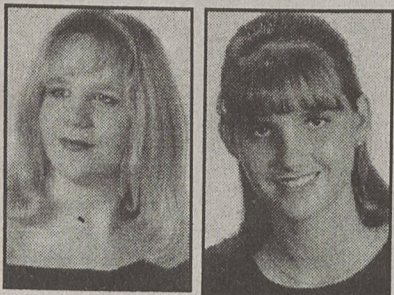


EDUCATION

KM Schools prepare for Y2K



BRUCE PHANNARETH



MCDANIEL MILLER

KM students earn GWU scholarships

Kings Mountain students have been presented the Presidential Scholarship at Gardner-Webb University. The scholarship is valued at \$12,000 over four years.

They are also eligible for a Baptist Leadership Scholarship, worth \$2,000 over four years. These scholarships recognize superior academic achievement, demonstrated leadership, and service to the community.

Recipients include:

Christina Bolin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Danny Bolin. She is a senior at Crest High School and is a member of Christian Freedom Baptist Church.

Melissa Bruce, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Danny Bruce. She is a senior at Kings Mountain High School.

Seth Denton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Denton. He is a senior at Kings Mountain High School and is a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church.

Vanessa Elliott, daughter of Mr. Vanessa Stone. She is a senior at Kings Mountain High School.

Melina Paula Miller, daughter of Darryl and Vivera Blanton. She is a senior at Kings Mountain High School and is a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church.

Brandi Anne McDaniel, daughter of William McDaniel and Deborah Martin. She is a senior at Kings Mountain High School and is a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church.

Linda Phannareth, daughter of Kuang Kham and Douang Chai Phannareth. She is a senior at Kings Mountain High School.

Meghan Potter KM's Student of the Month

Meghan Potter, daughter of Dan and Pat Potter, was selected Student of the Month of April at Kings Mountain High School.

Potter, a ninth grader, makes high marks

in her studies and in the opinions of her teachers.

Her band teacher, Chris Cole, said, "Meghan is a pleasure to teach. She is a valuable member of our ninth grade band and contributes highly to the ensemble."

Her father and her teacher in government economics advanced honors, Dan Potter, noted, "Meghan is a real hard working, conscientious student. She always has a very positive attitude."

Mercedes Humphries, who teaches Meghan in biology honors, added, "Meghan is a conscientious and pleasant student. She is self-motivated and is well-liked by her peers."

Julie Rikard, her Latin II instructor, said, "Meghan is a delightful student who is very creative and talented."

Correction

A sub-head on the front page of last week's Herald incorrectly stated that a "gun" was found in a student's book bag at Kings Mountain Middle School. As correctly stated in the story, the weapon found inside the book bag was a "knife."

The Herald has been doing a good job with articles relating to the Y2K issue and what it may imply for citizens of our area. Certainly the school system faces potential problems with the coming of January 1, 2000. In today's column I want to share with you our plans for addressing the issue.

Essentially we face three areas of challenge in this matter. We must address the areas of administration/finance, instruction, and operations. We are in the process of reviewing each of those to be as certain as possible that we have no major problems when this year ends. I say "as certain as possible" because it seems to be impossible to be completely sure that all problems have been headed off.

Much of what we are attentive to in the areas of administration and finance is related to our communication with the state Department of Public Instruction. Systems which it operates are its responsibility in regards to Y2K compliance. Our student information accounting system, SIMS, is a good example. Representatives of the Department assure us



Bob McRae

Superintendent KM Schools

their responsibilities in this regard will be met.

We do have other software which we operate that is dependent on private vendors for compliance. For example, some of our financial software fits this category. I have met with key staff people and assigned responsibilities for checking with the vendors to obtain verification that our software will work come January 1, 2000. That process is currently taking place.

We also have machines and equipment in this area which must be checked. Copy machines, postage meters, and fax machines are examples. Most of what we have will be fine. Some older machines may have to be replaced. Again, monitoring of these items is currently taking place.

In the instructional area we face hardware and software challenges. We must check the individual computers and networks in the schools to determine their status. Obviously, some of these computers are used for administrative purposes, but the great majority of them are instructional. Also, software programs such as our Jostens computer assisted learning program and the Accelerated Reader which is used extensively in grades K-8 must be checked out.

We believe that most of our challenges in this area can be effectively managed. However, we may have to answer the question of deciding if replacement or abandonment is our best course of action in regards

to some to the equipment or software.

When Y2K is discussed, it might be easy to neglect the operations area as a place to look. That would be a mistake for a school system. We are currently planning for work this summer to be certain that our heating and air conditioning systems are in good shape. While most of our alarm systems - primarily security and fire - are battery powered and not date sensitive, it was important that we checked with our vendors to be certain there should be no problems. Bell systems at schools also had to be reviewed. As you can see, once we sat down to determine what needed to be checked, a lengthy list was compiled.

While I am confident that we will be able to operate school on a normal schedule come the first of next year, we must have contingency plans in place. Our first day back from Christmas vacation for students will be Tuesday, January 4. This will allow us the weekend prior and a Monday workday to double-check and attend to any unforeseen problems.

Even the best planning will not ensure that we will have no surprises. That is the case for any business or organization. I do think we are taking reasonable precautions in regards to the Y2K issue and am optimistic that any challenges will affect the delivery of services to our patrons very little, if any. Now, let's just all cross our fingers for a little extra help!



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD

Students of Mrs. Hamrick's North School kindergarten class in Kings Mountain hit the playground early each morning. Conquering a piece of playground equipment looked like easy work for classmates (left to right) Seth Haraszkiwicz, Andrew Barrett, Courtney Williams, and Lisa Dorn.

Off to college? You'll definitely need a computer

Years ago, getting ready to go off to college meant that students would visit an office supply store and check out the latest selection of typewriters. The big decision back then was whether to get a manual or electric model. Now that the cyber revolution has overtaken us, students are concerned with what type of computer best suits their academic needs.

Statistics show that 1998, there were 6.4 students for each computer in the United States. This worked out to there being over 8 million school computers in use nationwide. Nearly 30 percent of school classrooms had computers with Internet access last year. In the next five years, that figure is expected to exceed 90 percent.

To illustrate just how much computers have invaded the classroom, look back to 1985. During that year there was just one computer for each 62 students and a total of 631,000 school computers in the nation.

The question for today's student is not "manual or electric" as it was back in typewriter days, but whether to get a desktop or laptop computer. Both designs have their advantages and drawbacks. While the laptop has mobility on its side, they cannot approach a desktop computer for power or storage capacity. On the other hand, a desktop may have bigger numbers, but it's hard to put one in a bookbag. A laptop computer only weighs about six pounds.

"If you are going to get a new computer, get one with enough power so that you don't have to trade it in or upgrade it in a year or two," said computer salesman Nick Smith at Circuit City. "A good desktop computer should have at least 400 megahertz of power with 10 gigabytes of hard drive space and 62 megabytes of RAM (Read All Material)."

Laptop computers generally have smaller numbers, but even their power is considerably more than older desktop models. A good laptop these days will have a 300 Mhz processor,

See Computers, 2B

Hoyle KM Principal of Year



Jerry Hoyle, left, receives Principal of the Year Award from last year's recipient, Mike Rhoney

East Elementary School Principal Jerry Hoyle was named Kings Mountain District Schools Principal of the Year at the annual Service Awards Banquet last week at Kings Mountain High School.

It was the second time this decade that Hoyle has received the honor.

A 29-year veteran of education in Kings Mountain schools, Hoyle has served as principal of East since 1992. He was previously a teacher and assistant principal at Central School, assistant principal and principal at Kings Mountain Junior High School, and co-principal at Kings Mountain Middle School.

Under Hoyle's leadership, East has earned exemplary status in the state's ABC Recognition Program for the past three years. Asst. Supt. Jane King said East is often used as an example of what high expectations for all students can mean.

Hoyle introduced the highly-successful Accelerated Reader program to East staff and students in 1992, and last year student read 23,919 books, an average of 114 per student.

He also established Cub Scout and Girl Scout programs and mentor programs, making both programs available to all students regardless of family income. He has solicited the assistance of role models and community organizations to carry out the programs.

Other award winners were: Mentors - Linda Helms, Grover; Julie Mooneyhan, Bethware.

NCATA certificates - Glenda Crawford, Kimberly Fleming, Emily Harris, Debra Jones, Sandra Jones, all from Grover School.

Special Friends - Jay Rhodes, Chamber of Commerce; Lib Stewart, Kings Mountain Herald.

Retirees - Helen Ayers,

Middle School; Maxine Bennett, North; Dot Dixon, North; Dora Heavner, Bethware; Ray Howell, Maintenance; Louise Kale, Child Nutrition; Mildred Pennington, Grover; Addie Plummer, Middle School; Sarah Queen, East; Dathia Sanders, Middle School; Fred Tate, Bethware; Dru White, West; Jeannine Fisher, High School; Pam Goforth, High School; Ed Guy, Davidson; Dr. Jane King, Asst. Supt.; Peggy McDowell, North; Dr. Grace Mitchell, West; Jaquitha Reid, Davidson, KM High; Anita Rice, Grover.

Office Support Employee of the Year - Doris McGinnis, Central Office.

School Food Service Employee of the Year - Judy Bowman, KMHS.

Teacher Assistant of the Year - Cornelia Crawford, East.

Maintenance Employee of the Year - Don Ware.

See Hoyle, 2B