

READY, SET AND GROW - Brenda Wright reads to five-year-olds enrolled in the summer Ready, Set, Grow program at Bethware School.

Ready, Set, Grow program gives 5-year-olds taste of kindergarten

An early intervention program getting high marks in its first summer session from parents and teachers is the "Ready, Set, Grow" prekindergarten program introduced by the Kings Mountain School System.

The 51 five-year-olds enrolled in the program at East, Bethware and Grover Elementary Schools are getting an early taste of kindergarten. Their kindergarten day begins at 8 a.m. when the school bus picks them up and ends at 1 p.m. after lunch at school.

Friday will be the last day of summer school for the kids and a field trip is planned.

"The kindergarten teachers saw a need for this program after the initial kindergarten screening to give these children an extra boost," said Dianna Allen, Elementary Curriculum Specialist

who assisted Dr. Jane King, Assistant Superintendent for Public Instruction, in developing the program.

King said the program has been an overwhelming success. The program not only helps children become familiar with school facilities and routines but teaches units of instruction that focus on language skills, motor skills and social skills.

Allen said a typical day has included an hour at small groups centers and an hour for structured work time. The kids also read aloud, enjoy music, participate in art, dramatic play, blocks and table toys and are introduced to the three R's, Science, and the computer.

Two certified teachers are located at each site and Head Start personnel assist two hours each day and deliver breakfast and lunch to the sites.

Salute to Veterans theme of Freedom Fest

Friday, July 4, Uptown Shelby will celebrate Independence Day with Freedom Fest '97 - A Salute to Veterans!

From 3-9 p.m. veterans from all wars will be honored with a special emphasis on World War II veterans and women veterans. As part of the recognition the Cleveland County Historical Museum will display war time memorabilia from all wars.

Cleveland Regional Medical Center and The Cleveland County Red Cross will showcase the importance of war-time medical facilities as they sponsor a M.A.S.H. tent. The tent will feature World War II nurses uniforms, military medical supplies, and will also act as the main Red Cross Station for Freedom Fest.

A special emphasis will be placed on family members of veterans and men and women currently serving in the military. Alltel Communications, Inc. will offer family members of active service men and women the opportunity to make free phone calls to their loved ones anywhere in the Continental United States. Alltel will have a tent located on the Museum lawn where calls can be made.

The Cleveland County YM-CA will host the kids fun area and provide games, toys and the fire safety house.

At 6:30 there will be a special ceremony honoring veterans. Taking part will be the Shelby Fire Department Color Guard, the NC Honor Guard, singer Pamela Smithey, and a guest speaker. The Frank Love Orchestra will entertain from 5-8:30 p.m.

Food vendors will be located on Washington St. and Tedder Dodge will display cars and trucks on museum sidewalks.



HIGHEST AR POINTS - Fifth grader Jennifer Stroupe was honored for compiling the most AR points at Grover School.

ROSE TURNER

KM Librarian



Veterans to speak to kids at KM library

The Fourth of July is coming early to Mauney Memorial Library. The library will celebrate the founding of our country July 1 at 10 a.m. with a special program for children ages 7-11. The program will be led by the World War II and Korean War veterans group.

The Fourth of July is a special time of the year that we set aside to remember our heritage and celebrate the founding of our country. We celebrate with cookouts, community gatherings, games, and fireworks at the end of the day. But beyond the fun time activities, we consider the greatness of our nation and thank God for the blessings of living in a free country. As we salute the flag and pledge allegiance to the United States of America, our hearts swell with pride. We remember the principles of freedom and liberty on which our country was built.

The United States began as a small experimental democracy composed of 13 states. Our founding fathers believed that democracy was a viable system of government and that people were endowed by the creator with certain rights which could not be taken away from them.

We have changed in many ways since our founding fathers drew up the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution by which we are governed. We have developed from 13 states to 50 states, from a weak and struggling nation to a world power. Many things have changed, but we must remember that some basic principles never change.

There have been times when we have had to go to war and fight to maintain our freedom and our democratic way of life. Many courageous men and women have answered the call to duty. The World War II and Korean War veterans group will talk with children about patriotism and what it means to love your country enough to defend it in time of war. They will bring some mementos from the war and display for the children to see. They will welcome questions from children and tell interesting and amusing stories from their experience.

This will be an exciting program. Children ages 7-11 will not want to miss it.



GOOD CITIZENS - Good Citizens of the Year from the fourth and fifth grade classrooms at Grover School were Tasha Montgomery, Kristen Martin, Marcus Jimson, Tina Sprouse, Mark Hunter, and C.J. Austin.

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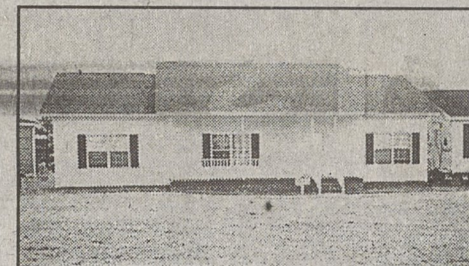
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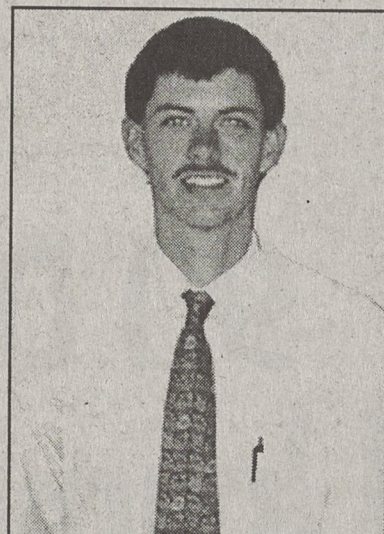
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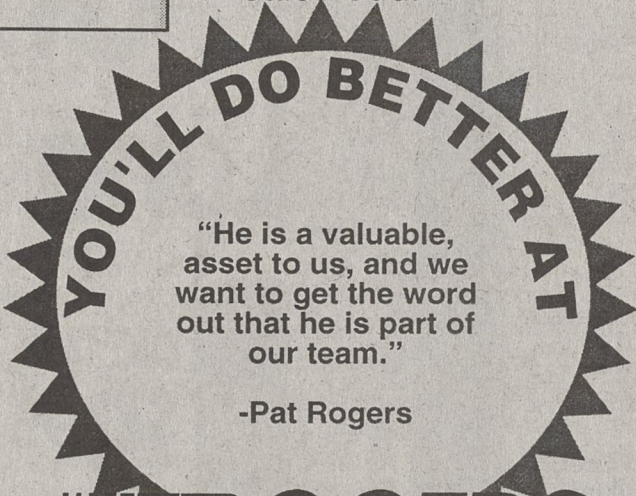
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EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Todd Hughes is one of Rogers' brightest and newest employees. Todd is a native of Kings Mountain, NC where he lives with his wife, Susie Moore Hughes and their two children, Caleb-age 6 and Calyn-age 3. Todd's greatest asset: His ability to understand his customers needs and help them find what they want. "I enjoy making new friends", said Todd.



"He is a valuable asset to us, and we want to get the word out that he is part of our team."

-Pat Rogers



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Todd has sold 12 vehicles in only 6 weeks.
Thanks for joining the Rogers' Team!