

JAKE EARLY
Kings Mountain's Contribution To The Big Leagues
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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

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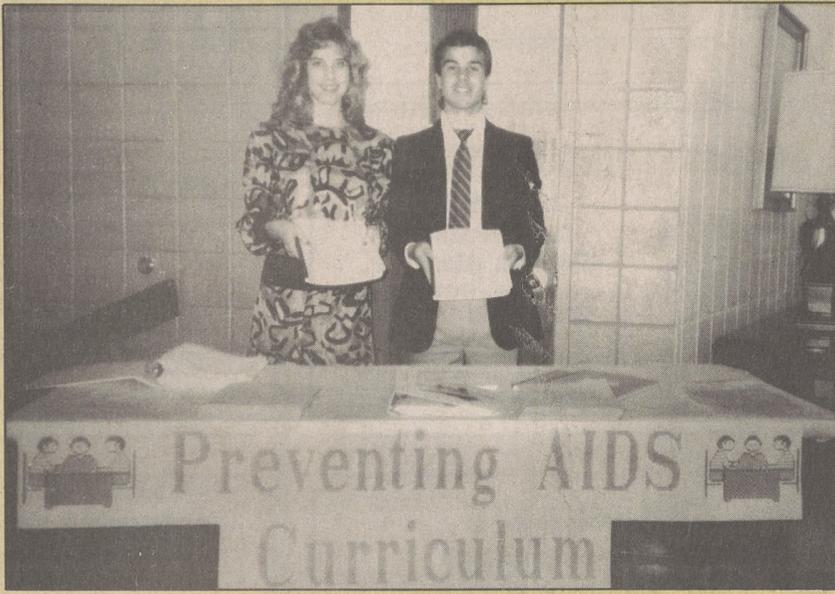
AIDS Curriculum Previewed

The good news is there are no children in Kings Mountain schools with AIDS but the bad news is there are children not in school carrying the virus.

The sad news is that in Cleveland County four of six people have died with the dreaded disease, and eight have been tested positive. A total of 296 people have visited Cleveland County Health Department and undergone tests.

The sad facts are that a person can carry the virus but pass it on and in 1991 more people will die of AIDS than from traffic accidents, according to statistics. Symptoms may not appear for 10 or more years after exposure.

The factual information was presented to a handful of KM teachers and parents Tuesday night at a preview of the KM school system's new Aids prevention instruction program which will begin March 28 at KM Junior High and continue through April 1 at KM Senior High on four



AIDS CURRICULUM-Jenny Reid, left, and Bryan Jones, KMSHS seniors, display the AIDS curriculum to be offered to students to grades 7-12 this school year and stated mandated in grade seven health classes next year.

Fridays. On April 15-May 6 and at Central School April 18-22. At KMSHS the class will be offered in 10th grade biology classes in 11th grade history class and 12th grade English class to reach every student. Instructors are being trained by Cindy Borders, health education coordinator

for the KM and Shelby schools, a health support advisory committee and representative of the Cleveland County Health Department.

The program has been mandated by the State General Assembly to be taught as part of the regular

seventh grade health class next year, but will be offered to students in grades 7-12 this year. Individual students are not required to participate if their parents object.

Mrs. Joyce King, of the Cleveland County Health

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Board Okays King Holiday

By GARY STEWART
Managing Editor

All students and school employees in Kings Mountain District Schools will observe the third Monday in January, 1989, as Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, the board of education voted at its regular monthly meeting Monday night at the superintendent's office.

The School Calendar Committee, which includes area teachers, students and parents, had placed the date in the 1988-89 calendar as a holiday for students and an optional workday for teachers.

However, prior to the official adoption of the calendar Monday night, a group calling itself "Citizens for Community Interest" asked to be heard, and after a lengthy discussion the board agreed to make the date a holiday for everyone.

The board also agreed to have the calendar committee replace the workday at some other point in the school calendar but not change the opening or closing dates of school.

Fred Bryson, representing the citizens' group, recalled last November when the group appeared before the board asking for the holiday and said he "assumed everything would be done."

"However," he said, "we learned to our dismay that it's going to be used as an optional day (for employees) and we'd like to see it made a mandatory holiday. Representatives of the black community feel a paramount need that Dr. King's birthday be recognized as a mandatory holiday."

Supt. Bob McRae and assistant superintendent Larry Allen said the calendar committee felt it was being consistent with the calendars of neighboring Shelby and Cleveland County when it designated the date as a holiday for students and an optional workday for employees. Since the proposed calendar was made up, however, they said the other two systems decided to make it a holiday for everyone.

"We didn't see this particular calendar as being inconsistent with the pledge we made to you in November," McRae told Bryson. "My perception in November was that an optional workday made it clear that no students would be in school and any teacher would have the option of not working."

McRae told the board it could approve the calendar as presented, send it back to the committee for recommendations, or make the changes itself. He suggested if the board intended to make King's birthday a holiday for all, it should go ahead and approve it and give the committee authority to say where the workday is placed in the calendar.

"There's no way to come up with a solution that's desirable for everyone," he said, "but there is a way to make it fair."

Both McRae and Allen praised the calendar committee for its long hours and hard work in developing the 1988-89 calendar.

Billy King, board member who served on the committee, echoed their statements.

"The committee worked hard and we felt good about the calendar," he said. "One of my concerns was that we needed to follow through with our commitment in November and we were operating with the assumption that Shelby and Cleveland County would be matching up to our calendar. But in light of Cleveland County, Shelby and Gaston County changing their calendars to reflect it as an official holiday rather than a discretionary workday, I would be willing to make that recommendation and let the committee work out the change."

School Board Hires Firm To Design JH-SH Expansion

The Kings Mountain Board of Education Monday night hired the architectural firm of Holland and Hamrick of Shelby to design expansion projects at the junior and senior high schools.

Supt. Bob McRae said the board is shooting for next spring to have construction plans ready for bid.

The expansions will make it possible for the school system to implement its recently-approved organization plan. The first phase calls for closing Central School as a facility for students and moving the sixth and seventh grades to the junior high and the ninth grade to the high school.

McRae said the system hopes to be ready for that change by the 1990-91 school year. The system's long-range facility plans also calls for improvements at all elementary schools through 1996.

The expansions projects are being made possible by

the state school construction funds and the county's half-cent sales tax.

The County Board of Commissioners has already approved the building of a new elementary school in Boiling Springs and the KM board hopes its junior high-senior high project will be the second one approved under the new state construction project.

In other business Monday, the board:

*Approved the fourth annual basketball camp at KMHS for June 13-18.

*Approved the vocational educational plan for next year. Its total cost will be \$833,697, of which a minimum of \$686,118 will come from state and federal sources.

*Heard a report from assistant superintendent Larry Allen on the sixth and eighth grade writing scores. Allen said sixth graders "did extremely well" and that the

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Hamrick Wants City Cleaned

Cleveland County citizens generate 200 tons of solid waste per day and that's a lot of trash.

Kings Mountain realtor Larry Hamrick Sr. made the statement at Tuesday's meeting of the Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Commission which geared up for a busy year by setting high goals and focusing on May 3 as a deadline for an informational booklet to be completed by the development team on

what Kings Mountain is doing on "Planning and Managing Our Community Economy."

Hamrick, who serves on the county's solid waste advisory board on appointment by Cleveland County Board of Commissioners, said the county is a step ahead by funding studies on waste disposal, looking at solid waste incinerators while investigating the possibility of finding a steam user to buy steam which would be generated by an incinerator

to replace landfills and working up a flow control ordinance which spells out how legally trash is moved.

Hamrick said he thinks Kings Mountain citizens should get on the clean-up band wagon by doing something about unsightly litter in the area and especially on the highways. Hamrick said he walks the Country Club golf course each morning and finds new

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LARRY HAMRICK

Mauney Library Needs More Money

More money is needed to furnish and equip a big expansion program at Jacob S. Mauney Memorial Library.

Librarian Rose Turner said that since the expansion fund drive was first begun over a year that building costs have escalated and an additional \$101,000 will be required to complete the mammoth project.

The \$357,277.00 fund drive

for renovation and expansion included pledges of \$220,000 and \$153,277 in actual cash.

Bids were taken in November 1987 with Huffman and Son Construction Co. entering the lowest bid at \$249,500. Since this was beyond the library budget, the library Board deleted some items at a cost of \$28,300 and the final contract was awarded to Huffman in

the amount of \$221,200.

In order to put the deletions back in the building, furnish the building and obtain the necessary equipment Mrs. Turner said the additional funds are needed. Without the additional money, she said tables, chairs, book stacks and other equipment won't be purchased.

"We are proud of the peo-

ple of Kings Mountain for responding so well to the fund drive and for their interest in Mauney Memorial Library and its progress. It is only through a strong library that we can build an educated and informed citizenry. With our current expansion, we will be able to meet the needs of the people of Kings Mountain more effectively", said Mrs. Turner.

Firemen Honored

A total of 330 years of service by 13 veteran and retired firemen was recognized by 40 firemen of the Kings Mountain Fire Department at the first annual Appreciation Dinner Tuesday night at KM Fire Museum.

Fire Chief Tignor took the occasion to present appreciation plaques to Tom Lander, retired instructor with the Department of Insurance Fire Rescue Division, Raleigh, and to Kings Mountain Mayor Kyle Smith. He also presented certificates to retired firemen C.D. (Red) Ware, T.C. (Red) McKee, Howard McKee, S.A. (Red) Blanton, Fred Thornburg, Wink Russell, Dutch Wilson, John White, Tommy Farr and Jackie Barrett.

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PHOTO BY RED MCKEE

HONORED—Kings Mountain firemen held the first annual Appreciation Banquet Tuesday and presented certificates honoring more than 300 years of service. Above, Chief Gene Tignor, left, presents plaques to Mayor Kyle Smith and Tom Lander, right, retired instructor with the Department of Insurance Fire Rescue Division.