

KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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Guardsmen called into active duty

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

Parts of the North Carolina National Guard's 505th Battalion have been activated.

One of those is the 505th's Kings Mountain unit.

Other battalion units called to duty were, Gastonia, Forest City, North Wilkesboro and Taylorsville.

According to Captain Maury Williams from Gastonia, that amounts to approximately 200 soldiers.

The battalion has several units across the state.

According to Andrew Sleeth, Assistant Public Affairs Officer with the N.C. National Guard, the battalion were activated in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle.

Enduring Freedom was implemented after the September 11 attacks. Noble Eagle is for homeland defense, Sleeth said.

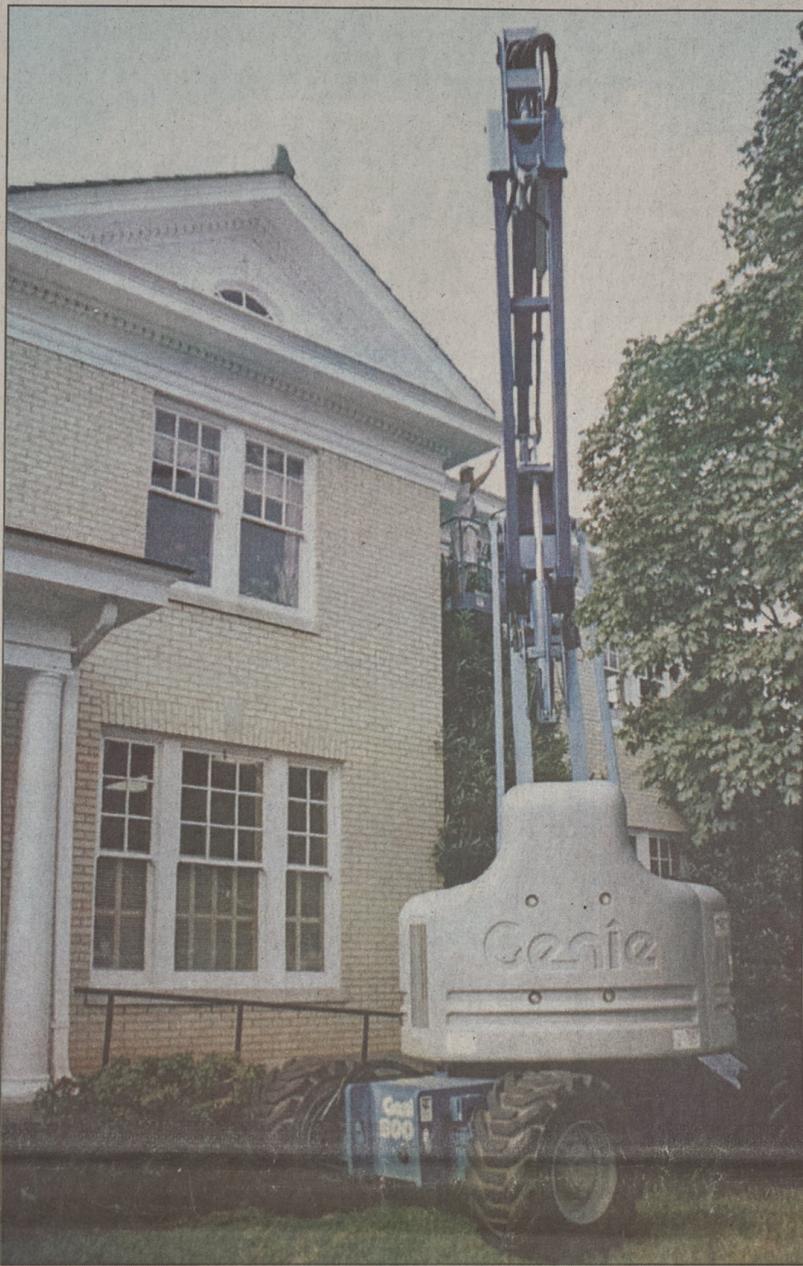
The Kings Mountain unit was activated within the past two weeks, Sleeth said, and the initial period is one year with a possible extension of another year.

Although no specific numbers were available, Sleeth said a good portion of the Kings Mountain unit will be going.

No other battalions are part of the latest activation, Sleeth said.

Williams said he, along with other soldiers are ready to represent their hometowns.

See Guard, 3A



GARY STEWART / HERALD
Brian McKinney of W.C. Wallace Paint Company paints the gable of Maune Memorial Library

Lake idea to be discussed in work session

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

Former Kings Mountain Mayor John Henry Moss's second lake idea is still that - an idea.

After Tuesday's presentation by Moss and HDR Engineering, Kings Mountain City Council decided to discuss the matter in a work session next Tuesday at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Council was asked to approve the concept and a lake study.

Moss said the new lake, which could serve 6,300 new customers, could be funded three ways.

It could either be funded with government money, a public/private combination or privatization.

He said it could provide jobs and economic development to the area.

"I truly believe this water project has great promise for our area," Moss said.

During his tenure as mayor, Moss had proposed the current lake and then brought up a second one in 1986.

The representatives of the engineering firm gave a presentation to Council and said a second lake could not be completed before 2008.

One of the first steps would involve getting money for the lake.

Marshall Taylor with HDR, said one place that could help fund the project would be the N.C. Rural Center.

The firm also detailed a

plan that could provide a water supply in the interim while the lake was being built.

Although still in its preliminary stages, Moss said the new lake would also be for recreation.

Current KM Mayor Rick Murphrey said he liked the concept of impounding water.

"I just strongly believe impoundment of water is the way to go," he said. "I just believe we all have to look at the future of our communities."

Councilman Howard Shipp said the lake would help the city in case another drought comes.

"If we get ready now, when it comes we'll be ready," he said.

Councilman Dean Spears suggested delaying the vote and talking about it in private.

Councilman Jim Guyton then suggested a work session.

Councilman Gene White asked to read a response after the work session was approved and he was interrupted with requests to bring the items up in the work session.

On the sheet from which he read, White wanted to know why it was urgent to commit to a lake study Tuesday.

"No study for a second lake at any cost should be done at this time. It would be a waste of taxpayer money," White said.

Citizens gather to pray for rain

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

Sometimes a crisis can cause people to act with short notice.

That was the case last Thursday at Shelby's Bethel Baptist Church during the county day of prayer for the drought.

The 20-minute prayer time was for county residents to pray for rain.

A variety of people from local officials, retirees and people on their lunch break filled the church sanctuary.

While Shelby and Kings Mountain have always been rivals in certain areas, that seemed to stop with Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey, Shelby Mayor Mike Philbeck and Cleveland County Sanitary District Board Chairman John Cline sat next to each other.

After the service was opened by Boyce Memorial ARP Pastor Doug Petersen, the rest of the time was open for people to come to

See Prayer, 3A



BEN LEDBETTER / HERALD
Rev. Charles Reed of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association speaks during Thursday's prayer service for drought relief.

Wirtz is closing 2 Grover plants

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

While other companies have announced they plan to locate in Cleveland County, one has announced it will close two plants.

Wirtz Manufacturing, which has two plants on Highway 29 in Grover, announced they will be closed on Friday.

The company cited an economic downturn as its reason for shutting the two plants.

"The severe economic

slowdown in capital equipment coupled with a consolidation of battery manufacturers resulting in excess production capacity and equipment, has forced the closure of these facilities," said company president John O. Wirtz.

The Michigan-based company began operating in North Carolina in 1986. Workers from the Gastonia plant were moved to Grover.

It manufactured compo

See Wirtz, 2A

Woman's Club camera project could help PD, FD save lives

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

The term "thermal imagery camera" may not mean a thing even to the most experienced photographer.

But it may save his life.

The Kings Mountain Woman's Club last week kicked off a fund-raising drive to buy one of the cameras for the Kings Mountain fire and police departments.

The camera, which works very similar to a video camera, will take images through thick smoke and would enable those departments to identify hot spots in a burning building, locate lost people and pets in a burning building, and find lost persons at night.

The camera will cost in the neighborhood of \$15,000 to \$20,000. The Woman's Club began its fund-raising effort Saturday by sponsoring a hot dog sale at the final Summer Nites Concert Series at City Hall.

Future fund-raising projects include publishing a community cookbook and seeking donations from individuals, businesses and industries.

Betty Gamble, President, and Karen Roy, project chairman of the Woman's Club, said the camera will be worth the investment because of its potential to save a life.

Fire Chief Frank Burns said his department has used one of the cameras in training exercises, and it would be a valuable

See Camera, 10A



GARY STEWART / HERALD
Left to right, Police Chief Melvin Proctor, KM Woman's Club members Betty Gamble and Karen Roy, Jimmy Hensley of Cleveland Community College, and Fire Chief Frank Burns show off thermal imagery camera the Club hopes to purchase for the police and fire departments.



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