

EDUCATION

Students Merit Scholarship finalists

Kings Mountain High School Juniors Jessica Yarbro and Alex Fields were recently named semi-finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. They will compete with 16,000 other semi-finalists nationwide for the chance at a possible 8,200 Merit Scholarship awards worth a grand total of \$33 million. The scholarship award will be given to winners around the end of next semester. KMHS Juniors Courtney Tate and Lauren Suber were also recognized as Commended Students for their high scores on the qualifying test and proven ability to shine in college.

Fields is the son of Dawn Card. He plans to attend UNC-Greensboro in the fall. Most of his days at KMHS are wrapped around Advanced Theatre. He is also part-founder of the KMHS chess club.

Yarbro is the daughter of

KMHS Principal John Yarbro and Regina Yarbro of Kings Mountain. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Ambassadors' Club, FCA and Beta and Science clubs. She plays clarinet in the Mountaineer band and was selected as a member of the All-District Band. Very active in academics and athletics, she plays volleyball, softball, is a member of the swim team, attended the NC Governor's School last summer and plans to attend UNC-Chapel Hill and major in medicine.

Suber, daughter of Claude and Janet Suber, serves as president of the Science Club and vice president of the student body. She is a member of National Honor Society and the Beta, FCA, SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) and SADD (Students Against Drunk Drivers) clubs. A member of the Mountaineer band and the varsity

girls' soccer team, she was nominated for the Morehead and Parks scholarships. Last year, she was named as the school's DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Good Citizen, was nominated as a Furman Scholar and served as a junior marshal for graduation. Suber plans on studying psychology at a four-year university.

Tate, daughter of Dexter and Jerri Tate, also served as a junior marshal and is a member of National Honor Society, Beta, Ambassadors and Science clubs and Student Participation Organization. She played on the volleyball team and has played softball for three years including the 2005 and 2006 state championship teams. She serves as a student athletic trainer and was named an All Conference Team member for two years. Tate plans to attend USC-Upstate to play softball and major in pre-den-

tistry. These four students are among more than 1.4 million juniors in some 21,000 high schools who entered the 2007 National Merit Program by taking the 2005 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screen of program entrants. Semi-finalists represent less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors and include the highest scoring entrants in each state. To become a Finalist, a Semi-finalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the school principal and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier qualifying test performance. Semi-finalists must submit a self-descriptive essay and information about their participation and leadership in school and community activities.

KM students attend Presidential Classroom

Marvin Jonathan Brice and Ashley Morgan Lockhart, Juniors from Kings Mountain High were selected among six other high school students in the county to travel to Washington, D.C. for a presidential classroom. All of the students were recognized by the school board on October 23, for their honorable trip. The Presidential Classroom is a week-long academic and leadership development program held every year in the nation's capitol.

According to a news release from Cleveland County Schools, "Presidential Classroom takes students behind the scenes for seminars and discussions featuring members of Congress, presidential appointees, senior military officials, top business leaders and journalists. Students also observe the Congress in action, tour Washington and debate key issues with their peers."

Two juniors from each of the county's four high schools were awarded a \$2,000 scholarship each, to cover their tuition, room, board and travel expenses for the Presidential Classroom. The eight students were chosen by a committee consisting of school and community members.

Each of the students served as high school representatives at the board meeting and told the board members about their trip and how much they enjoyed the experience.

Stephanie Daniel Conner and Blair Anthony Dolin from Burns High, Joshua Dale Blanton and Caroline Scism from Crest High, and Kelly Lynn Rogers and Christopher S. Thurman from Shelby High were selected along with Brice and Lockhart.

D'ANGELO

From 1A

When she got a hold of him, he was fine but said the explosions were so strong that they shook the windows of the place he was in.

If a soldier is wounded in Afghanistan it would take longer for him to heal, because of the dirty air, water supply and environment, he said. During most of his time there he worked in what he and other soldiers called "The Shop." "Our shop was a shed made out of a real light wood like balsam wood. It was dirty. But it was because the air is dirty. If we cleaned a desktop, the next day there would be a layer of dirt on it," he said, adding that they breathed that in everyday too. The soldiers slept on bunk beds inside of metal shipping containers.

Along with poor conditions, he saw poverty etched into the lines of the Afghan's weather-

worn skin and felt the power of love as an orphan child held one of his daughter's baby dolls. During Christmas of last year Michelle and their daughter Eleya cleaned out the toy box. "One of the things that we did was, the toys she didn't play with anymore, we put in a box and we sent them to Daddy so he could hand them out to the kids over there," she said. Eleya, 4, was told that she did not have to send any of the toys she really wanted to keep, but through her child eyes she saw the importance of a baby doll.

After going through the toy box, the D'Angelo girls packed a huge box of different types of toys that she had played with. "We prayed over the toys before we closed the box up. We prayed that they would bring those children as much joy as they brought her," she said. She asked Philip to have someone take pictures when he went to hand the

orphans their presents for Christmas and through those pictures they saw their prayers answered. The pictures show elated children with toys worth more than gold to them. One picture shows a young girl, her head wrapped in a scarf, her sand-colored skin and dirty face stares intently at the baby doll she was just handed. "For me not to be there and to see that. For us to have that to show to her (Eleya) when she's older and understands, that was really important to us and was a really good lesson for her," Michelle said. "Anything they get is a treasure," Philip said.

Although visiting the orphans filled Philip with a deeper sense of purpose in Afghanistan, his main mission was to accompany Commanding General Karl Eikenberry. Philip traveled with the general on about 20 trips total in the country and out of country, during his deployment.

The D'Angelo's were a little lucky during the 12 months he was away because they were able to talk on the telephone every day. Michelle was also able to see him a couple of times when he was accompanying the general on trips close to home.

No matter where you are or what the conditions, time apart from family and friends in a foreign land is hard to cope with. Philip said that saying goodbye to his wife, 10-week-old son Andrew and 4-year-old Eleya was the hardest thing he has ever had to do. The departure date when his troop mobilized was September 11th. In the same respect, seeing their sweet faces again on his return home was the greatest thing. He has plans to retire but not anytime too soon.

Kings Mountain needs entries for Dec. 2 Christmas parade

Parade participants are encouraged to start signing up for the City of Kings Mountain's annual Home for Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 2, at 3 pm. Any group or individual that would like to participate in the parade should call Special Events Director Ellis Noell at 704-730-2103 or download an application at cityofkm.com. The parade will begin at the corner of Gold Street and Battleground Avenue and will travel down Battleground to King Street (US 74-Business) and then west on King to Deal Street.

Other events planned for the Home for Christmas in Kings Mountain celebration include a Tree Lighting Ceremony at Mauney Memorial Library on Tuesday, November 21, at 7 pm; Santa's Fire Truck Express (Santa visiting various day-cares via fire truck instead of sleigh) on Friday, December 8, at 9 am; Mountaineer Christmas sponsored by the Kings Mountain Business and Professional Association on Friday, December 8, from 5 pm-9 pm; and a Jingle Bell Run sponsored by the Kings Mountain Family YMCA on Saturday, December 16, from 9 am-12 noon in downtown. For more information, contact Noell or visit cityofkm.com.

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-10⁰⁰

9⁹⁸

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338230	
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320293	

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