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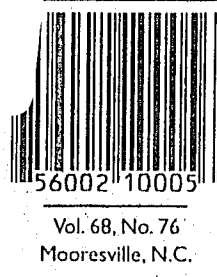
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WEEKEND

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Bursting at the seams

Long lines are par for the course at over-crowded driver's license office

By MICHAEL ROESSLER

If you've tried to renew your driver's license at Mooresville's office of the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles, you know what to usually expect: a long line.

As a result of the area's booming growth, the downtown office has been inundated with people seeking to renew their license, change an address, or get a photo identification card.

Lynda McDaniel, senior examiner in the office, said the demand on the small office — located in the Markade building on North Main Street — has been growing for years. "I've been here almost two years, and it's gotten worse and worse," she said. "All summer we have been just packed."

She said the Mooresville office is often busier than the Statesville office, sometimes processing more than 200 customers a day. Often, the line snakes down the hallway of the Markade, which is home to other businesses and a restaurant.

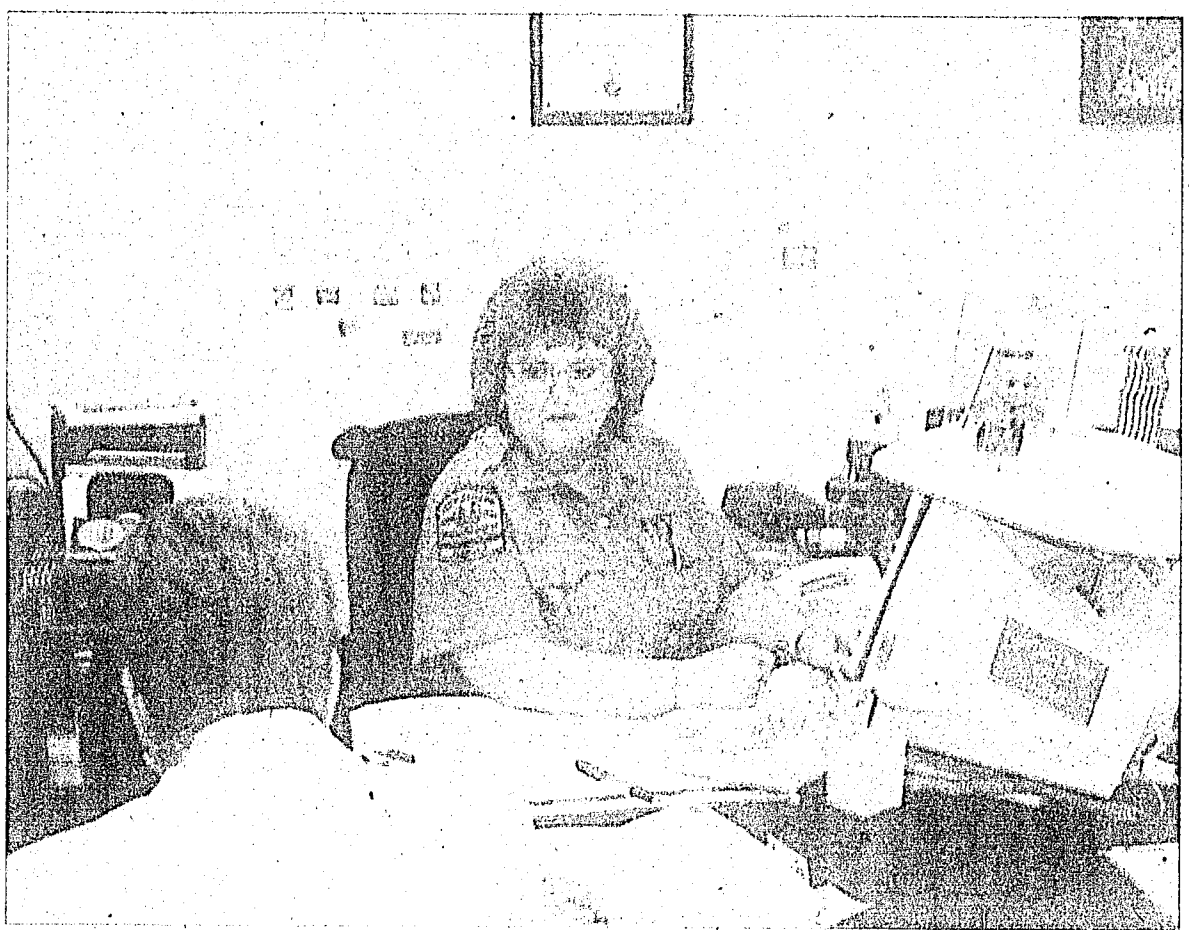
And although South Iredell's growth has contributed to the number of people that use the Mooresville office, McDaniel also said growth in other nearby areas has had an impact here.

"I've been here almost two years, and it's gotten worse and worse. All summer we have been just packed."

Lynda McDaniel,
Senior examiner at
DMV's Mooresville office

There is no division of motor vehicles office in North Mecklenburg, for example. So people living in Huntersville, Cornelius, and Davidson can either travel to uptown Charlotte or downtown Mooresville to take care of their licenses. McDaniel also said some people from Cabarrus County use the Mooresville office.

McDaniel added that there has been talk of moving to a bigger office for years, but there are no definite plans. The state's budget crunch, she said, has made the possibility of moving even more remote because there is simply no money to fund such a move.



DMV examiner Pamela Harrington with a customer at Mooresville office. (Photo by Michael Roessler)

100 mph crash kills driver of motorcycle

By MICHAEL ROESSLER

Gregory Eugene Redfear, 31, of Statesville, died early Wednesday evening when the motorcycle he was driving in Mooresville collided with a vehicle driven by Tiana Lynn Newell, 18, of Mooresville.

North Carolina Highway Patrol First Sergeant R.G. Chandler said Newell turned north onto N.C. 801 near Devon Forest Drive. Redfear, who Chandler said was traveling north on N.C. 801 at an estimated speed of 100 miles per hour, was thrown from the motorcycle after, braking to avoid hitting Newell and losing control of the vehicle.

Chandler said the motorcycle traveled 106 feet after the brakes were hit and before making contact with the car. After hitting the car,

See CRASH, page 2A

County OKs grant for 911 improvement

By ALLISON HART

Iredell County Commissioners approved a grant Tuesday that will help sheriff's deputies notify residents of an emergency.

The board voted 5-0 to accept a \$36,812 federal Law Enforcement Block Grant that will purchase a Reverse 911 Interactive Community Notification System. The county is required to match \$4,090 from confiscated drug money.

When activated, the system dials residents in a specified area and leaves messages about the nature of the emergency. "The purpose of the system is to reach large numbers of

See 911, page 2A

Iredell's units await their call

Of Iredell County's two national guard units, one is conducting annual military drills in Germany while the other, in Statesville, is patiently awaiting a possible call to action.

That wait can be agonizing for military personnel who still don't know whether they'll be part of the 35,000 troops Congress approved President Bush to mobilize last week.

Senate and House members voted unanimously to let Bush call in troops to defend the U.S. against terrorists who rescuers estimate killed more than 5,000 Americans in the carefully-crafted suicide hijacking of four domestic airliners on Sept. 11.

The airliners demolished the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center and heavily damaged one wing of the Pentagon near Washington, D.C.

Bush called upon the entire reserve component of the military, which includes the federal military Reserves and the National Guard, which is state and federally controlled, said N.C. National Guard spokesman Capt. Robert Carver.

The reservists will be used to operate ports, provide medical and engineering support, and provide homeland defense in case the full-time, active-duty troops are sent overseas.

At the Statesville unit of the North Carolina Army National Guard, Staff Sgt. Steven Johnson, 27, began fielding calls from the 42 soldiers of the local detachment of the 113th Field Artillery just hours after word of the attacks hit the airwaves.

"Even before I received word to call them, I had guys calling saying what number they could be reached at," Johnson said from his office Monday. "I won't say the guys are excited, but they're ready to go."

Mooresville's National Guard unit, Company A 505th Engineering Battalion, is already in

See GUARD, page 2A



They camped out against cancer

These three youngsters — Allison, Ashley and Lauren — model the special T-shirts made for participants in Mooresville's Relay for Life. The event, to raise funds and awareness for the American Cancer Society, was held at the Mooresville High School stadium. Seventeen teams of 10-15 walkers congregated on the football field and camped out there Friday night. Teams represented area churches, schools, business and media. To participate, each team member raised \$100 to go toward patient services, research and advocacy for the American Cancer Society. A 6 p.m. "victory lap" for cancer survivors was followed by a lighting of the luminaries at about 9 p.m. This year's Mooresville event contributed \$15-to-\$25,000 to the overall \$200 million that the Relay for Life campaign raised for the American Cancer Society.