

## EDUCATION

# SRO's make an impact

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain Police School Resource Officers A.D. Moore and D.W. Coburn are a part of the middle and high school community.

Kings Mountain was part of a nationwide effort to put officers in the schools following the Columbine shootings in 1999.

Moore has been at Kings Mountain Middle School for four years. Coburn took another officer's place at KMHS this year.

Both officers are parents of teenagers and say they enjoy working with kids. Being at school every day allows them to build a rapport with students. This often means kids will tell them about problems at home and about bullying at school. Sometimes parents

also call for help with school-related problems.

"We're in a different environment than on the street," Coburn said. "A lot more approachable."

By walking the halls during class change the officers sometimes overhear the beginnings of an argument. As with bullying, getting the parties together and explaining that combative behavior will not be tolerated may end the problem.

Officers assist school administrators to investigate suspected drug possession, theft and fighting.

The officers teach classes about drug and alcohol



COBURN



MOORE

abuse building on intermediate school DARE Officer Scott Hood's curriculum. "If we can carry that up through middle and high school

our impact is greater," Moore said.

The officers also field questions on the new graduated driver's licenses.

Coburn is mentoring two KMHS students with senior projects on marijuana use and underage drinking. Several high school students are part of an Explorer post for teens interested in a law enforcement career. The officers also are starting Students Against Violence

Everywhere clubs.

Coburn calls himself a "traffic guru." His day begins by getting vehicles safely in and out of the high school.

The officers also work with school staff to develop an emergency incident plan. They attend ball games, dances and other school events.

Moore, Coburn and other area school representatives are attending a two-day safe schools conference this week in Research Triangle Park.

Moore continues her job during summer school. SROs also work in other police positions during the summer.

Officers are assigned to every middle and high school across Cleveland County. There are 747 SROs serving North Carolina schools.

# Senior year is not all it's cracked up to be

In the classic novel "Great Expectations" by Charles Dickens, the main character, Pip, is blessed with the opportunity to have his greatest dream come true. However, upon the execution of his dream, he ends up sadly disappointed.



Donna Tackett  
KMHS News

These are the exact words used by classmate Naomi Hansen when I asked her about her senior year. Suspecting that most of my classmates would feel the same way, I decided to take a survey. After surveying slightly more than 50 seniors, I discovered that I was in fact correct and that most of the people I polled, like Naomi, are sadly disappointed in their senior year.

When asked, most seniors said they felt only minor differences in their school day. It was also agreed among those surveyed that the minor differences between their senior and junior year were in a negative way. Most seniors right now are stressed with post-graduation plans. Some seniors are waiting to hear if they have been accepted to college; some seniors are filling out scholarship applications; other seniors are making job plans; and still other seniors are making plans to join the military.

Most seniors said they remember imagining when they were freshman, what it would be like to be a senior. Most agreed they had visions of ruling the school, easy classes, and no homework. Since becoming seniors, most of us agree that that is just not the way it has turned out. When I asked Brad Moffitt about his senior year he said "its not all its cracked up to be." I believe this is a statement that sums up the way most seniors feel.

Of course, maybe it is a good thing that most of us are disappointed. After all, after graduation things are not going to go exactly how we plan them. Not all of us will be accepted to our dream school. The greater percent, if not all of us, will not have the perfect job from the beginning, and in fact a good amount of us will have trouble getting a job at all.

When I asked Luke Logan about his senior year and how he dealt with it he simply said, "(I) take it with a grain of salt."

Perhaps that is what all of us in the graduating class of 2005 need to learn to do, not just with our senior year, but with every thing that comes after it as well. Or, perhaps that is exactly opposite of what we need to do. Who knows, after all I am only a senior in high school and I still have a lot to learn.

I am currently only half way through Dickens' classic novel and the future for Pip is looking dim, but for the seniors at KMHS the future looks bright and I know that our greatest expectations still have plenty of time to unfold.

Donna Tackett is a senior at Kings Mountain High School.

## Charles Allen on dean's list at Liberty

Charles Allen of Grover was named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA.

To make the list one must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or better and carry an academic load of at least 12 credit hours.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kings Mountain Middle School recently held its spelling bee. Each team selected one student to compete. The bee lasted 20 rounds and Casey Deal won by spelling "restaurant." He will go on to compete in the District spelling bee. Participants include front row, left to right, LaBrook Davis, Christine Reid, Jannat Majeed. Middle row, Jason Price, Mary Kathrine Lynn. Back row, Ethan Roper, Alex Lopez, Casey Deal, Steven Powers, DeAndree Degree.

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# School Board to decide what to do with KM textile plant

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Merger apparently has not ended Kings Mountain High School's vocational department expansion plans.

The Cleveland County Schools board will tour the former textile plant March 28 at noon. The 26,400-square-foot building was slated by the former Kings Mountain District Schools for a \$1.3 million renovation project.

During Monday night's Cleveland County Schools board meeting members planned the tour.

"We all need to get in there and take a look at it," Superintendent Dr. Gene Moore said. "That gives us an opportunity to make some decisions as we're cranking up the budget for next year."

Former KMDS board members Shearra Miller and Terry McClain are the only CCS board members to have been inside the building. Miller said the tour will bring her fellow members up to speed on the project. The building is located across the road from KMHS.

In other business, the board approved "Educating Minds, Developing Futures" as the CCS slogan. KMHS drafting teacher Dan Owens came up with the slogan and was rewarded with \$100 from the Greater Cleveland County Schools Educational Foundation. Slogan committee members considered 180 slogans submitted by students, parents and staff.

Representatives from the Academically and Intellectually Gifted program gave a presentation on their department. Students are selected for AIG inclusion with one of the following: a score of 90 percent or higher on aptitude or achievement tests, a score within 15 percent of the highest possible End of Grade tests or other compelling and documented evidence. AIG students can be served with in-class supplemental instruction, honors classes, dual enrollment, out-of-regular-class instruction or other methods.

The following individuals were appointed to the CCS School Health Advisory Council: Donna Audrey, parent; Dr. Mike Barringer,

Cleveland Regional Medical Center; Cindy Borders, program director; Jada Brown, child nutrition; Sherry Crowder, physical education program specialist; Joey Glenn, elementary administration; Audrey Harris, health/physical education specialist middle school; Perry Holleman, faith community; Dr. Linda Hopper, district administration; Hunt Coleman, elementary administration; Linda Kiser,

Cleveland County Health Department; Esther Littlejohn, special needs; Joy Shuford, dental hygiene; Shelia Sisk, former Kings Mountain chairperson Student Health Advisory Committee; Connie Smith, parent and Debby Wease, former chairperson Shelby City Schools SHAC.

The board will meet again March 21 at 5 p.m. at the Coleman, elementary building on Post Road in Shelby.



Beverly Moffitt, pictured with student Amy Navy, received the "You Make a Difference" award at Kings Mountain Middle School. Amy said Moffitt "is a nice person. She is a very trustworthy teacher. She explains everything very clearly." Moffitt teaches 7th grade math. She sponsors the Student Government Association and Beta Club.

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