

# More layoffs...this time 51 at Eaton

**ELIZABETH STEWART**  
staff writer

Eaton Corporation's Kings Mountain Truck Transmission Plant is cutting 51 manufacturing jobs, reducing its work force to 400.

The layoff announcement by one of the largest employers in the area follows on the heels of similar news of local and area industry hit by a sluggish economy and

reduction in demand of products. Plant Manager Mike Iezzi said Eaton will continue to heavily support the community as it has since the Cleveland, Ohio-based plant opened in 1976 on Grover Road and that he is hoping to bring back some of those affected by the layoffs by mid 2009. Severance packages and outplacement services have been made available for the employees. The announcement of impending

job loss in Kings Mountain - now at nearly 700 - began in recent weeks. Entertainment Distribution Center announced last week that it was closing its manufacturing and distribution center on Grover Road and selling to Sony and 419 employees would be out of work by April 2009. Last month Fiber Textured Fibers closed its Kings Mountain operation, leaving 145 people out of work, and during the summer

months both \*Chris Craft and Ultras Machine announced layoffs. A Rapid Response state team is assisting displaced workers at KM's EDC Plant this week. Employees could be taking part in job fairs, getting new training or going back to school.

But the job news was not all bad. Carolina Finishing & Coating announced the purchase of the Taggett Building on Country-side Road; Southern Industrial

Constructors merged with Gibson Industrial at 1051 York Road, and Fan Corporation plans an addition to its location at Cleveland County Industrial Park and PPG Industries Fiber Glass Products announced an expansion and the addition of 120 new jobs over the next three years at its Cleveland County plant.

## Kings Mountain honors its heroes

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staff writer

Kings Mountain paid tribute to its heroes Tuesday on Veterans Day at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month remembering what was called "the war to end all wars" and all those who served in wars and conflicts since.

The ceremonies, which began at the War Memorial on Railroad Ave., a walk from downtown led by city and county officials, the Burns High School Air Force ROTC, the Loch Norman Pipe Band and mothers pushing babies in strollers, law enforcement, and veterans themselves, some in winter coats and others in short sleeves, paraded with the American flags to Veterans Park of Mountain Rest Cemetery.

The Loch Norman Pipe's Band renditions of "Flowers of the Forest" at the opening at the War Memorial, their rendition of Highland Cathedral and Amazing Grace together with the prayers and comments by Mayor Rick Murphrey, Police Chief Melvin Proctor and American Legion Post 155 Commander Claude Pearson added to the solemn ceremony in Veterans Park as the wind whipped around the American flags on the graves in front of the cross and as the red, white and blue wreath was placed at the eternal flame. The presentation and retirement of the colors by the ROTC students, the pledge of allegiance by Scouts of Troop 93, The National Anthem and her earlier rendition of God Bless America by talented Shana Adams and the traditional "Taps" by Paul Fulton made an impressive program.

"Since early frontier days when the Mountain Men raised their own war cry for freedom and liberty we have been caretakers of all that our forefathers fought for," said the mayor. "Our veterans have always answered the call to defend and secure our freedom and today in Kings Mountain we honor that same spirit and hope that led to the founding of this great nation," he said.

Murphrey said that banner of freedom has been handed down to each generation and he thanked veterans past and present who served our country following this great tradition with personal courage, defending our freedom and keeping our homeland safe.

Chief Proctor prayed for God's protection of troops in harm's way, peace for families of loved ones, and victory in time of war.

"We offer profound gratitude to God for the blood and sweat of sacrifice as our loved ones fight for honorable world peace," said Pearson, who said the country can reach new heights for a better way of life because of the solid foundation created by veterans everywhere who have sustained our hope for America.

## News briefs

### Bloodmobile Wednesday

Turbo Systems, 203 Turbo Drive, will host the Gaston County Public Blood Drive, a visit of the Red Cross bloodmobile Wednesday, today, from noon until 4:30 p.m. The public is invited to participate.

### Board of Adjustment

The Kings Mountain Board of Adjustment will meet Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers to hear a variance request from Ricky McNeely, 130 Honeywood Road.

### Ordination Service

An Ordination service for Rev. Kenneth Leon Hopper will be held on Sunday, Nov. 16, at 5 p.m. at People Baptist Church on Grove Street. The public is invited.

### KMIS teacher attends seminar

Vonnie E. Stewart of Kings Mountain Intermediate School recently attended a seminar held at the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching.

NCCAT provides seminars in the arts, sciences, humanities and technology for pre-K through 12th-grade public school teachers. The seminars are offered at no cost to teachers. They are designed to renew teachers' vitality for teaching and to equip them with new knowledge for the classroom.



**LIGHTING UP** - Todd Parker, Josh Conrad, Electric Supt. Nick Hendricks and Mayor Rick Murphrey inspect the addition of brick and lights to holly trees in downtown Kings Mountain.

## City lights up holly trees

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staff writer

Brightening up downtown for the upcoming holidays, crews from the city's Electric and Public Works Departments were busy this week completing the brick work and lighting at the 50 holly trees which dot Mountain, Battleground and Railroad Avenues.

Nick Hendricks, Electric Superintendent, said the addition of lights from the base of the trees will liter-

ally light up the beautiful trees festive with red berries.

"We think that Kings Mountain citizens and visitors to our city will like this additional holiday lighting," said Mayor Rick Murphrey.

No new Christmas decoration is being added this year but Murphrey said the addition of brick planter boxes, where flowers can be added later on, and the lights will shine to enhance the plans by Mountaineer

Partnership for holiday festivities which are gearing up by hard-working committees.

## Local Scouts, Baptist group to seek food to relieve hunger

Rev. Charles Reed will direct a county-wide appeal being undertaken by the Piedmont Council of the Boy Scouts of America in November.

This is the Piedmont Council's annual "Scouting for Food" Good Turn, an effort to aid the hungry in local communities throughout Cleveland County.

As chairman of the Battleground District's Scouting for Food Good Turn, Rev. Reed will direct the efforts of an estimated 750 youth in scouting units that will distribute door hangers on Nov. 15 and retrieve food collection bags and transport them to community food pantries and churches on Nov. 22.

This is the 20th year in a row that local scouts have conducted a door-to-door appeal for food.

Last year the group collected an estimated 17,000 pounds of non-perishable food for hungry people in our local communities.

Rev. Reed is the ministry team leader for the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association, where he has served since Oct. 1, 1990, directing emergency relief efforts for the association of churches.

Reed points out that the Piedmont Council's Good Turn is designated to provide immediate help for local citizens who are hungry and to focus local attention on solving the continuing problem.

The scouts will seek canned goods, with an emphasis on the foods most needed for good nutrition.

## Fire Department fundraiser

Grover Firemen will canvass the Grover Fire District in a house to house solicitation for benefit of equipment beginning this week. Donors will receive a certificate for a family photograph to be scheduled by appointment.

*In Memory of Donald Fite*  
January 22, 1938 ~  
November 8, 2000



*We love & miss you,*  
your wife Lore Fite,  
Jennifer & Dwayne Hord,  
Dieter Fite, Kristina & Ashlee Owens,  
Matthew, Cameron & Mitchell Hord

*Thank -you*

I would like to thank each and every one that has supported me through the years.

My staff and I will do our best to continue to serve you in the future as we have the past 13 years.

**Bonnie Reece**  
Cleveland County Register of Deeds

Paid for by the Bonnie Reece campaign committee

*Diamonds*

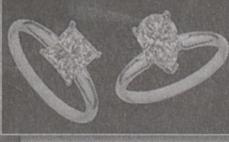
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**Diamond Solitaires**  
**25% to 50% Off**



**Group**  
**Diamond Sets**  
**25% to 50% Off**



**Group**  
**Past Present & Future Rings**  
**25% Off**



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