

Class of 2011: 'never give up'

EMILY WEAVER
Editor

"Tonight, this stage and this stadium serve as launching pads for each and every one of us," Class of 2011 Salutatorian Cameron Harris told more than 300 of his classmates as he addressed a crowd in John Gamble Stadium Thursday night.

The stands on the home side were packed with proud parents and lively loved ones all cheering for the champions of the night. Kings Mountain High's Class of 2011 marched onto the field a little before 8 p.m. as the ninth grade band rang out with the tune of "Pomp and Circumstance".

The stadium air was filled with the shouts of supporters, the occasional sudden bursts of air horns, whistles and clangs of cowbells — tributes for the champions. But in the crowd's silence, wise words echoed from the mouths of the world's future leaders.

"Look forward to your future but don't forget where

you've been," Valedictorian Erica Hicks told her classmates.

"Hardly any two paths are the same from this point," Harris said. "For the past 13 years all of us have been on nearly the same course working towards the same goal and we all accomplished that goal tonight. At this point, like the two roads in the famed 'yellow wood' this is where our paths diverge. For each of us has our next steps planned out and our new goals set."

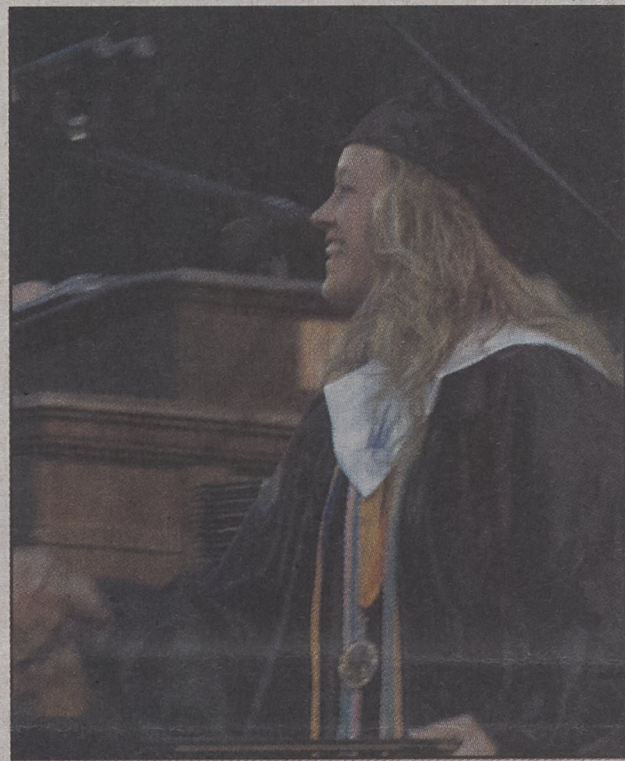
"Take the lessons you have learned here at Kings Mountain High School and apply them to your endeavors that are to follow," advised Hicks. "Never settle for less than you deserve. Fight for your dreams and the things that you want out of life."

Harris cautioned, "As we move forward from this stage in the new chapters in our lives it is inevitable that each of us is going to experience moments of great success. However, it is equally likely that we all are going to



photos by EMILY WEAVER

Graduates leave the halls of their (now) alma mater and head to John Gamble Stadium.



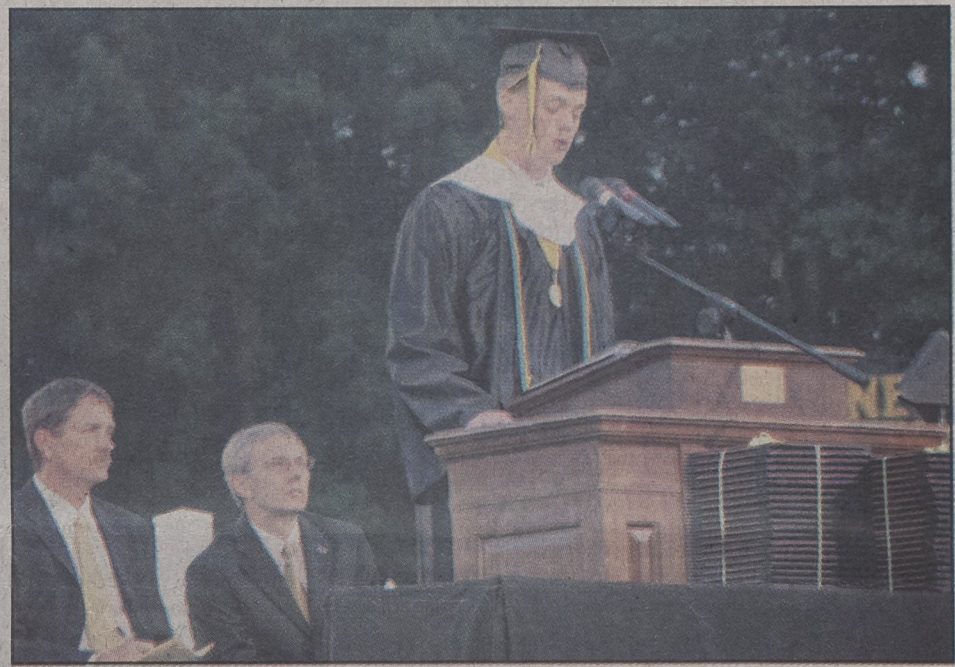
Class of 2011 Valedictorian Erica Hicks receives congratulations from Cleveland County Schools Superintendent Dr. Bruce Boyles.

experience hardship and struggles at points as well. At times, we will even be told that we have failed."

Harris broke Kings Mountain High School's single school passing record three times in his senior year, and set new records for pass completions and touchdown passes while maintaining the second highest GPA of his class. On the men's track team, he also finished ninth in shot and third in discus at the state championship meet this year. But he learned that success on and off the field is never a given.

"I'll never forget the words of one of our football coaches: 'today you can be good, you can be great or you can be legendary'. Failure, simply, was not an option to him," Harris said. "People would agree that success comes through commitment and determination to accomplish goals. This Class of 2011 has experienced success in every way

"We do not fail merely because we face adversity or struggle to overcome it, we fail because we choose to quit trying." — Michael Cameron Harris, Class of 2011 Salutatorian



Michael Cameron Harris gives the Salutatorian address at the 2011 commencement exercises Thursday night at John Gamble Stadium.

GRADUATES, 5A

Tour the world from home Summer Reading kicks off Friday

EMILY WEAVER
Editor

Mauney Memorial Library is inviting you to join them on a free trip around the world in this year's Summer Reading program, "One World, Many Stories."

Cruise the Mediterranean, take a trip back through time in the kingdoms of "yore", clash blades with pirates and discover the continents of Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia and more, without leaving your home. The journey awaits in books and in exciting programs scheduled for travelers this summer. More than 500 have already boarded.

The adventure begins at 10 a.m. Friday, June 17, with Sure-Fire Entertainment for all ages at Central United Methodist Church, across from the library on Piedmont Ave. Mark Lippard of Sure-Fire Entertainment will dazzle the crowd with his trick unicycling, fire-eating and juggling, with occasional help from the audience.

Other free programs, throughout the summer, include journeys to Africa with "African Folktales", a glimpse of the Yoruba (Southwestern Nigeria) culture and an "African Drum Circle"; around the world with visits from unique creatures, puppet shows of "Folktales from Global Village" and a fast-paced scavenger hunt through countries and continents; and to the land of Celtic roots with faerie lore and ballads. The End of Summer Reading celebration on July 29, will feature "Criss Cross Mangosauce" performing a high energy, bilingual and bicultural concert, bridging cultural differences through the arts.

But young readers are not required to leave their home to "travel the world". Participants can register for "One World, Many Stories", meet their reading goals and earn bucks playing games on-line at www.mauneylibrary.org

Visit the website, click on Summer Reading, click on

"children", complete the user registration, determine your weekly reading goal, update your progress each week for access to a bonus activity sheet, and upon completion, print your Summer Reading Certificate and bring it to the library for a signature.

Teens and adults can also register and keep up with their reading goals online.

In "You Are Here", teens



Four-year-old twins Aaliyah Davis, left, and Akeelah Davis crack open books at Mauney Memorial Library.

LIBRARY, 5A

20% OFF
Total Purchase* ~ No Exclusions!



Awesome Gifts for that Awesome Dad!

At Suzy B's you'll find one of the area's best selections of fun and unique gifts for all ages.

All ready to give in a Suzy B's gift bag!

Baby Gifts • Weddings • Birthdays
Tyler Candles • Skin Care Products
Anniversaries • Special Occasions
Handbags • Jewelry • Accessories

Suzy B's

223 S. Battleground Ave., Kings Mountain

704.734.0830

Open: Mon-Fri 9:30am-5:30pm & Sat 9:30am-3pm

*Sale ends 6/25/11



Dellinger's Jewel Shop

112 W. Mountain St., Kings Mountain

704-739-8031

Tuesday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Closed Monday

In Loving Memory

I love you.

Love, Mama



Andrew David Bunch
2-9-1988 • 6-20-2009