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HOMEFRONT: North Carolina School for the Deaf staff members hook up with donkeys for game of hoops. **D1**

GAB: It's not your mother's Tupperware party. Today's home consultants are selling jewelry, stoneware and more. **C1**

Published daily for loyal reader Mark Huffman and all of Burke County

Campers kicked out

Lake lands closed to public as park officials come up with plan

BY SHARON MCBRAYER
THE NEWS HERALD

MORGANTON — People who have been using property around Lake James for hunting and camping will no longer be able to, say state park officials.

The state bought 2,915 acres on the north shore of the lake in January from Crescent Resources for \$18.36 million.

'All of this is in preparation for a better designed public access.'

WALT GRAVELY
DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT

State park officials say while they come up with a master plan, the property won't be accessible to the public.

Walt Gravely, west district superintendent for the North Carolina Parks and Recreation division, said he knows that not being able to use the land will be an adjustment for people, but it is necessary in order to reclaim the land and come up with a master plan.

"All of this is in preparation for a better designed public access," Gravely said.

He said the current Lake James state park will remain open but will be included in the master plan. Several family graveyards are located within the nearly 3,000 acres of newly acquired land and it is not his intention to deny fami-

PLEASE SEE LAKE, A12



FILE PHOTO | THE NEWS HERALD

Boat docks reach out into Lake James where a state park expansion project soon will be under way. Until it's complete, the state is limiting access to some lake areas.