

Cerjan, Allen top the class of 2013

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Mike Cerjan, the No. 1 student, and Matthew Allen, the No. 2 student in the Class of 2013 at Kings Mountain High School, share high goals.

Cerjan, 18, the valedictorian, aspires to become a civil engineer after completing four years of study at N. C. State University.

Allen, the salutatorian, aspires to become a prosecuting attorney after completing pre-law studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Both are honor students (All a's) and

their end of high school scores were very close. Cerjan said "we were neck and neck all year and actually tied for a time."

Cerjan, son of Christopher and Stella Cerjan, served as president of the Math club last year, was on the Frisbee golf team, computer-aided drafting and design club. He plays guitar and bass and likes to write songs. He is a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and has one sister, Anna, 16.

Allen, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Doug Allen, is active in the Beta Club, National Honor Society, and served as

president of the National Technical Honor Society. He plays chess and is a member of Penleys Chapel Church. He has a sister, Allison Diaz and brother-in-law, Osvaldo Diaz of Gastonia. He works part time at Swoogers in Kings Mountain. He is the grandson of Shirley Wilson of Gastonia.

The top scholars grew up in Kings Mountain and said that growing up in a small town and attending KM High School was a blessing. Both said they would consider coming back to their hometown to work, "go where we are needed."

MAYHEW: marks a century

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to golf. He and his wife have competed in the Cleveland County Senior Olympics and N. C. Olympics and between the two of them they have two laundry baskets full of medals.

Mayhew played basketball and baseball at Number Three High School when it was 11 grades. They didn't have football or he would have played it, too. He played pro baseball for Newton-Conover and Mooresville for one season and returned home to serve in Uncle Sam's Army and go to work.

Before retiring he and his

late wife, Susie Mayhew, owned and operated Mayhew Appliances in Shelby for more than 25 years. He and Ruth Eaker Gamble were married March 25, 1989.

They attend Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church and El Bethel United Methodist Church on alternate Sundays each month. Last Sunday his pastor at Sulphur Springs recognized him for long service to the church and community and for a century of life that few people have opportunity to celebrate. Tom is looking forward to 101 candles on his birthday cake next June.

PROCTOR: up for any challenge

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often works undercover. This means she sometimes poses as a seller or a buyer in a world marked by suspicion, betrayal and remorseless violence.

"It's a fine line you have to be able to walk. You have to be able to read people," said Proctor, 43, who recently talked about her career as a cop, her ordeal with cancer, her love of competitive barrel racing, and an intensive West Point accredited leadership training program she completed in May.

Above all else, Proctor is guided by her faith. "I pray up daily because I know this job is dangerous."

Although Proctor projects calmness and confidence, she says she has an intense desire to get better, smarter about her work. It was that drive that propelled her to enroll in the West Point Leadership Program through Methodist University. Proctor traveled to Apex, a small city outside of Raleigh, to take weekly eight-hour classes from January through May and said the homework involved ate up much of her weekends and free time. In class she rubbed shoulders with narcotics officers and police chiefs from all around the state.

"It's about leadership skills, tactics, learning how to work effectively with different personalities. It's like a bus. You don't just fill it up with people and drive. You have to get the right people in the right seats. We learned how to be good leaders, and how to mold leaders. What we want is that those (younger officers) coming up behind us to know more than we did at the time."

The West Point Leadership Course is adapted from a military course that's required of all cadets in the United States Military Academy in their third year of study.

In October of 2009, Proctor received some terrifying news. Doctors diagnosed her with a fast-growing, late-

stage breast cancer. She was under a surgeon's scalpel just 12 days later. Later, she endured numerous painful and sickening rounds of chemotherapy and eventually underwent reconstructive surgery.

"It was a crisis I couldn't have gotten through without God and my family. We prayed for very specific things. Very specific things," Proctor says, crediting her deep sense of faith and the loyalty of her husband, KMPD Police Chief Melvin Proctor.

Proctor's competitive spirit, which has supplied her with the gumption to fight cancer and crime, also kept her active at what's probably her most passionate hobby: barrel racing.

A year to the day after the diagnosis that turned her world upside down, Proctor won the 2010 National Barrel Horse Association's 5D Reserve World Championship in Perry, Ga., on her horse named "My Secret Troubles." The prize for that was a nice pair of boots, a belt buckle and a cash award that she prefers not to get specific about.

The accomplishment was all the more remarkable because, on the heels of chemotherapy and surgery, it was only 45 days before the event that she was able to get on a horse to practice.

"Cancer made me a better person," said Proctor, who is planning on writing a book about her work, her horses and the battle she nearly lost to the disease. "It's going to be about the ordeal and the people who helped me get through it."

Proctor was named the 1998 Drug Agent of the Year and the 2002 Child Abuse Investigator of the Year for Region C, which encompasses Rutherford, Cleveland, Polk and McDowell counties. The detective division that Proctor belongs to was also awarded the region's 2003 Richard Corley Award, which goes to law enforcement groups that were able to make an extraordinarily positive impact on the community.

The KMHS Valedictory speech by Michael Cerjan:

"Good morning fellow graduates, friends, and family. Today's ceremony is brought to you by the number thirteen. On close inspection, our graduating class has a very deep connection to this number. We grew up in Kings Mountain (a city whose name is thirteen letters long), in North Carolina (a state whose name is thirteen letters long), and (including kindergarten) have received thirteen years of educational instruction, and are now graduating in the year 2013. To people who believe in superstitions, the number thirteen is unlucky, bringing misfortune to those who encounter it. Could it be that our graduating class is possibly the unluckiest bunch of students to ever graduate from Kings Mountain High?"

"I think not. You see, we have all been given great opportunities that have prepared us for the next step of our journey. We've been blessed to be surrounded by people who want to see us improve and be successful, and those people have instilled in us important values to succeed in the 21st century, values like hard work and determination. We've been specially trained for success in whatever the next stage of our life is, whether it's military service, enrollment at college, or the beginning of a professional career. The world is full of opportunities just waiting to be taken. We are going to achieve great things, we are going to overcome some difficult obstacles and solve difficult problems, and most importantly, we're going to get all the credit for doing those things."

"I think if we take a moment to count our blessings, then we will truly know how lucky we really are. I want to clarify for a minute; I'm certainly not saying that we should go around breaking mirrors and walking under ladders all the time. Not only is that bad luck, it's just plain dangerous. I AM saying that we Graduates should take extreme pride in our connection to the number thirteen. The next time somebody says how unlucky thirteen is, just show them how awesome you turned out. Who better to improve the reputation of thirteen than this graduating class?"

The KMHS Salutatory speech by Matthew Allen:

"Good morning, never thought you would hear that at graduation, did you?"

"Over the past few weeks people, some who I last saw when I was a baby, have stopped me in conversation, and the conversation always builds up to them saying something along the lines of "Look how far you've come," or "look at where you are now." Well, this is not really that far, maybe a ten or so minute ride from my house and this is a nice place, but it is not the Promised Land."

"Naturally, I'm sure many of the seniors behind me have had similar conversations, and while the intention is wonderfully nice, I am equally sure that the seniors, me included, can essentially agree on the same thing. If we consider the topics of these conversations to be our greatest achievements in life, we would stop and look at those people suggested, but they are not."



KMHS class of 2013 valedictorian, Michael Cerjan.



KMHS class of 2013 salutatorian, Matthew Allen.

This momentous day, that it is, is only the beginning of the journey to the Promised Land. For some that land is a career, for some, it is honorably serving in the military, for some it is a family, and for others it is a mixture of all three. We all have a promised land, and we will all strive to achieve it. We will go to college, join the military, or get a job, all to achieve that goal, to reach the Promised Land. Once we get there, we look around in content, for our job is done, but until then every minor victory, every achievement reached, will be stepping stones, and as we celebrate, well deserved, we will have our Promised Land in mind, for that is just the type of people we are. We, members of the Class of 2013, have and will continue to have our minds focused on that Promised Land if only because, as our high school careers show, we are achievers with motivations and goals."

Public hearing Tuesday

Public hearing on the Kings Mountain ABC Board proposed \$1,278,700 budget will be held Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the Kings Mountain ABC Store, 220 Cleveland Avenue. The meeting is open to the public and a copy of the proposed budget is available for inspection in the office of the board's general manager, Aileen Ormand, 220 Cleveland Avenue, Kings Mountain.

Out-of-School celebration

Carolina Place Arcade, 318 W. King St., is holding an out-of-school celebration Saturday, June 15, from 12 noon until 8 p.m. Students of all ages are invited. Bring your report cards and play 2 free video games for each "A" and 1 free video game for each "B." This offer is good throughout the year.

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