

LOCAL

# Schools consider tobacco ban

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Puffing on a cigarette or dipping smokeless tobacco may be a thing of the past at Kings Mountain High School football games.

The Cleveland County School Board may vote on a policy next month which would prohibit all tobacco usage on school property including vehicles and at school events.

Jimmy Hines of the Cleveland County Health Department told the board Monday night that 40 of the state's 115 school systems have completely banned tobacco. Eighty per-

cent of smokers started before age 18, according to Hines. Nationwide, 25 percent of the population smoke, Hines said.

In other business, board members learned that the system's enrollment is down from last year. However, two student transfers were denied at Springmore Elementary where one grade has reached capacity.

At the end of last year, Bethware Elementary had 563 students compared to 470 on Friday; East, 254 to 226; Grover, 449 to 422; North, 303 to 253; West, 297 to 299; KMIS, 758 to 767; KMMS, 789 to 730; KMHS, 1,190 to 1,330.

High school numbers typically are lower at the end of the year than the first portion of the school year. Lower grades do not typically follow this trend, according to school spokeswoman Donna Carpenter. It is not unusual for some middle and elementary school classes to be larger than others. The dip also may be due to the economy.

So far, 71 students have paid the \$1,414 out-of-county tuition. Out of that number 61 transferred into Kings Mountain area schools, however the majority are from outside of the Kings Mountain city limits.

Due to the increased tuition, school officials are now requiring

more proof of residency from students. To enroll two forms of identification are required. This has identified students living in the former Cleveland County Schools district attending former Kings Mountain District Schools. While those students have not had to pay tuition, they have had to apply for an in-county transfer.

"They're trying to get everything the same across the board," Carpenter said.

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## DAVIDSON

From 1A

"I know they are looking down from Heaven rejoicing with us," she said.

Sarah Thombs Adams, Class of 1955, credited teachers for her family's success. Adams who holds a masters degree worked as a guidance counselor. Her siblings include an educator, minister, physician, nurse and Army officer.

"You came prepared. You got what you needed," she said. "The instructors were able to provide us with what we needed."

Davidson also had a strong Glee Club, theater, operas, Girl and Boy Scouts, home economics and hobby clubs, rhythm band and dance troupe.

The school's girls and boys basketball teams had exceptional records winning tournaments regularly. The school also had track, volleyball and baseball teams.

Thelma Burris Rowe, Valedictorian of the Class of 1955, described the student body as "close knit." The eight remaining members of Rowe's class are planning an

extra special reunion to mark their 50th anniversary next year. Ten of the class's 14 students attended college. Many went to then principal Mr. Gibson's alma mater Livingstone.

Hazel Adams, Class of 1952, echoed Rowe's sentiments.

"I know where most of them (classmates) are today," she said.

Adams retired after working as a Division of Motor Vehicles manager in Los Angeles.

One of the school's oldest living alumni Jacqueline Greenlee Brown, Class of 1932, spoke highly of Davidson.

"I loved my principal, my classmates," she said.

Davidson began sending its ninth through 12th graders to Compact High School in the 1960s while seventh and eighth graders remained. Elementary students attended classes on Parker Street in the building that currently houses the alternate school also called Davidson. A few years later they began attending schools which had formerly served only white children.

The school closed in 1968

due to integration. The building was torn down in 1969. Mt. Zion Baptist Church was built on the site in 1974.

City Councilman Rev. Howard Shipp, Class of 1951, called Friday a "historic day."

"The whole community recognizes what once stood here, what it meant to us, what it still means," he said.

Shipp gave the invocation. James Thombs, Master Sgt. Air Force, Retired and vice-president of the Davidson Alumni Association, gave the opening remarks. Mayor Rick Murphrey and Mary Neisler, chairperson of the Kings Mountain Historical Landmarks Commission, also spoke. The organizations partnered to make the marker a reality.

Representative Tim Moore was on hand. City councilman Rick Moore, Police Chief Melvin Proctor and Capt. Jerry Tessner represented the city. Special Events Director Ellis Noell, Deputy Clerk Ann Sessom and Tripp Hord assisted with the ceremony and reception.

According to Hazelene

Abernathy, Class of 1950, the school's graduates and attendees "continue to establish their position in the world as global leaders who are willing and able to approach the challenges of our society with intelligence, competence and nobility."

Abernathy proudly points to students who have gone on to work in education, law, medicine, nursing, law enforcement, as beauticians and barbers, insurance company owners, military officers and company owners like Jimmy Herndon who also serves as a deacon at Mt. Zion Church.

After graduating from Livingston, Abernathy taught second through ninth grades. She calls Davidson her "first stepping stone."

Davidson was started in the mid-1800s in a brush arbor near the end of South Cherokee Street by the Bynum Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, according to Abernathy. Rev. Ben Martin was the minister.

The second location was known as Cook's Circle with Mr. Roberts as principal.

The third location, honored with a plaque, saw three principals, Rev. R.J.

Davidson, 1921 to 1945; J.A. Gibson, 1945 to 1960; and C.A. Allison, 1961 to 1968.

The school's name was changed to Davidson in the early 1930s at the PTA's request to honor Rev. Davidson.

A cafeteria was added and the home economics department updated in 1945. The school's first yearbook, The Echo, was published in 1948. It was dedicated to Mattie L. Gidney, a highly respected and inspiring primary teacher, Abernathy said.

During the 1920s Davidson benefited from the Rosenwald School's project.

Julius Rosenwald, CEO of Sears and preeminent African-American educator Booker T. Washington partnered to build over 5,000 schools across 15 southern and southwestern states in the early part of the 20th Century.

"Traditionally, the buildings held a special place in the community because schools and churches were the only places where blacks could meet in the rural South before desegregation," a program for Friday's ceremony read.

## DRUGS

From 1A

Upon finding the quantity of drugs, Shull contacted Proctor who works in narcotics. She evaluated the situation and brought in county officers. That led to the arrest of Nava's roommate Carlos Mesa Dominguez on drug and weapon charges. Authorities also are checking with immigration on the men's residency status.

Nava was jailed in Cleveland County on a \$75,000 bond.

Police are attempting to bring federal charges against Nava. In any case which large quantities of drugs are involved and when a defendant has a past record, the department attempts to make the case federal.

"We know they'll get more (prison) time," Proctor said.

She credited the arrest to Shull and other officers for taking the initiative to follow through.

"They're utilizing good

training. It shows our department is proactive not reactive," Proctor said. "It just keeps rolling."

The arrests are part of ongoing work by police to rid the city of drugs. Earlier this month Roderick Roberts of 810 3rd Street was arrested on possession of a counterfeit drug.

According to Detective Sgt. Lisa Proctor, drug dealers have three choices - stop, move outside of Kings Mountain or face charges.

"It's just a matter of time, when your numbers up," she said.

Police credit the community for calling with information. They say detectives have earned the trust of residents who now call and ask for officers by name instead of just asking for the narcotics department. Police are assuring confidentiality to callers.

"We're not going to reveal where that information came from," Proctor said.

The number of complaints is up though drug activity is actually decreasing, accord-

ing to Chief Melvin Proctor. In 1996 police received 78 complaints ranging from drugs, alcohol, gambling, prostitution and dog fights. The number was at 62 in 1997; 81 in 1998; 135 in 1999; 292 in 2000; 198 in 2001; 216 in 2002 and 310 in 2003.

The numbers for 2003 break down to 285 narcotic complaints; 5, alcohol/tobacco; 4, gambling; 16, prostitution/alcohol/other; 10 evictions based on narcotic evidence and 116 drug arrests resulting in 149 separate drug related charges.

In August 2003, police made the largest cocaine bust in the city's history seizing 1 kilo of cocaine valued at \$98,000 and \$15,718 in currency.

Local police have also participated in several joint federal drug busts along with police from Cleveland and Gaston counties. Over 10 people were arrested though no information is being released because the investigation is ongoing.

## Art grant applications sought from teachers

The Cleveland County Arts Council will accept applications from all teachers and school administrators in the Cleveland County School System for projects, which integrate the arts into the standard course of study, or for art programs, which enhance those studies.

Requests for funds must be submitted to the Arts Council on or before 5 pm Friday, September 17. The funds granted must be spent during the school year for which they are awarded. Follow up report forms must be returned to the Arts Council by June 11, 2005. Grant amounts will not exceed \$500.

Last year a total of \$4,500 was awarded for 17 school projects throughout the county. Last year's recipients are eligible to apply again this year.

For more information or to request a grant applica-

tion form, call 704-484-2787 or email [ccarts@shelby.net](mailto:ccarts@shelby.net).

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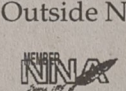
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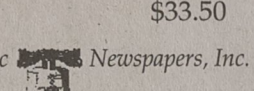
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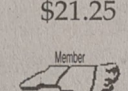
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