

Lot of 'Nunsense' at KM Little Theatre

3-A

KM student wins Dream Girl pageant



Kings Mountain Herald

Since 1889

Vol. 108 No. 20

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Kings Mountain, N.C. • 28086 • 50c

KM dental hygienist dies in ValuJet crash

Around the dentist office Linda Jarvis had a motto, "Sure we can," when the schedule got hectic.

"It just seemed so impossible that someone so alive as Linda could have been on that plane," said Dr. Grady Howard Jr. at the shocking news Saturday that his dental hygienist for 16 1/2 years and her husband, Dan Jarvis, were among the 109 people on board ValuJet Flight 592 which crashed in the Everglades minutes after takeoff from the Miami airport.

Jarvis began working for Howard when he opened his Kings Mountain practice in 1980. She was out about a year when she had back surgery but Howard said her abilities as a dental hygienist went far beyond the call of duty, recalling that she helped many of her patients struggling with family problems or with health problems and was always smiling and upbeat and fun to be around.

"Linda was a good neighbor to people from all walks of life," said Howard.

Howard's office was closed Monday and

the entire staff went to Gastonia to extend sympathies to the families.

"The only comfort is that Linda and Dan were both Christians and we have the assurance that they are in God's presence," said Howard.

Linda's love for animals, particularly horses and dogs, was evident in the pictures around her station as she worked and she brought flowers to work almost every day, said her co-workers.

"She was a tremendous dental assistant who never failed to tell her patients to brush and floss and to take care of their teeth, very knowledgeable and an asset to our firm," said Howard.

"We will miss both Linda and her husband very much."

Howard called Mrs. Jarvis "a wonderful teacher in dental hygiene who helped make his practice in Kings Mountain a better place."

See Jarvis, 3-A



DAN AND LINDA JARVIS

Citizens oppose annexation plan

"If it's not broke, don't fix it," said Center Street resident Scott Moss who Tuesday night joined nine other neighbors, including major industries, in opposing the annexation by the city of 758 acres along Canterbury Road, Second Street and Industrial Park.

Public hearing by the City of Kings Mountain on a major annexation plan which will take in 775 acres, 131 people and 18 businesses attracted about 30 people to City Hall for a 45-minute public hearing conducted by City Council.

Council members present were Phil Hager, Dean Spears, Rick Murphrey, Jerry Mullinax, Norma

Bridges and Ralph Grindstaff. Councilman Jerry White was absent. City Manager Gary Hicks, City Attorney Mickey Corry, Mayor Scott Neisler, City Clerk Marilyn Sellers and several department heads were also present.

No action was taken. The mayor said the Council could act within a period of 10-90 days of the public hearing. The next meeting of Council is May 28.

Speaking against the annexation by Kings Mountain were Charles Ford, representing Firestone; Ken Yarbrow representing Buddy

See Road, 3-A

KM Schools Superintendent faces ticket scalping charge

A scalping tickets charge leveled against Schools Supt. Dr. Bob McRae March 7 and dropped April 3 by a Guilford County Assistant District Attorney is being reopened by the Greensboro Police Department.

Lt. L. A. Rorer said a warrant against McRae was reissued May 10 and sent to the Records Division of the Greensboro Police Department to be mailed to the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department.

"With us getting the warrant Friday afternoon I am assuming it did not go out in the mail until Monday," Rorer said.

A spokesman in the Records Department of the Greensboro Police Department Linda Brandon said that the warrant was mailed on May 13 to the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department.

A spokesman for the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department said the warrant had not been received Wednesday morning at 10 a.m.

Two detectives with the Vice Division of the Greensboro Police Department drew the new warrants after a voluntary dismissal of the charge against McRae was granted on April 3 by Assistant DA David Churchill in the Guilford County District Court.

Rorer said Herman Wright Blalock Jr., also of Kings Mountain, pled guilty to the same charge and paid \$60 court costs.

Rorer said that McRae, 48, of Merrimont Avenue, and Blalock, 57, of 605 Plantation Place, were arrested March 7 by vice officers posing as basketball fans at the Holiday Inn Four Seasons, 3121 High Point Road, near the

"Bob McRae didn't have anything to do with it."

-Dub Blalock

Coliseum, the site of the ACC tournament in Greensboro.

"I did not try to sell any tickets," said McRae. That's just not me.

"I was incorrectly charged and the charge was dismissed."

"We were surprised when we heard that the case had been dismissed and it was certainly not voluntary on the part of the police department," said Rorer. Churchill could not be reached for comment.

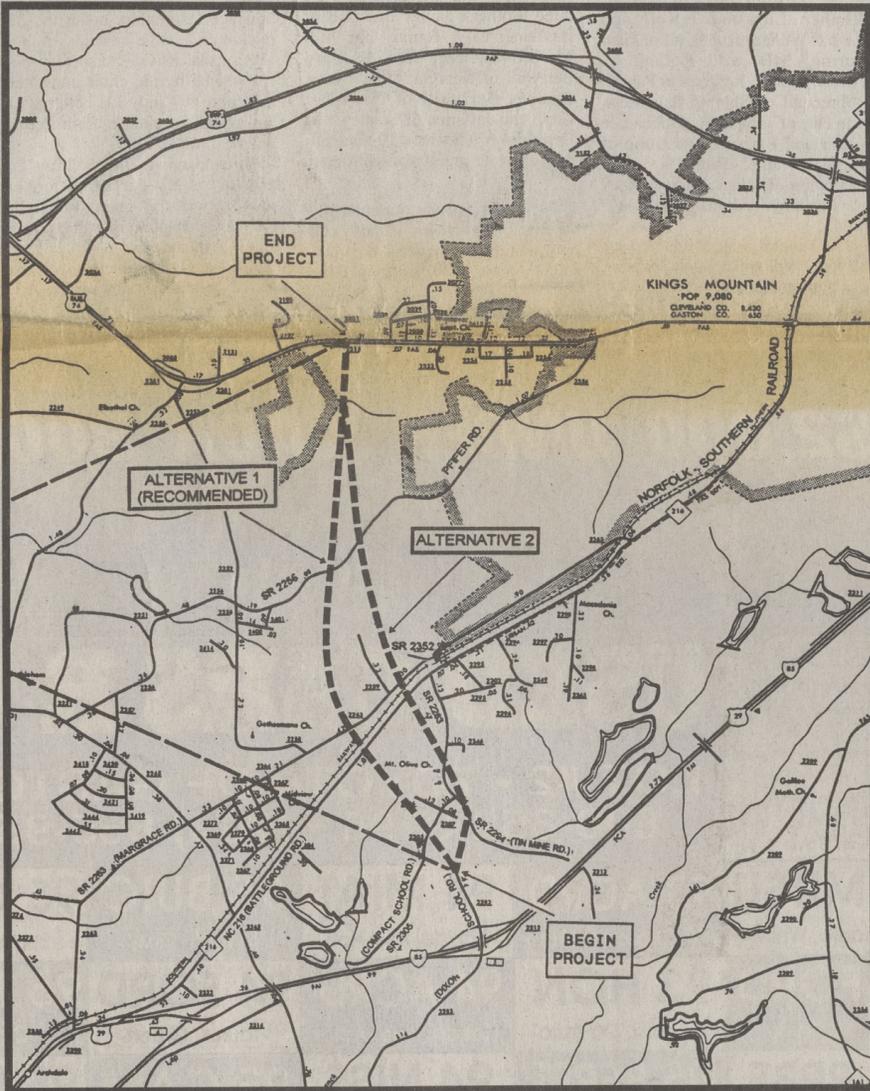
According to Dub Blalock, he was staying at the Hilton in Greensboro and had already purchased upper level tickets but learned that someone at the Holiday Inn Four Seasons had tickets near courtside.

"I said, 'I'm going over there and get them and improve my seating,' and Bob McRae said, 'I'll ride over there with you.'"

Blalock said he planned to sell his upper level tickets "for what I had in them" before purchasing the lower level tickets. After entering the lobby of the hotel, he said he saw a man and woman in plain clothes who appeared to be man and wife who were asking if anyone had tournament tickets to sell.

"When I started their way, Bob McRae walked away," he said. "Bob McRae didn't have anything to do with it. I gave the man (Det. Hoover) the tickets and he flashed

See McRae, 8-A



Hearing on road extension

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold a public hearing Tuesday at 7 p.m. at B. N. Barnes Auditorium to discuss a proposed new highway in Kings Mountain.

Under this project, it is proposed to construct a two-lane highway on a new location from north of the I-85/Dixon School Road interchange to Shelby Road (US 74 Business).

The proposed project will require realigning and extending several intersecting roads and the construction of a bridge over the Norfolk-Southern Railroad. Additional right of way and the relocation of homes and businesses will be required for this project.

All interested individuals are encouraged to attend the hearing. NCDOT representatives will be available to provide information, answer questions and receive comments. Maps setting forth Alternate 1 - the preferred location and design - and Alternate 2 are available for public review in the Kings Mountain City Hall lobby at 101 West Gold Street in Kings Mountain.

The Kings Mountain Board of Education, in a letter to DOT April 1, requested that should the project be done in phases that the first phase to be completed be the phase that would connect Business 74 to Phifer Road.

"This would alleviate the traffic congestion and efficiently move cars away from our schools to their particular destinations," said Chairman Ronnie Hawkins.

Steve Killian, the city's planning director, said right of way acquisition is expected to begin in 1997 and construction is expected to begin in 1998 for the \$6.8 million Dixon School Road extension.

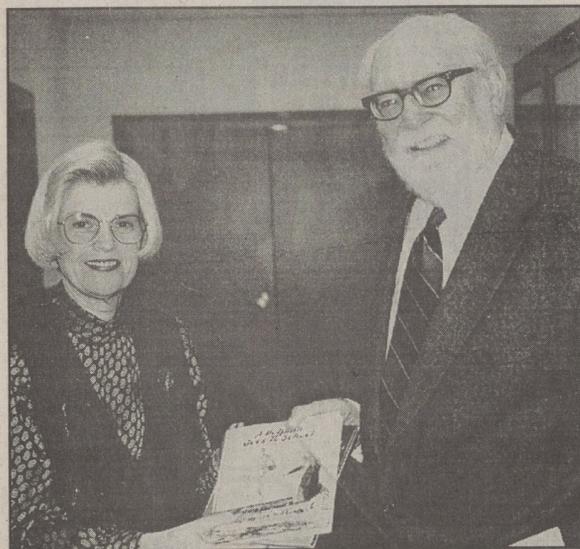
Right of way acquisition costs are estimated to be \$860,000. Alternative I would displace 10 residences and one business.

The new road would provide motorists with a north-south connector between Business 74 and I-85 and create road user costs savings. Also a grade separated railcrossing over the Norfolk Southern would be beneficial, said Killian when he outlined the plan for members of the Board of Adjustments meeting in March.

Alternative I is labeled the state's 1996-2001 Transportation Improvement Program.

The new route, as proposed, would cross SR 2305 (Compact School Road), NC 216, (Battleground Road), the Norfolk Southern Railway, SR 2263, (Margrace Road, SR 2256 (Phifer Road) approximately 1500 feet west of the Kings Mountain

See Hearing, 3-A



Former Kings Mountain resident Ed Henry Smith presents books written by his late wife, Elizabeth Simpson Smith, to Kings Mountain District School's Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Dr. Jane King. The books will be placed in the libraries of the elementary schools. One of Smith's books was published in braille and another won a national award.

Schools ask county for \$2.5 million

County commissioners got a \$2.5 million funding request package from the Kings Mountain District Schools Monday.

"I hope you brought us back the right answer," said Supt. Dr. Bob McRae Monday night to county commissioner and Bethware Principal Mary Accor.

Mrs. Accor was present at the regular board meeting for another reason. She was one of five Kings Mountain elementary principals honored for successfully completing the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools five year review. Also recognized were principals and their representatives from West, East, Grover, and North Schools.

Accor said the board is taking the school board's request for a 14.2 percent increase in funding into consideration.

Funding levels aren't expected to be set by county commissioners before June 30.

The proposed operating expense budget projects a five percent raise for teachers, a five percent supplemental increase, 4 1/4 new teaching positions, \$5 per child for instructional supplies and an after-school remedial program for K-8 students. Money would also go for fax machines, state contracted work in maintenance and for athletic insurance.

Unless the system gets funding requests McRae said at a recent meeting that the options were to raise the 18 percent supplemental tax, use sales tax revenues for education or cut some programs.

In actions of the meeting, the board:

Tabled until next month action on the proposed ninth grade family life curriculum revision. McRae said that one entry in the curriculum involving statistics was questioned at the recent public hearing and the figures needed to be researched.

Set May 24 as an all-day work session beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the administration building.

Endorsed the nomination of Hoyt Bailey of the county board of education for reappointment to the Board of Trustees of Cleveland Community College.

Took the recommendation from finance director Terry Haas regarding student insurance and awarded the insurance program to American Bankers Life at \$8,996 yearly for athletic insurance or \$30.60 per athlete and offered parents a choice of basic, economy or premium plans for student accident and dental insurance.

Approved the last day of each month as the pay date for ten month employees pending needed legislative action to rescind the current legislation which set the pay date at the 15th of each month.

Awarded the low bid to Modular Technologies Inc. of Kinston at \$21,304 for a modular classroom to be placed at East School. McRae said the space situation is becoming critical at East Elementary. The double-wide mobile unit would be placed on the Bypass side of the building and would accommodate a regular size classroom.