and until we get the loan we won't know what our payback will be and cost figured in next year's budget," said the mayor.

## Photography contest and exhibit set for Jan. 21

Martin Luther King, Jr. once wrote, "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the entire staircase." These words of inspiration will also serve as the theme of "Faith" for this year's Martin Luther King Photography Contest and Exhibit Monday, Jan. 21 in Kings Mountain.

The show will be previewed to the public during the special opening exhibit and reception with the artists that evening at 6 p.m. in the Kings Mountain City Hall lobby. The event is free and open to the public.

The photography competition is open for residents of Cleveland County and students in the Cleveland County school system. There is no entry fee and there will be cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in both adult and student divisions.

Photographic prints or digital disks will be accepted by mail or can be dropped off at Kings Mountain City Hall or e-mailed to Ellis Noell at ellisn@cityofkm.com.

Deadline for submission is Friday, Jan. 21 at 5 p.m. Information, eligibility and rules for submission are

See PHOTO CONTEST, 6A



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