

*****CAR-RT LOT**C 002 25
 307 11-11-03 0001A00
 MAUNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY
 100 S PIEDMONT AVE
 KINGS MOUNTAIN NC 28086-3414



aid
 comes to aid
 of ailing
 grandmother

5A

High Achievers KM schools ace State ABC tests

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

All but one Kings Mountain District School exceeded state expectations on ABC's testing, according to a report issued last week by the state Department of Public Instruction.

All schools, with the exception of Davidson, scored 110 percent or higher than state goals. Davidson met 100 percent of the goal set by the state.

"We (school board) are so proud of the students, teachers, all our employees," said board chair Shearra Miller. "They worked so hard to help our students reach those levels."

Bethware, North, East and West elementary schools, Kings Mountain Intermediate and Middle schools have been named Schools of Excellence. This means over 90 percent of students are meeting proficiency standards. Grover Elementary and Kings Mountain High School have been named Schools of Distinction. Students there scored between 80 and 90 percent proficient.

There are only a handful of high schools at distinction level in this region. The high school also met its yearly progress goal on No Child Left Behind assessments. Grover missed the School of Excellence category by a fraction of a percentage point.

East and Bethware Elementary schools are among the top 25 statewide in growth for the kindergarten through eighth grade category.

For East, this is the third time the school has earned a place on the top 25 list.

Principal Jerry Hoyle credits staff, students and the community.

Parents are taking an active part in their children's academic life by making sure homework is completed and by being supportive of the school's behavioral expectations.

"It's a team effort," Hoyle said.

This is the fourth year that East has been in the School of Excellence category.
 See Schools, 3A

Two sentenced in Braswell case

By ANDIE BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Two men received prison sentences last week in Cleveland County Superior Court for the death of Justin Braswell.

David Allen Glover, 22, received 23 to 28 years in prison. He pleaded guilty to second degree murder and robbery with a dangerous weapon.

Jami Walker, 16, received 27 to 37 years. He plead guilty to second degree murder and two counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon. Walker has confessed to firing the gun that killed Braswell.

"Justice has been served," said Kings Mountain Police Captain Derek
 See Braswell, 3A

OLDER WORKERS

Working with grieving families special calling for Bill McDaniel

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Bill McDaniel's family often ask him if he ever plans to retire. The question is understandable given the 74-year-old man still works full time at Harris Funeral Home.

"I would go stir crazy with nothing to do," says McDaniel.

Seated in the funeral home parlor with its low lights and soothing music, McDaniel

describes his work as a calling.

"This is what I'm suppose to be doing. This is where the Lord wants me," he said.

Dressed in a suit, McDaniel conveys both professionalism and caring. Tall and grandfatherly, he is well suited to work with grieving families.

"I enjoy doing what I do," he said.

McDaniel explains that some may not understand how working at a funeral home

See McDaniel, 3A

STORM PREPARATION



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
 Tony Park of Bridges Hardware helps Colon Jones find materials needed to hook up a generator.

KM prepares just in case Isabel changes direction

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Vacation is on hold for city employees. Police are urging the elderly and disabled to prepare. Fire crews are fueling up chain saws. Hardware stores are selling generators. All this activity on Monday and Tuesday was in preparation for Hurricane Isabel, predicted to hit the North Carolina coast today.

Even though the Kings Mountain area wasn't expected to receive any problems from the hurricane, people locally were taking precaution just in case Isabel changes direction.

In public works Director Jackie Barnette's office, a television stayed tuned to a weather channel. All employees are on stand by.

If winds from the hurricane hit Kings Mountain, Barnette and crews will work 24 hours a day to clean up debris.

"Whatever it takes," he said.

Down the hall, Nick Hendricks, electrical director, met with linemen and groundmen. If the storm hits, crews will be out repairing lines as soon as safely possible.

They'll repair lines leading to the hospital and disabled and elderly
 See Storm, 2A

Cops take drug battle to streets

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

If you're dealing or purchasing drugs in Kings Mountain, chances are Police Chief Melvin Proctor knows more about you than you realize.

The chief and Mayor Rick Murphrey issue a warning to dealers to leave town, stop dealing or face arrest.

Police have not rested since sending shock waves through local drug dealing networks with Operation Sleigh Ride, a December bust. While that operation targeted middle level dealers, Taking It To The Streets is aimed at street level dealers and users.

Over 80 have been arrested since January. Individual dealers should not rest easy just because they have not yet been visited by police.

"Some of you have been caught and you don't even know it," Proctor said. "They would be surprised how we gather information."

Not content to depend on dealers squealing on one another, police have enlisted the community. Citizens who used to make anonymous tips now talk openly with police. Some are even equipped with video cameras, filming deals from their living rooms.

"The community is stepping up to a new level," Proctor said.

It's not just the community though. Gone are the days when the narcotics department handled drugs alone. Now detectives, administrators, community policing officers and patrol officers are involved.

"The drug trades operates on different levels. We have to attack it from different levels," Proctor said.

Patrol officers have been the backbone of Taking It To The Streets. When not answering calls, these officers are watching known dealers.

"They're tired of it too," Proctor said. "We kicked it off in December and now they've taken it upon themselves."

Much of the drugs are coming to Kings Mountain from Charlotte.

"Charlotte has a severe problem. It's effecting small communities," Proctor said.

See Cops, 3A

"They would be surprised how we gather information."

Melvin Proctor
 KM Police Chief



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
 Chris Crawford and Chasity Hawes participate in the candlelight vigil.

9/11 remembered In KM ceremony

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

Kings Mountain remembered the 3,000 killed during the Sept. 11 attacks and honored its own emergency workers Thursday night.

"Life changed forever across America and every part of the globe," Mayor Rick Murphrey said, referring to 9-11.

"The terrorists thought we would be humbled and scared. The spirit of democracy cannot be killed," he told the crowd gathered at City Hall Amphitheater.

The mayor recognized local police, highway patrol, rescue squad members and firefighters. "You make us so very proud," he said.

Rev. Bruce Hobson of El Bethel United Methodist read a poem honoring emergency workers as heroes.

Images of planes hitting the Twin Towers, debris falling, soot covered victims, funerals and Red Cross relief efforts were part of a North Carolina Firefighters video shown by the fire department.

Murphrey presented Kings
 See 9/11, 9A



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
 Bill McDaniel, 74, still works full time at Harris Funeral Home. Next week is Employ the Older American Week.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK
 Celebrating 128 Years

Kings Mountain
 300 W. Mountain St.
 704-739-4782

Gastonia
 529 New Hope Road
 704-865-1233

Shelby
 106 S Lafayette St.
 704-484-6200

Bessemer City
 225 Gastonia Hwy.
 704-629-3906