

## Reading pays big dividends for Middle School students

John Hunter, eighth grader at Kings Mountain Middle School and a member of the Voyager team, found out Friday that reading pays off in more ways than learning and enjoyment.

As the top accelerated reader with 500 points he chose two ten dollar bills for his prizes in the Accelerated Reader Store which was open as an incentive to readers in the school library to more than 700 students who redeemed their reading points.

Students who had earned 10 points or more could buy items from the AR Store ranging from stickers, pencils and candy to novelty prizes such as trick arrows, big sunglasses and animal noses to nicer prizes for high point readers such as cameras, watches and cash.

Hunter had attained over 500 points and has also been honored as Principal of the Day twice for his accomplishments. One of his reading reports was used as a high point test worth 78 points to the reader who completed it.

Hunter, son of Lou Anne Hunter, says he reads adult fiction at home and is a regular visitor to the school library.

Holly Godfrey, media specialist, says many students have read more books this year and they are saving their points for the next AR Store to be offered at the end of May as a reading incentive.



Kings Mountain Middle School Media Specialist Holly Godfrey presents John Hunter, eighth grader, with two ten dollar bills, the prizes he chose in the Accelerated Reader Store after earning more than 500 points for reading.

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### ROBERT ALAN WALTERS Walters wins geography bee

Robert Alan Walters, 7th grade student at Kings Mountain Middle School, won the school-level competition of the National Geography Bee last week, and now has a chance to win a \$25,000 college scholarship.

Jennifer Scism was first runner-up.

Students answered oral questions of geography in the first round in the eighth annual National Geography Bee sponsored by National Geographic World and Chrysler Corporation.

The final round participants from each team were: Cats, David Allen Crawford; Gators, Ben Sabetti; Turtles, Jennifer Lynn Scism; Whales, Drew Neisler; Sea Creatures, Alan Walters; Beachcombers, Evelyn Virginia Ware; Rockets, Mollie Patterson; Stargazers, Daniel Mauney; and Voyagers, Basit Gangoo.

The school winner will now take a written test; up to 100 of the top scorers in each state and territory will be eligible to compete in their state bee March 29.

The National Geographic Society will provide an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for state champions and their teacher-escorts to participate in the National Geography Bee May 28-29. The first place winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship, second place \$15,000 scholarship, and third place, \$10,000 scholarship.

Alex Trebek, host of *Jeopardy*, will moderate the finals which will air on Wednesday, May 29.

The National Geographic Society developed the National Geography Bee in response to a growing concern about the lack of geographic knowledge among young people in the United States. A 10-country Gallup survey conducted for the society in 1988 and 1989 found that people in the U.S. ages 18-24, the youngest group surveyed, knew less about geography than young people in any of the other countries in the survey.

The National Geographic Society, with 9.2 million members, has as its mission the "increase and diffusion of geographic knowledge." In addition to the National Geography Bee, the Society sponsors a number of other geography institutes for teachers and the Geographic Alliance Network, which is currently working in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Canada.

### Abbey Experience slated February 23

Abbey Experience - a visitation day for high school juniors and seniors - will be held Friday, February 23 beginning at 9 a.m. at Belmont Abbey College.

Abbey Experience affords visitors an opportunity to learn more about North Carolina's only Catholic college. Visitors will sample Abbey classes, tour the campus, and have questions answered by college officials.

For more information, call the Admissions Office at (704) 825-6665 or 1-800-523-2355.

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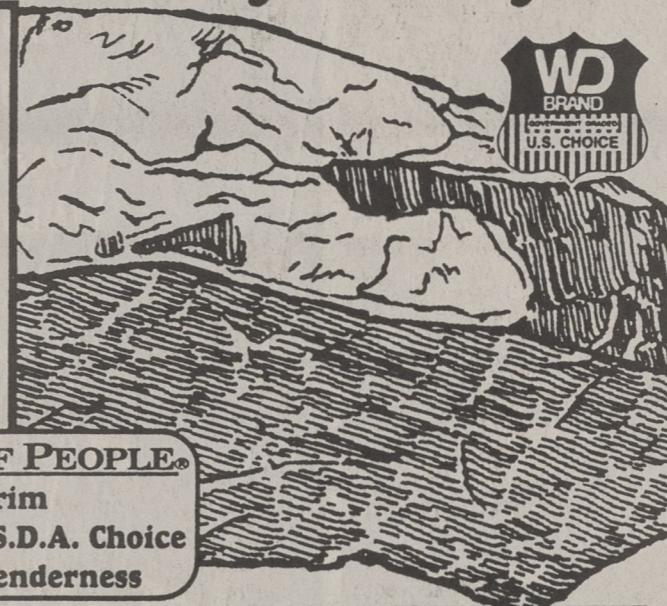
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