

The Herald

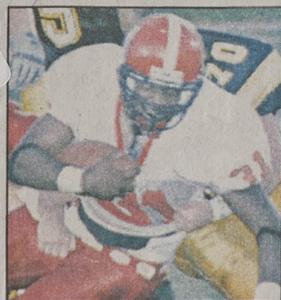
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Cancer free

Major leaguer Cloninger going back to Boston with a clean bill of health

By ELIZABETH STEWART
 Special to The Herald

Major leaguer Tony Cloninger, pitching coach for the Boston Red Sox and resident of Kings Mountain, started his baseball career in Cherryville with American Legion Post 100.

But Cloninger, 63, is not only a winner as a team player and coach but also is a winner as a cancer survivor.

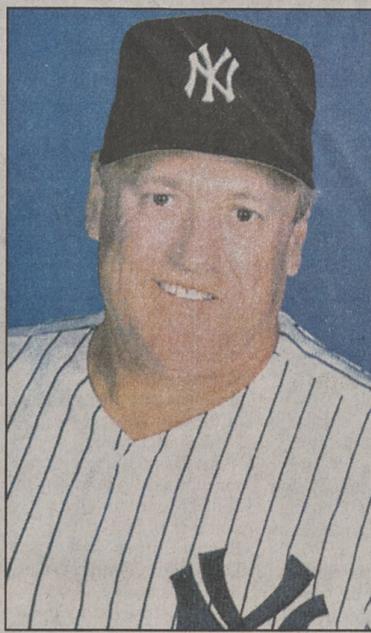
A seasoned veteran on the mound and in the bullpen, Cloninger has been recuperating at his home after surgery and treatment for bladder cancer.

"The doctors tell me I am cancer free and

I'm getting ready to go back to work next week," Cloninger said recently as he relaxed in his home and talked of his dream to help build a ball field and coaching clinic at the back of Penley's Chapel Church in Kings Mountain and "give something back to the kids of the community."

"Baseball has been good to me for 30 years," said Cloninger, who wants to conduct baseball clinics during off seasons to get more area youth involved in baseball.

He can't say enough about his new friends and supporters in the church, including Pastor Doug Allen and Voyd See Cloninger, 3A



TONY CLONINGER

Injunction granted in merger case

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

The State Supreme Court late Tuesday afternoon granted an injunction against implementation of the Cleveland County merger plan until the Supreme Court decides whether or not it will hear the case.

Kings Mountain District Schools recently lost its appeal to the State Court of Appeals. That verdict was 3-0, meaning the Supreme Court can decline to hear the case.

Supt. Dr. Larry Allen said he received word from the Schools' attorney, Bryan Shaw of Raleigh, that he had filed the request for an injunction and the merger is "on hold" until the Supreme Court receives official documentation for an appeal from See Merger, 3A

BACK TO SCHOOL



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD

Students Christopher Gordon, Kristie Stone and April Holcomb work with instructor Marie Ballard.

Adult Basic Ed at East School helps drop-outs earn diploma

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Kristie Stone had difficulty learning in her high school's large classrooms. Frustrated, she left school before graduating. Now, she wants to attend cosmetology school and eventually work as a model.

But before she can enroll in cosmetology school, Stone must have a high

school diploma. To achieve her goal, she is attending adult basic education classes three nights a week at East Elementary School.

Her class is small and quiet. There is more individual attention from teacher Marie Ballard.

"I'm learning," she says, obviously pleased with her progress.

Stone and her classmates study math and reading, in preparation for either

adult high school or GED classes.

Classmate Christopher Gordon moved to Kings Mountain from Maryland to work for his grandfather's janitorial service.

"I don't want to do that forever," he said.

Gordon hopes to either attend college or join the military. In the few weeks he has been in class, Gordon is See Adult, 3A

KM SAT scores up

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Kings Mountain High School students scored 16 points higher on the SAT test in 2002 than they did in 2001.

The Scholastic Aptitude Test measures students verbal and math abilities and is most often used as a factor in college admissions decisions. The test is administered by the private, non-profit College Board.

Kings Mountain Principal John Yarbro is proud of the students.

"We're tickled any time students excel," he said.

The scores jumped from 972 in 2001 to 988 in 2002. The number of students taking the test also increased from 54 percent to 61.6 per-

cent.

Yarbro credited students for taking the most challenging courses.

"That helps you prepare better," he said.

Also, the school sponsored a preparation program during the regular school day and a two week intensive just prior to testing.

"The students have taken advantage of that and work hard," Yarbro said.

Daily classroom instruction was another factor in the higher scores.

Good SAT scores put students in a more favorable position when it comes time to apply to college, Yarbro said.

"It's all about being prepared," the principal said.

Shear uses job loss as stepping stone to new career in teaching



DARNELL SHEAR

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

When Darnell Shear's banking job of 15 years fell victim to corporate downsizing, she looked at it as an opportunity.

"This is the Lord's way of telling me I ought to go into another profession," she said.

Shear took a job as a teacher's assistant. She already had a degree in business administration but liked the classroom so much, she earned an associate degree in early childhood education.

"I realized this is what I should have been doing all my life."

Now she is returning to school for a third degree. This time a bachelors in birth through kindergarten education.

The new degree was created in response to research about the critical importance of the first five years in a child's life.

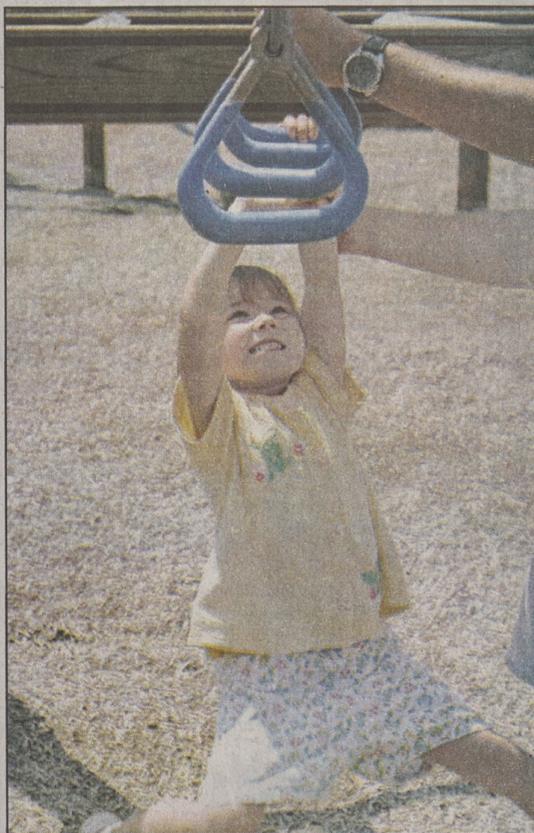
"It's a very critical age," Shear said.

Shear applied to UNC-Charlotte for the program but was not looking forward to the commute. Then she learned Appalachian State

University was offering a satellite program at Cleveland Community College. Shear calls it a "gift from God."

That was over two years ago. Shear was accepted into the program and has completed most of the coursework. Now she is awaiting scores from an exam that will determine if she can take the last five courses.

After those five courses, Shear will complete a 300 hour internship working with infants and toddlers. The hours must be completed at a five star daycare center See Shear, 3A



GARY STEWART / HERALD

Five-year-old Lauren Queen enjoyed the Labor Day holiday swinging on the monkey bars at the playground at Jake Early Sports Complex.



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