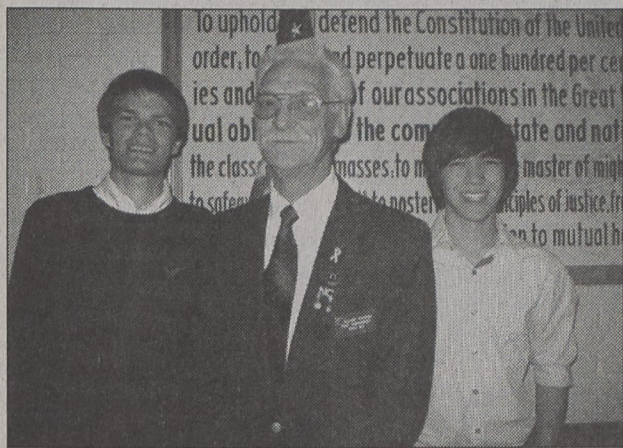


School

Gregory wins coveted Lone Mann Good Citizen Award



BOYS STATE CITIZENS - American Legion Post 155 Commander Claude Pearson, center, congratulates Boys State Citizens Matthew Gray, left, and Ethan Fujita at a supper meeting honoring Boys State and Girls State Citizens.

The six Kings Mountain High School seniors back from Tar Heel Girls and Boys State ran for office, learned about government in a two-Party system and had fun, they told the sponsoring American Legion Post 155 and Auxiliary

Thursday night at a supper meeting at Post 155.

Sarah Greenlee, Sydney Gregory, Lauren Proctor and Michelle Timms, Girls State Citizens, and Matthew Gray and Ethan Fujita, Boys State Citizens,



GIRLS STATE CITIZENS - Michelle Timms, Lauren Proctor, Sydney Gregory and Sarah Greenlee, left to right, represented Unit 155, American Legion Auxiliary, at Tar Heel Girls State in Salisbury recently.

made life-long friends, they said, helped pass bills such as safe food handling, debated other bills, elected governors and state legislators of "the best state in the land" and were among top runners for Girls and Boys Nation held

each summer in Washington, DC where the Citizens become "Senators."

Gregory won the coveted Lone Mann Good Citizen Award which honors the late founder of Girls State after tying with Green-

lee in Green City and winning in a second election and then competing with other city winners for the top award.

Boys State and Girls State are premier programs of the American Legion and Auxiliary.

Boys State is held on the campus of Wake Forest University. Girls State is held on the campus of Catawba College in Salisbury.

"Boys State was a good experience," said Fujita, who said that he enjoyed co-sponsorship of one bill and served as a State "senator." He said that young people interested in government and politics should attend.

All six students are looking at colleges after graduation, none said they would probably seek an elective office in their hometown, but all said they loved the political experience and the lessons learned at the week's short course in citizenship with hundreds of other youth their age.

Sellers chosen for North Carolina Honors Chorus

Morgan Sellers, an 8th grader at Kings Mountain Middle School and daughter of Jody and Marilyn Sellers of Kings Mountain, was the only Middle School student chosen in Kings Mountain and the only female Middle School student chosen in Cleveland County Schools, to participate in the 23rd annual 2008 North Carolina Middle School Honors Chorus.

This Chorus provides an opportunity for the very best singers from across the state to come together and work with a nationally acclaimed choral conductor.

Auditions were held in three regions across the state in which students auditioning must sing their voice part of the selected audition piece and also sight read music in a closed audition in front of a judge. Morgan sang highest soprano.

Over 1200 students in North Carolina auditioned but only 189 middle school students received this prestigious honor. Morgan traveled to Winston-Salem along with Mrs. Sherry Young, KMMS Choral Director, for the NC Music Educators In-Service Conference where the Chorus rehearsed at the Benton Convention Center and then performed as a group in a concert on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 9, at the Stevens Center, the

performing arts facility of the North Carolina School of the Arts. The Chorus was conducted by Dr. Judith Bowers from Florida State University.

After performing in the concert, Morgan received a scholarship to attend a clinic at Appalachian State University.

Morgan, granddaughter of Bill and Rachel Sellers of Kings Mountain and Etta Herrell of Bakersville, NC and Kings Mountain, has been a member of the KMMS Chorus two years and was chosen in elementary school and intermediate



school to be in the Cleveland County Honors Chorus. She has a sister, Johana, 11, and the family attends First Baptist Church.

Symphony, Oratorio to present Handel's Messiah

The glorious music of Handel's Messiah is coming to Gastonia in a special way this Christmas season. The Charlotte Symphony and the Oratorio Singers will present this work in a special concert on Thursday, Dec. 18 at First Assembly of God Church in Gastonia. The concert is underwritten by First National Bank.

The Oratorio Singers include several people with local connections. Uniquely, an entire family from Gastonia are members. Dwayne and Sarah Fink and their three daughters Jennifer, Sarah and Catherine all perform with Oratorio. Mary Katherine Monteith is also from Gastonia and there are others from Kings Mountain, Cherryville and Clover.

The Symphony and Oratorio perform this concert annually in Charlotte. This year's Charlotte concert will be on Wednesday, Dec. 17 to a sold out Blumenthal Performing Arts Center audience. Then the same orchestra, chorus, soloists and conductor will come to Gastonia Dec. 18.

Fink and Monteith both offered special words of thanks to First National Bank for underwriting the concert. "It takes a major financial commitment by First National Bank to make it possible." They further thanked First Assembly of God for hosting the concert. "The church has built this beautiful new sanctuary, with such good ambiance and great acoustics, and they've certainly welcomed us with open arms."

Tickets are available at all First National Bank offices. Advance tickets are \$20 each and \$25 each at the door. All net proceeds will be donated to a local charity.

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Keith Melton
N.C. Senate

I want to personally thank the citizens of Rutherford and Cleveland Counties for your support in my race. I would not have been able to make such a strong showing if it was not for the tremendous support of citizens like you.

Thank you again for your vote, support and desire to improve our community.

Paid for by The Keith Melton for State Senate Committee