



Community News

E. E. Smith students connected to stars

by Jae McKrae - www.fayettevillepress.com

Not too many people have easy access to call an astronaut or to get a call from one. That's what happened recently at E. E. Smith High School in Fayetteville. 91-year-old Katherine Johnson visited the school's honors astronomy class. Her friend is Astronaut Leland D. Melvin.

"Anyone play video games in there?" Melvin asked. "Well, if you can play and master a video game, you can work a robotic arm in space." Melvin was a part of a 13-day flight to deliver 30,000 pounds of spare parts in November for the International Space Station. For almost 20 minutes, Melvin described the mission to students, answered questions and encouraged them to pursue their dreams.

"You can do anything you put your mind to, if you believe in yourself," he said.

Katherine Johnson was the first black female research mathematician and physicist working for NASA. She helped guide astronauts throughout the early years of manned space flights including the first space mission to the moon. Do you know what astronaut was on that mission? Johnson designed star charts that astronauts learned as a back-up navigation system, in case their computers failed. She calculated the routes famous moonwalker Neil Armstrong and other astronauts would take.

"A lot of youngsters have no ambition. Nobody has let them know it's okay to study and be smart. When I find students who are interested, I'll sit and talk to them all day."

'Loved to learn'

Early in Katherine Johnson's life, her family moved to Institute, W. Va. It was one of the few areas that offered high school classes to black people. Although her father was a sixth grade dropout, he knew the value of a good education. Johnson, a West Virginia native was born in 1918, the youngest of four children. She contends, "Teachers never had a problem with me. I always liked learning." She was 14 years old when she graduated. She later earned a



bachelor's degree at 18 years during the Great Depression.

One of her college professors recognized Johnson's talent and groomed her to become a research mathematician.

Following college, she taught in Virginia and West Virginia schools. She later married, and started graduate classes in 1940. However, after her husband became ill, she taught his classes in the public schools to provide for her family.

In the 1950s, Johnson learned that the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics at Langley Research Center - NASA's predecessor agency - was looking to hire black women mathematicians; she was hired in 1953.

"NASA was a very professional organization, and everybody was a smart person. Everybody had been to college. Everybody was interested in what they were doing. They didn't have time to be concerned about what color I was."

NASA men held graduate degrees in mathematics

"They had forgotten all the geometry they ever knew. I still remembered mine." Johnson used plane analytic geometry and algebraic equations to make the space flight maps used by astronauts. "It was a real challenge to do the Apollo missions to the moon."

When Neil Armstrong landed on the moon, Johnson was at an Alpha Kappa Alpha convention. None of her sorority sisters knew that Johnson had worked on the project.

Most of Johnson's work was done in secret, said her daughter, Connie Garcia.

Katherine Johnson would go on to marry an Army colonel after her first husband died of brain cancer, her daughter said.

Johnson's trip to E. E. Smith was paid for by Joe and Linda Rivera, owners of the Greek Shop in Fayetteville. Their son Larry met Johnson a year earlier. Johnson visited multiple classes.

Students appreciative

Freshmen Lynell Raphile and Naheem E. Maldonado said they felt empowered by Johnson's visit. Maldonado said, "To see her in real life is amazing."

City officials were equally impressed. Fayetteville council members presented Katherine Johnson with flowers and a corsage. Then, proclaimed March 3, 2010, Katherine Johnson Day. As she stood there basking, it was indeed another Kodak moment.

Math Essentials Tutoring Service

"Where Learning is made FUN!"



Specializing in areas of
General Mathematics,
Pre-Algebra and Algebra
Open to students of all ages

Hours:

Monday thru Wednesday
5pm to 8pm
Friday
5pm to 9pm
Saturday
10am to 2pm

Tamekia Lewis
(910) 364-5816

mathessentials@gmail.com



Robert McLymore
Broker / Associate

5334 Yadkin Road
Fayetteville, NC 28303
Bus. (910) 864-2121
Res. (910) 868-1836
Pager: (910) 323-7094



E-mail:
rmclym86@aol.com

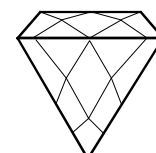
Suburban Jewelry Repair & Sales

1207-B Murchison Road * Fayetteville, NC 28301
Across the street from Fayetteville State University



Dorothy McAllister
(910) 488-3601
Satisfaction Guaranteed

Gold & Sterling Silver
Bracelets * Chains & Rings



Custom (Name Plates)
Tuesday thru Friday
9am to 5pm
Saturday
10am to 2pm

DISCOUNTS

Your **Source** For **Lower**
Insurance **Rates.**

Find out about our money-saving discounts on auto and homeowners insurance. Call me...Stop by...

Log on-it's your choice!

Herbert L. Townes

(910) 487-4663 * 8175 Cliffdale Road, Fay., NC 28314

Townesh@nationwide.com



Herbert L. Townes
Senior Account Agent



Marcus Townes
Associate Agent



Nelia Tolliver
Office Manager



Une Brzezinski
Associate Agent



Nationwide
Is On Your Side



Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and Affiliated Companies,
Columbus, OH 43215-2220 MISC14 11/00

Arether's

Little M&M Childcare I & II
3377 & 3389 Cumberland Road *Fayetteville, NC 28306
910-423-1305 or 910-424-1822

"Quality Childcare When You're Not There"



Happy 1st Birthday
Zarah Lewis
From
The Management &
Staff of
Arether's Little M&M
Childcare I&II

Arether M. Mills, Owner

Over 20 years of childcare experience
State Licensed

More-At-Four Pre-Kindergarten Program
Department of Social Service Vouchers Accepted
Field Trips, Lesson Plans, Certified Teachers
Nutritious meals and Snacks provided

6-Week to 12- years Old

Hours of Operation

6:00AM to 6:00PM * Monday thru Friday

"Army Child Carefee Assistance"



Billy R King, Agent
1555 Cain Rd
Fayetteville, NC 28303
Bus: 910-822-6676
b.r.king.bwjx@statefarm.com

Here's my
idea of
economic
stimulus:

Get discounts up to

40%

If your economy needs some stimulation, I'll show you how to make your car insurance dollars work harder. Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.[®]
CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7



State Farm
INSURANCE

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL