

EDUCATION

Jane King retires

EMILY WEAVER

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Dr. Jane King worked her last day with Cleveland County Schools (CCS) as assistant superintendent and director for curriculum and instruction in December. A reception will be held in her honor on Monday, January 8 at 3:30 pm in the County Auditorium on Post Road, Shelby. The new year starts a new chapter of her life - retirement. But even though she has said farewell to her roles at CCS her work with education and local schools is far from over.

"I've never worried about what I do or what comes next. I just open the door. The Lord will lead me to where I need to be," King said. "I know the journey is not over yet. It's only over when He says it's over."

In her retirement she plans to teach at Gardner-Webb University among the master's level courses. She has taught there for the past couple of semesters and will be teaching a course in one of her field's of expertise, Curriculum and Instruction, this Spring. It was something she wanted to do because she enjoys teaching. She said that she is excited about working at GWU and seeing where that road will lead her.

Aside from teaching, she will also be working as a consultant for a group that is administering the new schools project, funded

by Bill and Melinda Gates. The program is Early College High Schools. This innovative plan will allow children to attend a four-year high school on the campus of a community college, blending basic education with undergraduate, collegiate studies. By the time a student graduates from the ECHS he or she will not only have a high school diploma but an associate's degree as well under their cap. Perhaps the best part of the plan is that the studies will come at no cost to the students just like attending a regular high school. Without paying a penny for classes, kids could have two years of college education out of the way.

King has been consulting with ECHS in Stanley, Anson and Union counties. The students that are chosen to attend ECHS are selected from a wide range of students, including all minorities, all Grade Point Averages, and of all physical or mental capacities. Cleveland County Schools (CCS) are now looking at Gates' outside-of-the-box concept of ECHS with some definite interest.

"I'll continue to do work in education and the schools for years to come, as long as I'm healthy," she said. "I want to stay involved with it because I think it's one of the most important things we give our kids."

Dr. King has been in education for the past 36 years all of which, except for one, were spent edu-



DR. JANE KING

cating the young rising leaders of Kings Mountain and Cleveland County. Her first position in the county was teaching at North Elementary. After that she spent her one year of absence working for the NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) as a staff development consultant for exceptional children. Upon request from the, then, Supt. Bill Davis, she returned to Kings Mountain City Schools as director of exceptional children's programs.

From 1981-85 King served as the principal of West Elementary and then from 1985-87 she served as the principal of North. Then she heard the central offices calling her name. She became the Director of Instruction at KMCS in 1987. In the early 90s she was appointed assistant superintendent. She retired from KMCS in 1999 but

six months later she went to work for CCS as an education consultant.

Since that time she has carried the title of director of curriculum and instruction. King grew up in Franklin, NC. She said that her mother was a nurse and that made a difference in her way of thinking. "I knew the mentality of a servant's mind and of a servant's heart. I believe that influenced me early on in finding out what I wanted to do. I knew that I wanted to do something that was going to make a difference somewhere," she said. "I was going to make things better, whether it was for the children or the situations they were in and give them opportunities that maybe they've never had. I wanted to make sure that they had that ticket so they could follow their dreams."

THENNIS

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he said. "At first I didn't find one. So me and my mentor, we kind of stepped away from that for a second so we could also concentrate on getting the car."

With an idea of what they were looking for and \$1600 in their pockets they headed out to the car auctions in Boiling Springs. Their first trip there reaped no positive results. But on their second visit they saw their four-wheeled patient - a '97 Dodge Intrepid. Thennis was excited to get it home and to get under the hood.

"We thought it was a good car and just needed little tune-ups and stuff. But when we finally got it to the house and started looking at things, we realized it needed a lot more work than we thought," he said, with a laugh. With tools in hand, they went to work and with perseverance through the little obstacles that arose, their well-oiled machine was ready to ride.

"Between working on the car, we started looking for a family because we knew things were going to come up really fast," he said. Through social connections, they finally found the right recipient. "I told her about my project and asked her if she was willing to accept the car," he said, adding that she was very thankful.

"I was hoping to maybe give it to her for a Christmas gift, but all of the insurance places were closed down until the 27th. So we had to wait until then to sign all of the papers and do all that," he said. The car turned out instead to be a gift of new begin-

nings for the New Year. The anticipated result was worth all of the wait. Worth more than any A+ he could receive on his project was the grateful tears of a person who witnessed God's love by his actions.

"Helping someone out is a great feeling. Knowing that you could change someone's life just like that is amazing," he said, adding that, that is the lesson he will take away from this experience.

eBay classes set at Cleveland College

Cleveland Community will offer two eBay courses in January. One course will be designed for the novice eBay seller and one will be designed for the novice eBay buyer.

"The Basics of Selling on eBay" will be held Wednesday, January 24 from 6-9 p.m. The course will provide new or inexperienced eBay users the tools needed to be a successful seller on the site. Solomon Willis, an Educational Specialist trained by eBay, will offer tips and tricks for selling on eBay.

"eBay 101, Introduction to Buying" will be held Monday, January 22 from 6-9 p.m. The course will provide the basics of how to navigate the eBay website and purchase items online. Harvey Whisnant, an experienced eBay buyer and seller, will provide instruction on how to get started with eBay and search for items.

Pre-registration is required and class size is limited. Cost for each class is \$50. For more information, contact the College at 704-484-4117.

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| New Listing: 401 Farris Dr. \$165,000. 3BR, 2BA, formal living/dining rm w/tp, brick ranch, city w/s, 1 car garage, 2 car carport, basement updated kitchen. | 161 Ruthaven Dr. Bessemer City \$126,900. 3BR, 2BA, carport, vaulted ceilings, deck. |
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• Roy \$ALE PENDING: 0000
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