August 4, 2005

The Kings Mountain Herald

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COMMUNITY Kings Mountain Hospital shows off renovations

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER Staff Writer

A crowd gathered Thursday afternoon eager to see Kings Mountain Hospital's renovations and new addition.

"We have indeed met our promise," said Board Chairman Larry Corry. "We are at your service.'

The hospital debuted a two-story addition on the facility's east side. It houses an express care emergency department, surgery department and main entrance. The hospital's new entrance features a fountain, circular drive and clear glass-covered patient drop off.

Cleveland HealthCare Systems CEO John Young called the two new operating rooms the "most modern in the state." The rooms have high tech Stryker video and computer equipment suspended from the ceiling. This creates a safer work environment, officials say.

The 10,495 square feet surgery department includes a waiting area with curved glass walls and a children's play space. The nine postand pre-operative rooms have windows near the ceiling to allow in natural light.

The new 6,282 square feet emergency department has a spacious waiting area. There also is a private consultation room. The department will double the number of patients which can be served.

The old emergency department will now be renovated and then connected with the new portion. That

NIGHT OUT

sniper riffle, M16 machine

a modified 12 gauge shot-

gun, ME5 sub-machine gun,

From 1A

ANDIE BRYMER / NERALD

Kings Mountain Hospital board member J.C. Bridges, left, Cleveland County Commission Chairman Ronnie Hawkins and Dr. J.B. Gentry help cut the ribbon at the hospital during Thursday's reception showcasing its new surgery, emergency and physical therapy departments.

project should be complete by year's end, according to Young.

A new physical therapy department has been built at the front of the hospital in what formerly housed administration. Additional radiology waiting space has been added also. A cafe/community room which is part of the new addition will be open soon.

During Thursday's ceremony, Young asked emergency and surgery staff members to raise their hands. Despite the huge expansion project, he was quick to put the human touch first.

"Buildings don't take care of your loved ones," he said

Explorer Post opened the

ors. They also gave away

National Anthem. Mayor

Highway Patrol First

Sergeant David Allen told

son troopers learn during

training is teamwork. He

extends not only to the field

Sheriff Raymond Hamrick

but also between agencies

said that cooperation

and the community.

the crowd that the first les-

Rick Murphrey gave the

welcome.

child identification kits.

event by presenting the col-

Lyndsey Bledsoe sang the

to loud applause from the crowd.

During his invocation, Rev. Doug Petersen thanked God for "those raised up to work here." He asked for blessings on the staff.

Kings Mountain Hospital Chief Operating Officer Sheri De Shazo continued the theme.

"Service, quality and compassionate care - that will make this building pale by comparison," she said.

Young congratulated Kings Mountain Hospital, **Cleveland Regional Medical** Center and Carolinas HealthCare System staffs for working together on the project. The Kings Mountain and Shelby hospitals joined

forces as Cleveland HealthCare System in the early 2000s and are partnering with Carolinas. This is what you can do

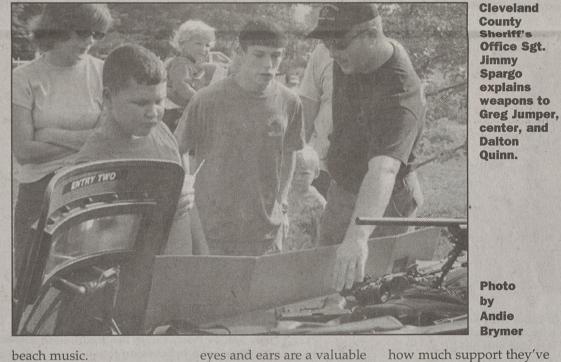
if you trust each other and work together," he said.

During an interview later Thursday afternoon, Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey called the hospital an asset to the city's quality of life and an aid in economic development.

'We're thankful we have the committed, dedicated staff of professionals at Kings Mountain Hospital," Murphrey said.

He serves on the Kings Mountain Cleveland Regional Trustees Board.





gun and a 37mm tear gas gun. The two also demont strated a 50 pound ballistic shield which can deflect bullets from up to an M16.

Several of the weapons could be used in a nonlethal manner. Some fire tear gas and others bean bags. The bags are meant to inflict pain making a subject easier to disarm without doing lasting harm.

Officers also have tazers and OC spray. Police agencies are working more on non-lethal methods, according to Spargo.

The KMPD Criminal Investigations Division brought out its fingerprint equipment and an underwater camera. Captain Derek Johnson explained that the camera is used to find not only bodies but evidence like guns and cars.

The Community Oriented Policing unit gave out safety tips and gun locks. The traffic enforcement unit distributed child safety restraint information and "click it or ticket" tags and license plate holders.

KMPD officers grilled hot dogs and hamburgers for the crowd. Mink played

Scouts from the KMPD tool for law enforcement."

> Hamrick paid tribute to members of the 505th National Guard Unit, several of whom were at Tuesday's event.

"We're here to protect the families while their loved ones are gone. I take that

personally," he said. Police Chief Melvin Proctor thanked the crowd for, attending. "That shows my guys

how much support they've got," he said.

Tours of the Governor's Highway Safety Program DWI mobile unit were available. The bus is used to test drivers for alcohol use and to process offenders during check-points.

The Kings Mountain Rescue Squad, Kings Mountain Fire Department and Gaston County Police lake patrol also were part of National Night Out.

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