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# Kings Mountain HERALD

kmherald.com

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75¢

## Real to Reel opens today

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Films from around the world – independent shorts and documentaries, some true, some inspiring, some special interest and humorous and some of a mature theme will be showcased at the Joy Performance Center in downtown Kings Mountain beginning today (Wednesday) and continuing through Saturday, July 12.

A total of 28 films will be screened beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday, with an awards celebration ending the festival at a Saturday night wrap-up party at 238 Cherokee Grill.

The audience can vote for a favorite film each night with one winner selected on Saturday. The best of show award of \$1,000 will be presented on Saturday evening. The professional winners will receive a \$500 award and amateur winners will receive a \$250 award.

Returning this year is a silent auction. Items such as scripts from movies, trips to famous movie locations, and lots of other fun and unique movie memorabilia will all be available to the highest bidder. Visiting filmmakers will be available to meet and greet the audience and respond to questions.

This unique festival is sponsored for the 15th year by the Cleveland County Arts Festival and co-sponsored by the Kings Mountain Little Theatre and the Historic Kings Mountain Tourism Development Authority.

Advance tickets are \$8 per session or a festival pass for \$35 may be purchased at the Arts Center, 111 S. Washington St., Shelby, or online at [www.realtoreelfest.com](http://www.realtoreelfest.com). Tickets at the door are \$10 per session without a festival pass. Children 12 and under are admitted free.

See the schedule & film synopses beginning on page 3B.

## Owens survives plunge over waterfall

Patrick Owens, 17, a rising senior at Kings Mountain High School, is a lucky young man. He fell 60 feet near High Shoals waterfall in South Mountain State Park in Burke County about 6 p.m. last Tuesday.

It took rescue workers two hours to get to him and he was flown to Carolinas Medical Center in Char-

lotte.

Park rangers say rocks near the waterfall can become very slippery. The trails along the waterfall are marked and the top of the waterfall itself is blocked off.

Owens remains a patient at Carolinas Medical Center where he is recuperating from injuries.

## Taylor - 'good days outweighing the bad'

Taylor Haraszkiwicz, the 20-year-old June 2013 bride diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia who underwent a stem cell transplant in April, is growing stronger every day. She says the good days are outweighing the bad ones.

Taylor says some medications have been reduced and she now travels only every two weeks to Wake Forest Medical Center for treatment. Taylor will have her first bone marrow biopsy since the transplant later this month.

Taylor was ready to walk with survivors in the May 9 Relay for Life but it was rescheduled until June 21 because of weather.

The day after the relay, in which she walked with a dozen or more survivors, she

posted on her facebook page: "A year ago I would have never thought I would see my name on a luminary. But I have never felt so blessed to be able to walk around as a survivor and see all the luminaries in honor of me. It was very emotional but it also made me feel very thankful to be here and for all the support I have had from my family and friends who have stuck by me through thick and thin. The relay also made me realize how strong of a woman my mother really is. After losing my Mimi (Betty Cash) to cancer and now going through it with me I don't know how Mom has kept it together. I love her so much and Mimi would be so proud of us and how far we have come."

Medical bills are piling up for Taylor and her husband, Josh. Taylor has been approved for disability but it's a long process.

Donations to the Taylor Haraszkiwicz fund may be made at Fifth Third Bank in Kings Mountain.

## Park provides fun for all!

### Dedication this Saturday

The City of Kings Mountain will dedicate the Mayor Rick Murphrey Children's Park on Saturday, July 12 at 10 a.m. with music, reflections, and unveiling of the park sign.

Councilman Rodney Gordon will make the dedicatory remarks and the mayor and members of city council will unveil the new sign which will be followed by a balloon release by children attending the ceremony which concludes with frozen treats for the children.

See DEDICATION, 7A



Children play in the Mayor Rick Murphrey Children's Park adjacent to the YMCA on Cleveland Avenue.  
Photo by ELLIS NOELL

## Congressmen support proposed casino

By GALE COUREY TOESING

Indian Country Today  
Special to the Herald

Three longtime congressmen have urged the Interior Department to approve the Catawba Indian Nation's trust application for land in Kings Mountain, where it plans to build a casino, arguing that justice will be served by doing so.

But the Nation still faces fierce opposition from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians—a tribe that wants to lock out all gaming competition in the state.

In recent letters to the Interior Department, Congressman Jim Moran (D-Virginia), Congressman George Miller (D-Calif.) and former Democratic Congressman and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson said now is the time for the federal government to fulfill its trust



This artist's rendition shows the proposed Catawba Indian casino it plans to build in Kings Mountain.

responsibility and the promises made in the 1993 Catawba Indian Land Claims Settlement Act.

For more: <http://indiancountrytodaymediannetwork.com>

On June 9, Moran wrote to Interior Department Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn "in strong

support of the Catawba Indian Nation's application to take land into trust within the Tribe's Federal service area in King's Mountain, North Carolina."

The South Carolina-based Catawba Nation asked the Interior last fall to take into trust a 16-acre parcel in Kings Mountain, off I-85, about 30 miles

See CASINO, 7A

## Anti-casino group to meet July 17

The Kings Mountain Awareness Group, which has been a vocal opponent of a proposed Catawba Indian casino being built in Cleveland County, is holding an information forum Thursday, July 17, at Family Worship Center.

Les Bernal, the National Director of Stop Predatory Gambling, a Washington, D.C.-based advocacy group, will be the evening's guest speaker at the 6:30 p.m. gathering at the Family Worship Center on Shelby Rd.

Members of the group, which is chaired by Adam Forcade, have sought to reach out to the community in the months following the announcement that a local tribe had bought land and intended to build a full-scale casino on Dixon School Rd. just south of town. Its members have repeatedly appeared at Kings Mountain City Council and Cleveland County Board of Commissioners meetings to voice their concerns that casinos do more harm than good for local economies.

Both bodies, for their part, have openly signaled their support for the development.

Whether the Catawba Indian tribe will be able to build a gaming facility in the area is a decision that

See ANTI-CASINO, 7A

## A booming, sparkling July 4th celebration

DAVE BLANTON  
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Thousands flocked to the city's day-long Revolutionary 4th celebration Friday as blue skies gave way to a dark night illuminated by starbursts, fireballs and the loud boom of a fireworks show that brought onlookers from across the region.

The annual event, which hosts a living history encampment, a dramatic reenactment of the 1780 Battle of Kings Mountain, food vendors and lots of live music seems to draw a larger crowd every year as its popularity soars. Patriotism was in the air, but also, for some, a deep sense of the history that unfolded at a battle site just 9 miles south of town.

"There's so much history in this area," said Kim Cannon, who trekked from Kannapolis with her husband Greg and daughter Katie, with their Labrador "PD" in tow. "This is our first time to this Kings Mountain event," she said. The Cannons, who are local history buffs, talked at length about the May 20 Society, a Charlotte group that



celebrates that city's rebellious 1775 signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, which is thought to be the first such document in American history.

At the reenactors camp, which sat adjacent to the walking track, there was an afternoon lecture on the Declaration of Independence, and cannon and musket demonstrations. Visitors could also see pottery and soap being made. The authentic 18th century camp stood through Saturday afternoon.

See JULY 4th, 7A



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