

The Herald

Thursday, October 11, 2001

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Mountaineers
beat Burns,
play at Crest
Friday
see Page 2B



Early park, playground dedication is Saturday

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

The City of Kings Mountain will re-dedicate the Jake Early Sports Complex and cut the ribbon to officially open the new kids playground on Cleveland Avenue Saturday at 2 p.m.

The former Jake Early Park, named for the late Washington Senators baseball player, was recently turned into a new playground and T-ball field. That field was dedicated in memory of Early in 1992.

This time, the city has chosen to name the entire sports complex which includes the Community Center (Kings Mountain YMCA), pool and all baseball fields in memory of Early.

Signage will be placed on the side of the Community Center building, and will be unveiled at Saturday's ceremony. Mayor Rick Murphrey will speak about some of Early's contributions to baseball and read a proclamation.

Early was a baseball and football star at Kings Mountain High School in the 1930s. In 1935 he was the star pitcher and catcher on the Mountaineer team that won the school's first-ever Western Conference championship.

The following spring he signed a pro contract with the Washington Senators. From 1936-38, he played on numerous Washington farm teams

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GARY STEWART / THE HERALD
Wendy (left) and Branigan Wheeler play in a small town at the new Kings Mountain playground. The playground will be officially opened with a ribbon cutting Saturday at 2 p.m.

Local citizens support US involvement in Afghanistan

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

On Sunday the United States, supported by Great Britain, started bombing Afghanistan.

The announcement was made over area radio and television stations, and at some sporting events on Sunday. At sports venues, the announcement was put over the scoreboard.

Since there is no direct threat to the City of Kings Mountain, city officials said emergency plans had not been enacted.

Frank Burns, Chief of the Kings Mountain Fire Department, said most fire departments operate as one unit and usually assist one another during a crisis.

Burns said if Charlotte had a big crisis, it would assist them if needed.

"In the event they had a catastrophe on a large scale, we would be on standby," Burns said.

He said the department has similar mutual aid agreements with Gaston and Cleveland Counties.

City of Kings Mountain Police Chief Houston Corn would only say, "there are things that are always put in place."

According to a release from the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, it put off its search of N.C. 18 North for Asha Degree until October 24. The Sheriff's office said one of the reasons the search was postponed was because of the war, and with law enforcement personnel being put on alert.

Charlotte has banned parking uptown indefinitely as it did after the attacks on September 11.

Various municipal governments in the area also closed early after the attacks last month.

With increased security at many venues, military personnel have been used to augment security forces already at most airports across the country.

Twelve of North Carolina's commercial airports have National Guard Troops, but an official with the 505th Engineering Battalion Company in Kings Mountain said no troops from the Phifer Road Armory were part of the security detail at Charlotte/Douglas International Airport.

The attacks on Afghanistan were announced during many Sunday morning church services.

East Gold Street Wesleyan Pastor Eddie Gray said he learned of the attacks after his church's morning services.

He said the actions by the United States were appropriate based on what happened on September 11. Gray said he also liked the food and medicine drops the U.S. performed.

"I am proud of that show of compassion to the people there," Gray said.

What was a regularly scheduled prayer meeting became a time to pray for the nation and the world that night.

Gray said the church held a monthly prayer meeting on Sunday night, and he

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Drying Up Drought taking toll on hand-dug wells

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

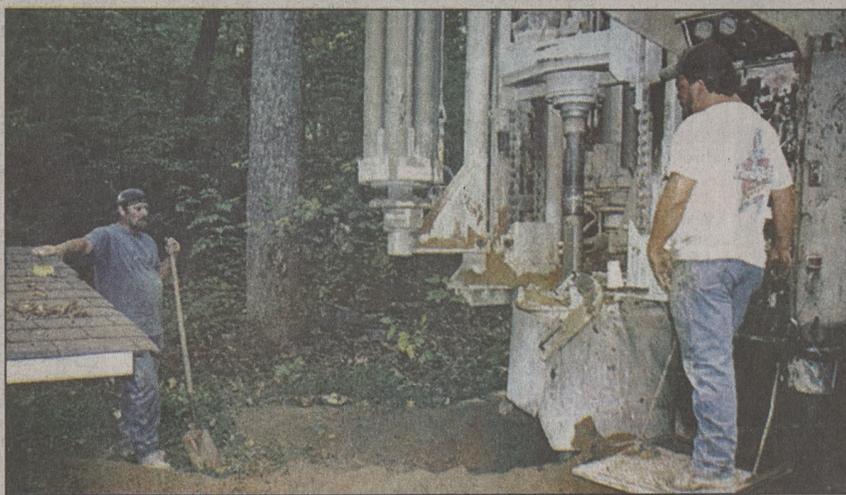
Several years of insufficient rainfall has created a serious water problem in Cleveland County.

Many of the county's residents get their water from dug wells which are going dry.

The dry wells have put well drillers in constant demand.

"We've got a serious water problem," Arnold Philbeck said. "Our water table's fell eight feet in the past two years. That's not enough water to operate off of." Philbeck is the owner of Arnold's Well Drilling.

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BEN LEDBETTER/THE HERALD
Workers with Roger's Well Drilling of Kings Mountain put in a well at a residence near Cherryville.

East, West lead again in ABC scores

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

Several Kings Mountain Schools were honored for their growth on the ABC scores Monday at the Kings Mountain District Schools Board meeting.

The district had two schools, East and West Elementary, that were schools of excellence with more than 90 percent of students at or above grade level.

Kings Mountain District Schools Director of Student Support Services Phil Weathers said Grover Elementary tied with Cleveland County

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Battle celebration held Sunday

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

While America started its current fight for freedom and security, people gathered at Kings Mountain National Park to remember a past one.

What ushered in the beginning of the ceremony on the 221st anniversary of the battle was a group of the Overmountain Men, a militia group that included people from Wilkes and Surry Counties in the Northwest Piedmont of North Carolina.

The group annually traces the events that led to the defeat of Major Patrick Ferguson at the Battle of Kings Mountain.

The Battle of Kings Mountain has been known by historians as the turning point in the Revolutionary War, that gave the momentum back to the American Patriots.

Speaker for Sunday's ceremony was North Carolina native David Lee Russell who has written a book on the American

Revolution.

One of Russell's themes was the significance of the battle and its role in the war.

"For me Kings Mountain was a special landmark in my own backyard," Russell said. He had spent some of his youth in Charlotte and Gastonia. "The Battle of Kings Mountain was fought by brave men on both sides," he said.

Russell highlighted a couple of the key figures on the Patriot side, including two that were the names of a North Carolina county and city.

Colonel Issac Shelby was born in Maryland, and was 29 years old around the time of the battle.

Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, born in Prince William County, Virginia was 42 years old and was, "known for gambling and horse racing..." Russell said. Col. Cleveland was part of the Wilkes County militia, Russell said.

Cleveland County was named for Col.

Cleveland and the county's seat was named for Col. Shelby.

During the battle, which lasted approximately 50 minutes, Russell said Ferguson died from seven rifle balls that went through him from about 50 Patriot rifles that were aimed at the British officer.

Russell said the victory was uncharacteristic for the Patriots.

"To the frontier Patriots, it was a rare and complete victory," Russell said.

What is now a national park open for visitors was once a battlefield.

"It is hard to imagine 400 men were killed in these peaceful woods," Russell said.

After Russell's speech, the service shifted to the monument on the Battlefield trail for a wreath laying ceremony to honor the Patriots killed in the battle.

Wreaths, which ranged from ones with just pine needles to ones decorated with

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BEN LEDBETTER/THE HERALD
Members of the York (SC) Comprehensive High School JROTC, and North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia color guards lead a procession toward the monument on the battlefield trail at Kings Mountain National Park for the 221st Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain.



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