

KINGS MOUNTAIN

The Herald

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scrimmages
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4A



Big crowd sees soldiers off

**505th heads
for training
at Fort Dix,
then to Iraq**

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Members of the 505th loaded their bags onto buses and said good-bye to family Thursday morning at the Kings Mountain Armory.

Alisha Hord watched as her husband Spec. Dusty Hord held their 21-month-old child while he stood in formation for roll call. Her sister-in-law Amanda Hord stood beside her, both women giving each other support.

Sgt. John B. Edmonson, retired, held a large American flag. His son John Jr. was among the soldiers leaving for Fort Dix. The elder Edmonson also served in the 505th. Before his son left, Edmonson said he told

See 505th, 10A



Cleveland County Schools personnel wave flags at buses carrying National Guard soldiers as they leave Kings Mountain Thursday morning.

ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD

Second Minette fire said to be deliberately set

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

GROVER - Just 26 days after fire ravaged Minette Mill, another blaze did more damage Thursday morning. Officials say both fires were deliberately set.

Investigators are continuing to do interviews, according to Cleveland County Fire Inspector Bobby Horton.

Grover firefighters spotted the flames shooting through the roof on their way to an early morning vehicle accident. Cleveland County Communications received the first call at 12:11 a.m.

Nine departments responded including Grover, Bethware, Kings Mountain, Number 3 and Shelby. Crews fought the blaze from inside the building, the roof and ladders. Later that morning firefighters were able to use a track hoe to uncover areas of smoldering debris. The equipment was on location to clean up from the earlier fire.

Grover Assistant Fire Chief Jimmy Hensley described a cautious strategy. The earlier fire had shown firefighters the structure's trouble spots.

Grover Firefighter Jason Yaskiewicz said the blaze was "just like the movie 'Ladder 49.'"

Hensley was complimentary of the firefighters.

"Everybody did a good job again," he said.

The mill is owned by Clyde Huffman.



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD
Grover Firefighter Jason Yaskiewicz describes fighting the second blaze at Minette Mill last week.

BETHWARE FAIR



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
Big sister Nikki Willober takes Aona Willober, front, and Breanna Willober down the slide at Bethware Fair.

Drizzle doesn't dampen opening night enthusiasm

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

A drizzle didn't dampen the enthusiasm at Bethware Fair Monday night.

The 58th annual event started in the traditional way - newly crowned Queen Lyndsey Murphrey took the microphone and announced "the fair is officially open."

Murphrey, her dad John and best friend Katie Sisk then strolled through the midway. In

addition to her crown, Murphrey gets free ride tickets for herself and a friend each night of the fair, a savings bond, and represents Bethware in the Kings Mountain Christmas parade.

Penny Weaver, a former Kings Mountain resident, was working a game booth at the fair. Six years ago she signed on with Smoky Mountain Amusements.

"This seemed to be the right thing for me," she said. "We See Fair, 2A

Winn-Dixie to close Sunday

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

A fixture in Kings Mountain grocery shopping for decades will close its doors for good at 8 p.m. Sunday night.

A note posted on an employee bulletin board inside Winn-Dixie advised associates to make sure their addresses were correct if they wanted to receive their last paychecks.

Red, yellow and black signs hung from the ceiling, reading "store closing sale" and "30% to 50% off." Crowds filled carts with the discounted items.

By Tuesday afternoon most of the bread was gone. There was a limited selection of sodas and meat. The produce section was almost empty. Canned goods, household items and toiletries still lined the shelves.

The fate of the store remains unknown. The building lease was up for auction Tuesday afternoon but company officials said they would not know if it had sold until the middle of next week.

The Kings Mountain location, along with 42 other stores in the Charlotte region and more across the southeast, are closing as part of the company's bankruptcy plan.

Election filing ends, big races set in KM

Shipp only Councilor not facing opposition

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

The election filing period ended Friday and races in Kings Mountain and Grover have attracted several candidates.

Lamar Fletcher and Keith Miller are the latest candidates to throw their hats in the ring for Kings Mountain City Council seats.

Miller is running against incumbent Carl DeVane for Ward Five.

The driving issue for Miller is keeping liquor by the drink out of Kings Mountain.

"I'm in favor of development but it has to be dry and profitable," he said.

Miller opposes development incentives that will raise taxes and utility rates. He opposes imminent domain in cases where private property is taken for development on behalf of another private owner.

Miller says he is opposed to expanding city benefits to non-married partners of employees.

Miller describes himself as "ultra conservative." He is in his senior year of a political science degree at UNC-Charlotte.

Miller is a vice-president at Stern AG, an investment company which underwrites bonds for municipalities and counties across the country. He also works independently as an investment banker.

Miller and his wife have been married 23 years and have three children. He chairs the Christian Life Committee at First Baptist Church and is an ordained deacon.

Fletcher is running for one of two at-large seats against incumbents Houston Corn and Rick Moore and Roy "Butch" Pearson, Dean Spears and Garland Wayne Edwards. Spears formerly served on the council.

Fletcher said he hopes to bring more industry to the city and "cut the fat out of the budget."

"I'm against a tax increase of any kind," he said.

Fletcher also wants to see the city manager have more authority.

"The city manager needs to run it, not the mayor or the council," he said.

Fletcher works at Pharr Yarns. He and his wife Nannie Fletcher have been married 42 years and have three children, Jamie, Mike and Tim.

Howard Shipp remains unchallenged in Ward One.

In Ward Two Mike Butler is facing off against incumbent Brenda McFalls Ross.

Incumbent Jerry Mullinax will defend his Ward Three seat against a challenge from Tommy Hawkins.

Rodney Gordon is running against incumbent Kay Frances Hambright in Ward Four.

Mayor Rick Murphrey faces two challengers, former mayor Kyle Smith and Gilbert "Peewee" Hamrick.

In Grover, incumbents John Harry, Max Rollins and Bill Willis face challenges from Adam Green, Calvin Huffman and Christopher Brent White.

Both the Cleveland County Sanitary District and Cleveland County School Board races have both four and two-year seats available because of previous appointments to fill unexpired terms.

In the Sanitary District, incumbents Alan Norman of Lawndale, Timothy Brooks of Shelby and Hugh Price of Casar seek re-election to four-year terms. Others running are Don Melton of Casar, Johnny Lawrence of Lawndale and Gene Graham of Shelby.

D. Farrell Wease of Shelby, who was appointed, has filed for the two-year unexpired term and is opposed by C.J. "Pete" Pedersen of Polkville and Vallery D. McCoy of Cherryville.

In the School Board race, Terry McClain of Kings Mountain has filed for the two-year unexpired term. He was appointed to the board because Dr. Larry Allen, the original appointee, was not eligible to serve once merger was cleared because he is an employee of the school system. McClain is opposed by Tammy Trammel of Lattimore.

Incumbents George Litton of Shelby and Mary Evans of Kingstown are running for four-year terms along with Bobby Steen of Shelby, Joanne Holowecy of Shelby, Phillip Glover of Shelby, Wilburn Wellmon of Lawndale and Barbara Minder of Shelby.