

# Out in Style

## Graduating seniors end with gala outdoor picnic

BY ALAN HODGE  
Staff Writer

Burgers, a balmy breeze, and brightly striped tents formed the perfect backdrop to a gala outdoor banquet at Kings Mountain High School last Thursday. Given to honor departing seniors, the jamboree saw school administration, staff, and over 200 students have a bittersweet final luncheon on the grounds together.

Opinions on the end of another school year varied. One teacher even quoted the late Dr. Martin Luther King.

"Free at last, free at last," said Kay Walker.

Teacher Lou Ann Davis was more succinct in her response to

how she felt about sending another crop of high schoolers out into the world.

"Yahoo!" Davis whooped.

Gathering in groups at tables under the food tents, many of the kids knew they would be soon saying some sad farewells to friends and classmates.

"I'm happy to be finishing high school," said departing senior Casey Short. "But I've had a great year and I'm ready to go off to college."

Short plans to attend Appalachian State University and become a teacher. He also has aspirations of one day becoming an author.

Food at the outdoor banquet

was plentiful and pleasing. Joyce Hord, manager of the Kings Mountain High cafeteria and her crew provided the side items such as slaw and succulent pork n beans. Hot dogs and hamburgers were grilled to perfection by Jake and Greg Dixon's catering company, Cooking Maniacs. The Dixons' motto is "you kill it, we'll grill it." Also chipping in to make the affair a success was the American Legion who provided the tentage.

Hallie Connor was one of the folks who put the soiree together.

"We planned on feeding at least 400 people," Connor said. "It has turned out to be a perfect picnic."

Grillmeister Jake Dixon came well prepared for the event. Dixon estimated he cooked up over 300 burgers and 200 weenies before the picnic crowd stopped chowing down.

"I wanted to make sure everybody had enough to eat," said Dixon.

As the last of the burgers flipped off Dixon's grill, everyone agreed the picnic had been a fitting and filling end to another great school year at Kings Mountain High.

### KM students make dean's list at ASU

Ronna Michelle Caulder, Heather Maria Hughes, Shelby Ann-Cecile Jennings, and Kate Amaryllis Pascoe, all of Kings Mountain, made the dean's list for the spring semester at Appalachian State University.

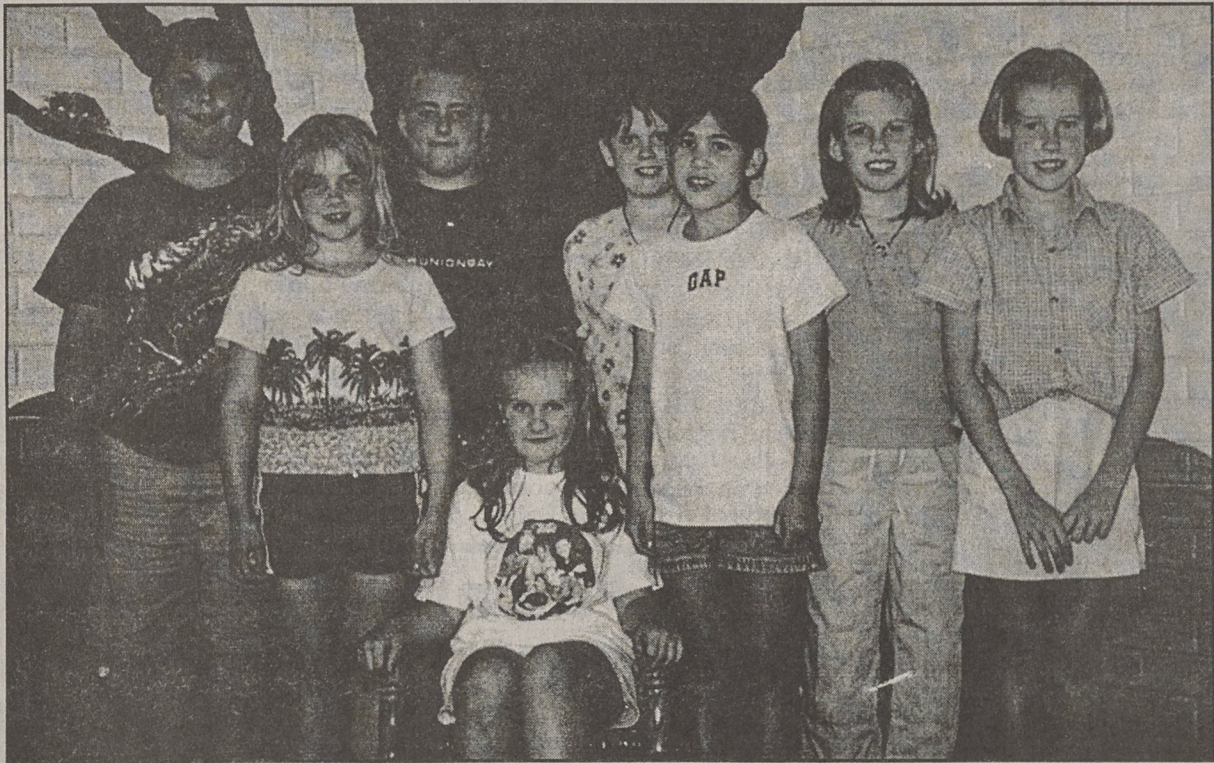
To qualify for the list, one must either be enrolled for 12 to 14 hours and attain a 3.45 grade point average, or be enrolled in 15 or more hours and attain a 3.25 grade point average.



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD  
Chefs Jake Dixon (left) and Greg Dixon cooked up the meat for last week's senior picnic at Kings Mountain High School. The Dixons operate Cooking Maniacs catering service.



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD  
Kings Mountain High School throw a lawn party for the graduating senior class last week. Parents, teachers, and plenty of hungry seniors ate hundreds of hotdogs and hamburgers at the picnic.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Pictured are third grade classmates of the late Casey Burnette at North School. Casey died of leukemia last December, and since her death North students have shared in many activities in her memory. Students donated their extra change at a recent bookfair to purchase books which were sent to Ronald McDonald House in Casey's memory. The school participated in "Pennies for Patients," raising close to \$400 for the Leukemia Society. As a tribute to Casey's love for reading, students presented a child size rocking chair to the school library in Casey's memory. Casey's twin sister, Jordan, is pictured in the rocking chair. Students, left to right, front row, are K'Anne Edge, Jordan Burnette, Michelle Timms and Crystal Wyte. Back row, Tyler Dixon, Zack Massey, Victoria Martin and Mary Kathryn Lyn.



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD  
Kaye Putnam was recently named Teacher of the Year at East School in Kings Mountain for the third time. Going over some reading lessons with Putnam are students Claire Richards and Tyler Bess.

# Three-peat

## Kaye Putnam East Elementary Teacher of the Year third time

BY ALAN HODGE  
Staff Writer

East Elementary in Kings Mountain has a three-peat winner in Kaye Putnam. That's because she's just been named as Teacher of the Year there for the third time.

A native of Taylorsville, Putnam graduated from Appalachian State University and did her student teaching in Shelby. She's been at East School since 1970 and has won Teacher of the Year in 1980, 1990, and now, 2000.

"East is a great school," Putnam said. "It is a special place to be involved in education."

Putnam says her interest in teaching took off when she helped with Bible school during her teenage years in Taylorsville. The fact that she just naturally likes kids made her a teaching natural.

"To get the best out of children you have to let them know what you expect," Putnam says. "It's also important to let the kids know you care about them and what you do is in their best interests. If you have to get on them about something, let them know it's for their own good."

Firm but fair is a good way to describe the way Putnam handles her class.

"I make it a point to keep the students on task," said Putnam. "We don't waste time."

Another thing that Putnam stresses is parental involvement in their children's school work. Parents should also keep an open line of communication with the teacher, Putnam says.

In her 30 years as a teacher, Putnam has seen many changes come to the classroom. She also says that teachers today have special challenges that were nonexistent when she first began her career as an educator. Though three decades in the classroom might make some teachers cry "uncle," Putnam plans to keep her hand in for at least another round.

"Even though I will retire next year, I am going to come back as a fill-in teacher," Putnam says.

Winning Teacher of the Year for the third time still thrilled Putnam as much as her first award back in 1980, but she is still modest about the unique feat.

"My co-workers are the ones who made this possible," Putnam said. "It's special to know I have their respect."

## A Rich Life Doesn't Have to Cost a Fortune

Nestled in the charming, historic town of Cherryville, SOMERSET COURT offers seniors a gracious Assisted Living Residence with a variety of amenities and services. At SOMERSET COURT of Cherryville, our mission is to understand the things that matter to you and offer them in a comfortable residential environment. We take pride in our extensive personal care services and social programs, the elegance of our facilities and the small town appeal of our location.

Affordable and gracious. Assisted-living in a service-enhanced environment for seniors on fixed incomes. Now open, we invite you to visit our newest Assisted Living Residence. Please clip and mail the coupon below or call Allison Abernathy today to arrange for your personal tour, 704-445-1554.



SOMERSET  
COURT

SOMERSET COURT of Cherryville ~ 401 West Academy Street, Cherryville, NC 28021

- Please send me information on SOMERSET COURT of Cherryville.
- Please contact me to arrange a tour of SOMERSET COURT of Cherryville.



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: SOMERSET COURT of Cherryville ~ 401 West Academy Street, Cherryville, NC 28021