



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD  
Cheryl Lovingood teaches math to her third grade class at North Elementary School.

## Local scholarship fund to benefit KM students

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

The Kings Mountain Student Scholarship Fund will award its first four scholarships this spring.

Fund raising for the four \$1,000 scholarships began formally with a September banquet. The board, however, began meeting 13 months ago when scholarship founder Ricky Hall approached seven friends who agreed to serve.

Hall first saw the need for a scholarship when his son Adam Hall enrolled at Duke University. While the scholarship will not benefit Hall nor other board members' family, it will help Kings Mountain High School seniors.

The scholarship will pay for most programs at community college, excluding nursing, Hall said. Recipients can also apply the money toward larger tuition bills at universities. The only requirement is the school be accredited.

The student will receive \$500 initially. Students must show proof of passing grades to qualify for \$500 more at the beginning of the second semester.

A fund raiser is planned for later this spring. Hall hopes to set up a booth in the Food Lion parking lot and give away tomato seedlings to customers who agree to link their bonus cards to the scholarship fund. Through the program, Food Lion donates a percent of bonus card purchases to a local fund. That money is then evenly distributed between local non-profit organizations, according to Hall.

Students will be able to volunteer with that project and with a publicity booth at the Cleveland County Fair in the fall. Hall said this will help students meet a community service requirement which is part of many scholarship applications.

The scholarship is being publicized through the high school guidance office and with bookmarks at the school and Mauney Memorial Library.

Long range plans include establishing a \$100,000 endowment with scholarships being awarded from the interest.

For more information, visit [www.kmscholarship.org](http://www.kmscholarship.org). Donations may be mailed to P.O. Box 32, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086.

## Gaston to ask legislators for bill to allow money to follow KM students

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

After hearing from parents of students living in the Gaston County portion of Kings Mountain, Gaston County Commissioners directed County Manager Jan Winters to ask the local legislative delegation to sponsor a bill which would allow the county money, approximately \$900 per pupil, to follow the students.

If the legislative short session cannot accommodate a local bill, Winters said the two counties could work out an interlocal agreement.

Eight or nine parents addressed the Gaston County Commissioners last week, asking for their help in keeping their children in Cleveland County Schools. Prior to the merger of the three Cleveland County systems, money for these students was funneled to the former Kings Mountain District Schools through an interlocal agreement. The merger dissolved that agreement.

According to Winters, the Gaston County School Board has agreed to release those students. That means that between \$4,000 and \$6,000 per pupil will go to Cleveland County Schools.

It remains unclear if this money will be released with each individual student or if it will follow students in blocks of 100 pupils. If the money comes in blocks, Cleveland County would be reimbursed per 100 students which means if more than 100 students come from Gaston but less than 200, the number of students over 100 would not be paid for.

Approximately 186 students currently live in the effected area. Of that number, approximately 49 attend East Elementary; approximately 37, Kings Mountain Intermediate School; approximately 33, Kings Mountain Middle School; approximately 54, Kings Mountain High School and approximately 12 attend other elementary schools and one attends Davidson School.

## Lovingood North Teacher of Year

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Just in her third year of teaching, Cheryl Lovingood has earned accolades from her colleagues. Lovingood was chosen North Elementary's Teacher of the Year.

As a child, Lovingood "played school" like many youngsters do. However, she followed through with her early dreams and now has a third grade classroom of her own.

She credits teachers at West Elementary for inspiring her to become an educator.

"They really taught. They gave their heart to us," she said.

Lovingood returned to West for student teaching where she worked under Amy Bailey.

"She taught me the practical stuff. Things they don't teach you in college," Lovingood said.

The award winning teacher comes from a family of educators. Her father teaches at Cleveland Community College. Her brother is an assistant principal at Kings Mountain Middle School while her sisters teachers kindergarten at Grover. Lovingood has an aunt who also teaches.

The profession is something Lovingood describes as a calling.

"It's something God called me to do. He gifted me. I don't take any of the credit," she said.

Watching a student grasp a complicated concept - like borrowing figures in subtraction - is one of the biggest rewards for Lovingood.

"They get it. It's great," she said. "The best thing (about teaching) is you get to see

them grow."

Lovingood stresses reading and math to her class of 18. The subjects are basics they must have to function in the world, she believes.

Lovingood describes North as a place where people work well together. She says Principal Joey Hopper is an encourager who cares about what the kids are doing.

Being voted as teacher of the year by her peers - the people who see her and her students every day - means more, Lovingood said, than any award she could get at the county level.

Lovingood graduated from UNC-Charlotte with a degree in elementary education and a math minor.

"I love little kids. These kids are my kids. I take care of them," she said.

Lovingood advises aspiring teachers to be prepared for both hard work and rewards.

"You know at the end of the day no matter how stressed you are, these kids love you and you've made a difference to them," Lovingood said.

The most taxing part of the job is concern over students' progress.

"Have I done what I'm suppose to? Will they get it?" Lovingood worries.

Her classroom philosophy is to make everyone responsible.

"I tell them everyone has a job. Mine is to teach. Their job is to learn," she said.

Lovingood and her husband Eddie, a Gastonia police officer, have two dogs Mattie, a Pomeranian and Chihuahua mix and Max, a German Shepherd. The couple enjoy playing tennis.

## Widening of Phifer Road should help traffic flow at KM High School

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Parents will have an easier time picking up their children from Kings Mountain High School thanks to the Small Urban Fund.

A \$50,000 project to widen the right turn lane on Phifer Road has been approved.

"I'm pleased the DOT has seen the need in this area for traffic improvement and the state legislature is in the position to appropriate the funds," said Representative Tim Moore.

Moore received a memo about the funds from Transportation Secretary Lyndo Tippet late last

week. Moore said the road widening will make Phifer Road safer, especially during peak traffic periods.

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"It's continuous entertainment," Rankin said.

Doors will open at 9 a.m. so movie-goers can socialize with the Saddle Pals. Movies begin at 10 a.m.

Other events at the Joy

Performance Center include Free Flicks which are usually the third Saturday. A children's movie is at 10 a.m., teen movie at 2 p.m. and an R-rated movie in the evening.

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