

LOCAL

# Grant funds free smoke detectors

Kings Mountain Fire Department received 250 smoke detectors and equipment to install the devices through a grant from the Office of the State Fire Marshall.

Fire Inspectors Joey Davis and Jamie Black attended a OSFM class in Burlington earlier this week and brought the smoke detectors back to Kings Mountain.

Anyone in Cleveland or Gaston counties is eligible for a free smoke detector which has a 10-year, tamper proof, lithium battery. Fire fighters will install the detectors. Interested individuals may call the fire department.

Firefighters also will canvas neighborhoods. KMFD is working with the county fireman's association and with area fire departments to cover both Gaston and Cleveland.

As of 2004, 96 percent of the homes

in the United States had smoke detectors. Half of all fire deaths occurred in the four percent of homes without a smoke detector. Of the fire deaths in the homes with smoke detectors, one-quarter of those detectors did not work.

Fire officials say that all smoke detectors should be updated every 10 years. The battery should be checked monthly.

Fire Chief Frank Burns credits working smoke detectors to alerting occupants of several recent fires giving them a chance to escape unharmed. Early warning also helps reduce damage to property.

Warlick and Hamrick Insurance is donating fire safety materials to go with the smoke detectors.

For more information, call 704-734-0555.



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD  
Kings Mountain Fire Inspectors Jamie Black, left, and Joey Davis look over smoke detectors the department received through a grant from the Office of the State Fire Marshall.

LETTER

# Thanks for helping victims of hurricane

To the editor:

I would just like to say thank you to all the citizens of Kings Mountain that helped me fulfill my desire to help the children (all) of Hurricane Katrina.

Nothing has ever touched my heart as watching those precious children on TV. I guess being a mother, those instincts just kicked in and I was going to do whatever it took to save a child.

I would like to start by saying thanks to Harris Teeter for giving me the place and Patrick Yarn Mills for loaning me the trailer.

I especially want to thank all my helpers. I had some very dedicated people by my side the whole six days. My best friend Diane Whetstone, the teens, Chelsay Rucker, Whitney Roper, Casey Beer, Josh Visinguard, Chris Haraszkiwicz, Melissa Gibson, the Rhames family Barry, Nikki and Alex, a new friend Amy Phillips and all the others that just stopped by to help an hour or so.

Thanks to all of you, we did it. As all three of those trucks pulled out Friday evening, I couldn't hold back the tears. I have thought several times of those children eating the pop-tarts for a snack and the babies having all the diapers that they need.

Thank you again Kings Mountain for helping me "Remember The Little Ones." We love you LA, MS and AL.

Dawn Parker  
Kings Mountain

# Kings attend Senate hearing on Judge Roberts' confirmation

ANDIE BRYMER  
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A local Republican activists and his wife attended a portion of Senate confirmation hearings for Supreme Court Chief Justice nominee John Roberts last

week. Wayne and Pam King were in Washington with other members of Citizens for a Sound Economy to meet with Senator Richard Burr when they learned the public could attend the hearings. King said he was surprised to see so few mem-

bers of the general public at the Hart Senate Office Building. "I thought there would be a huge crowd," King said.

The Kings lucked up and arrived in time to see Democrat leaders Senators Ted Kennedy and Dianne

Feinstein question Roberts. "It didn't phase him [Roberts] a bit," King said. King said he was impressed with Roberts refusal to answer questions about pending issues the court could face and with his not giving personal opin-

FORUM

From 1A  
minutes. The order of the questions and the order of the candidates will be randomly drawn prior to the forum. Each candidate may use up to two minutes to make a

closing statement. The forums will be videotaped for rebroadcast on local cable channel 19. City of Shelby candidates Aniedi Abasiokong, Donna Huie-Brooks, Chris Mabry, Charles McCloud and Joel Shores have said they will participate.

On Sept. 27 there will be a forum for Cleveland County Board of Education and Cleveland County Sanitary District candidates at 6:30 p.m. at CCC. The following have confirmed: Board of education; Phillip Glover, Joanne

Holowecky, George Litton, Bobby Steen, Tammy Trammel and Wilburn Wellmon. Sanitary district; Timothy Brooks, Johnny Lawrence, Vallery McCoy, Don Melton, Alan Norman, Pete Pedersen, Hugh Price and Farrell Wease.

JENKINS

From 1A  
be a competitive athlete. He describes a years long process of figuring out what he could and could not do. "I can do as much in a wheelchair as I ever could. I just can't stand and walk," he said. While Jenkins has played softball recreationally in his wheelchair, he prefers rugby. "All the contact, the big hits, being able to be competitive as an athlete again"

appeals to him. Like most sports, quad rugby can damage the body. Jenkins, who uses his shoulders a lot, knows the risks but isn't slowing down at the moment. "I'm not going to worry about it now," he said. Jenkins wants to win a National Championship and bring home a gold medal. He has traveled extensively because of rugby, playing in New Zealand, Canada, South America and most of the United States. A few of his friends were

featured in the recently released "Murderball," an independent film about quad rugby. Jenkins appears for a few seconds in the film. He's shown just after learning he didn't make the paralympics team. When he isn't competing and training, Jenkins works at Carmike Cinemas. Much of his social life revolves around the team which plays two games on Fridays and Saturdays and another on Sundays. "We're all real good friends. You have to be," he

said. Jenkins is the son of Nell and Barry Jenkins of Kings Mountain. To support Team USA, tax-deductible donations may be sent to USQRA Treasurer John Ershel, 1179 Simms Heights Road, Kingston Springs, Tennessee, 37082. Jenkins' name may be noted in the memo. For more information about the Brazil games or about the sport, visit www.quadrugby.com.

GRAVE

From 1A  
Ledford and Jenkins describe the Battle of Kings Mountain as a civil war of sorts. Preston Goforth Jr. fought against his brother John Preston Goforth, who was a Loyalist. Ledford says the two men managed to shoot and kill one another. Asked to explain why the two brothers were both named "Preston," Ledford says "weird things happened back then." Jenkins calls it "the ultimate sacrifice to fight against your brother and die." "I've got three brothers. I

can't imagine us being divided like that," he said. Ledford said some believe that the Tories forced people to fight on their side. Whether Loyalist John Preston Goforth's final resting place is a mass grave at the battlefield remains unknown. According to Ledford, Patriot Preston Goforth Jr.'s wife, Nancy Elizabeth Potts Goforth, traveled to the battlefield on Oct. 8 to retrieve her husband's body. At least 22 people are buried in the cemetery, including Preston Goforth Jr.'s son George and his family. Eleven names are known. Preston's other son, Preston Goforth III, is buried

in the El Bethel United Methodist Cemetery, according to Ledford. After the church was established, the family graveyard probably fell into disuse. The work Ledford and Jenkins are doing to preserve the cemetery is personal. Ledford, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, discovered 15 years ago that she is a descendant of Preston Goforth Jr. Jenkins, a member of the Backcountry Militia, a reenactor's group based at Kings Mountain National Military Park, may be related to the three Jenkins who fought in the battle. Those men were from Tennessee, the same place

Jenkins' ancestors came from. His wife, Pam, a distant relative to Ledford, first showed him the Goforth Cemetery. On October 5, they'll install a marker. On October 15, a wreath laying ceremony is planned. Ledford and Jenkins hope to coordinate it with the Gateway Festival. Militia members will give a 21-gun salute, using their long rifles, and "Amazing Grace" will play on bagpipes. The public is invited. The time will be announced soon. Anyone who would like to help with the restoration project or has information about the cemetery should call Jenkins at 704 739-1246.

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