

What You and Your Family Should Know About Drugs & Alcohol

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Crisis Ministry lends a helping hand

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Mountaineers in thick of conference race

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• 50¢

Some parents still hot over sex

Parents tell school board to do its homework

Parents blamed the Kings Mountain School Board Tuesday for not doing their homework on the revised "healthy lifestyles" curriculum which started Monday in the Kings Mountain Middle School.

The sex education segment came under attack by opponents who said that sex education classes embarrass children, teach alternative lifestyles and fail to encourage parent involvement.

Board members said parents had been misinformed and encouraged parents to attend some of the classes.

Parents said they had been misled by information gathered at a recent parent meeting chaired by the Health Council.

"You promote involvement as one of your goals and only one of you, Sonny Peeler, a member of the Health Council, attended the recent parent meeting by 125 people at the Middle School," said Stella Putnam, a parent. "You should have been there."

Putnam urged the board to separate the kids by sex for all sex education classes. "I know that Health Coordinator Cindy Borders opposes the segregated classes because

she says we're regressive if separated by sex but I took my daughter out of the class because I didn't want her to be embarrassed.

"Take a hard look at the Health Council," said Putnam.

"I'm concerned about my children who I train at home but I am also concerned about those children who may miss training at home."

Dr. Staley Jackson defended the Health Council, saying that it is made up of caring people from a cross section of the community.

See Homework, 13-A

A majority of parents of Kings Mountain Middle School students apparently support the school system's new family life curriculum.

Only 36 students of 944 in grades 6, 7, and 8 opted not to enroll in the first class Monday morning.

But Melony Bolin, one of several critics of the sex education portion of the revised curriculum, charged Tuesday night that parents have been misled by school officials who have told them the curriculum is state-mandated.

"The only mandated portion is that portion about HIV-AIDS and I have been told by the State Department of Public Instruction that the curriculum can be added to or deleted by the local board which also determines materials used and how the curriculum is to be taught.

"You set the minimum guidelines," Bolin told the board.

"It's in your hands whether you approve the recommendations of the Health Coordinator and Health

Council. You determine the classes and the number of classes and whether they include resource material used.

"The State of North Carolina doesn't review curriculum that has been put together at the local level and does not have the authority to do so. It is time for the Kings Mountain Board of Education to be straight-forward with the community."

Bolin said that three school systems in the state teach the abstinence courses. They are Davie, Rowan and Nash Counties. She said that New Hanover County gives parents the option of enrolling their students in either a class called 'Stepping Stones' or sex respect.

See Sex ed, 13-A

Schools to ask commissioners for \$1.97 million toward budget

Kings Mountain District Schools Supt. Dr. Bob McRae presented on Wednesday a budget request to Cleveland County Commissioners for a 9.8 percent increase in current expenses or \$1.97 million.

The Kings Mountain Board of Education adopted the budget unanimously Tuesday night without discussion after a public hearing at which no one commented.

A major item in the budget includes a request for \$35,000 to provide a resource/police officer at the high school/middle school, one of the recommendations by the new task force on school violence.

This year a city police officer has worked three hours each day at the high school and has supervised the safety checks using hand-held metal devices.

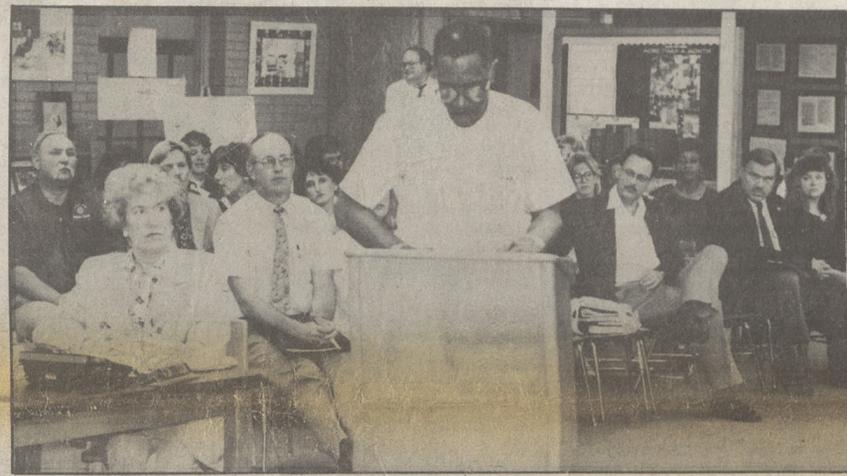
See Budget, 12-A

Summer schools to open in June

A state-funded summer school for grades 3, 4, and 5 at North School and for grades 6, 7, and 8 at Kings Mountain Middle School and tuition summer school for current 6th, 7th and 8th graders who failed math, language or reading and a Kings Mountain High School summer school for students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 were approved by the Kings Mountain Board of Education Monday.

Letters will go out this week to parents of students eligible to attend the state funded schools at North and KMMS June 20-July 19. The school is free at no cost to the

See Summer, 12-A



Dr. Staley Jackson, Kings Mountain orthopedic surgeon and a member of the Kings Mountain Health Council, defends the school systems' revised healthy living curriculum at Tuesday night's Board of Education meeting at which 80 parents protested portions of the curriculum dealing with sex education.

Yarbro burned in grill mishap

Ken Yarbro, 56, is a lucky man. The former landscaper and Western Auto truck driver was burned over 26 percent of his body Saturday while trying to light a large gas grill at a cookout for sheriff's candidate Dan Crawford at the National Guard Armory.

Tuesday, Yarbro was laughing and talking with his wife, Diddy, in his room at the Trauma Unit of the North Carolina Burn Center in Chapel Hill and worrying that Mrs. Yarbro and their children, Lisa Cavenny, Johnny Yarbro and Dee Yarbro, were driving the distance to the hospital. Doctors have told him he can possibly come home in about a week.

Fire Chief Frank Burns said Yarbro's freak accident happened at 5:26 p.m. when he was attempting to relight the grill and the vapors built up, ignited, flashed back and severely burned him from his stomach to his neck.

Burns said that the clothes were burned off the man and that two other volunteers, Lt. Raymond Hamrick and Jeffrey Page, were injured when they tried to put out the fire.

Yarbro was cooking hamburgers and hotdogs on a grill outside the Armory and his wife was inside the Armory slicing cakes when the accident occurred.

Yarbro's daughter Dee said her father was taken off the respirator Sunday morning and is in pain but undergoing therapy. Doctors say that skin grafting may be required for second and third degree burns. Yarbro was burned on his right arm and his chest and has blisters on his face and in his mouth and throat.

Burns said that a police officer on the scene radioed emergency

See Yarbro, 12-A

Ricky McClain, 33, dies in Kings Mountain house fire

A house fire claimed the life of Ricky Allen McClain, 33, of 112 Fulton Rd., Saturday at 6:38 a.m.

Kings Mountain Fire Chief Frank Burns said firefighters on the scene attempted unsuccessfully to resuscitate the man who was pronounced dead on arrival at Kings Mountain Hospital about 7 a.m.

McClain apparently succumbed to smoke that originated from a kitchen stove grease fire.

Burns said that Lt. Rodney Gordon found McClain lying be-

side his bed with his pants around his knees.

"It seemed to indicate he was trying to put on his pants and get out of the house," said Gordon in the report filed with the Kings Mountain Police Department.

Gordon was first on the scene at 6:41 a.m. after a passing motorist who saw smoke coming from the house stopped at the fire department to alert those on duty. News also reached the department from a 911 call at 6:38 a.m.

Gordon said firefighters walked around the house beating on the walls to arouse anyone who may have been sleeping inside. When no one came out, Gordon forced open the front door and Capts. Jamie Black and Joe Hamrick entered the house filled with smoke and intense heat.

They doused the fire and then searched the house, finding McClain and pulling him out, Gordon said in his report. McClain had no pulse and was not breath-

ing. Lt. Jeff Ledford and Chief Burns started CPR as paramedics were enroute, Gordon said.

"We were performing CPR on the victim when the EMS arrived at 6:44 a.m. and they took over the CPR duties and transported the victim to Kings Mountain Hospital," said Burns.

"McClain had evidently turned on a burner on the stove and set a deep fryer on it and forgot about it and returned to the bedroom area

and went back to sleep," said Burns.

The fire was confined to the kitchen area but the rest of the house was smoke damaged, according to Burns.

Sixteen Kings Mountain firemen, Kings Mountain Police Sgt. Melvin Proctor, Det. Sgt. Billy Benton, Terry Davis from the Arson Task Force, Coroner Ralph Mitchem and Emergency Medical Services responded to the scene.

See McClain, 12-A

Moss Lake homeowners on KM City Council agenda

97 apply for KM City Manager job

The 97 applicants for George Wood's former job as Kings Mountain City Manager come from nearly every state in the Union except Hawaii and one hails from Japan.

Kings Mountain Mayor Scott Neisler and the seven City Council members, Phil Hager, Jim Guyton, Norma Bridges, Dean Spears, Rick Murphrey, Jerry White and Ralph

Grindstaff start the official process of reviewing the applicants today after the initial screening this week by Personnel Director Winston Bagley.

The deadline for applications passed Friday.

Council has set May 10 at 7:30 p.m. as the date to trim the list to the semi-finalists and on June 3-4

See City Job, 12-A

A delegation from Northshore Landing Homeowners Association will present a request for an "equitable way to deal with Moss Lake fees" at Tuesday's City Council meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Bobbie Peeler, secretary of the association, will recommend a number of proposals, including individual billings to condo owners in the Northshore Association.

Council will also be asked to terminate a contract for renovation of the old Kings Mountain Post

Office with Woolpert Consultants. At the recent planning meeting and retreat, Council voted unanimously to turn over the post office to the Kings Mountain Historical Society and build a new home for the Kings Mountain Police Department. Originally, Council intended to renovate the old Post Office as a law enforcement center.

Director of Community Services Tom Howard will present a request for approval of engineering standards and ask for awarding of bids

for construction of a second floor office for the Chamber of Commerce.

Planning Director Gene White will present a request to approve an American Red Cross and US Coast Guard Auxiliary special event at Moss Lake on boating safety and life saving and for authorization of Bridges Hardware to sell fishing licenses for city owned lakes.

The board will conduct a public hearing on a request for a special

See Council, 14-A



Carl Champion, left, President of the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame, is pictured with 1994 inductees Grace Page, Shu Carlton (representing the 1955 KMHS football team), and Jimmy Littlejohn at Tuesday night's banquet and induction ceremony. More photos are on Page 1-B.

Hall of Fame inducts four

Two sports stars of the twenties and thirties, a coach who has volunteered his services to young football players in Kings Mountain for 35 years, and the first championship football team at Kings Mountain High School were inducted into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame Monday night at the Community Center.

About 300 people attended the seventh annual event and heard remarks from UNC-Charlotte basketball coach Jeff Mullins. Special achievement awards were presented to members of the 1993 KMHS baseball and men's swim teams who won state championships.

Grace Neisler Page, the North Carolina Woman's Skeet Shooting Champion in 1935 and 1936; Zeb Plonk, a standout athlete at KMHS and N.C. State College in the twenties; Pop Warner Coach Jimmy Littlejohn; and the 1955 Mountaineer football team were the inductees.

The Hall of Fame, which began in 1988, now includes 24 individuals and three teams.

For many members of the championship football team, it was their second venture into the Hall of Fame. Star quarterback George Harris, who to this day is the only KMHS football player to earn All-American recognition, Coach Shu Carlton, assistant

coaches Don Parker and John Gamble, and running back Ken Baity were previously inducted into the Hall of Fame as individuals.

Coach Carlton, now retired and living in Gastonia, gave the induction speech and Harris and guard Buddy Smith accepted the award on behalf of the team.

Carlton, who went on to become a coaching legend in North Carolina prep football, said the players on the '55 KMHS team always held a special place in his heart. It was Carlton's and the school's first-ever conference championship team, finishing the season with a 10-1-1 overall record.

"I appreciated the efforts of all eight teams I had at King Mountain, but the '53, '54, '55 and '56 teams proved that KMHS could have a very strong tradition that we could all be proud of," Carlton said.

Carlton pointed out that the team had only nine seniors, and there were four sophomores and three juniors in the starting lineup. "That was years before two-platoon football, so we tried to determine who our best 11 players were and they played on both offense and defense."

See Banquet, 12-A