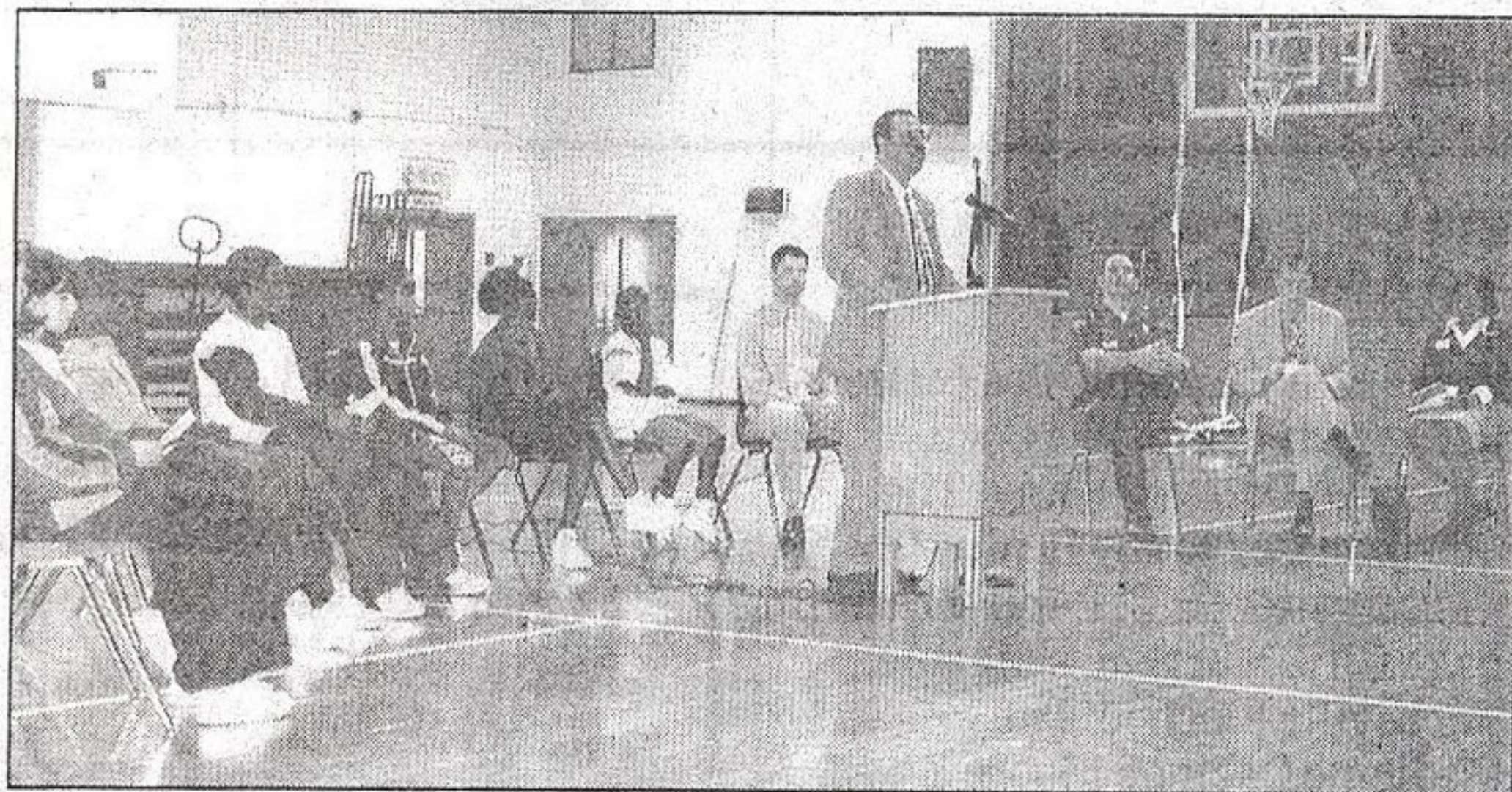


Heritage Keepers program visits Ron E. McNair Middle



PHOTO/ADREL S. LANGLEY

Lake City Mayor LaRue Alford talks to students at Ron E. McNair Middle School.

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Heritage Community Services is a government-funded, private service, according to Lee Moore of the group. Moore said the group presents an abstinence education program to seventh and eighth graders and a character education program to sixth graders. Before guest speakers, Lake City Mayor LaRue Alford

make things go smoothly. He told children to find their vision and not to let anyone tell them they couldn't achieve it.

Students also challenged Principal David Scurry to have good character traits. Students said truthfulness, responsibility and respect were important characteristics for someone in his position. Scurry addressed children at the end of the assembly and asked them to carry the fol-

and Lake City Police Chief David Haines spoke, students gave the community leaders a challenge, telling them to have character traits that the students have discussed and feel are important for leaders.

Chief Haines was charged by the students to exercise cautiousness, self-control and respect and Mayor Alford was charged to have wisdom, be responsible and have respect. Various students gave reasons why these character traits were required for each man's job.

The community leaders then gave the students a challenge.

Chief Haines spoke to the children about respect, telling them that their reputations are a measure of how people respect them. He told students it is hard to get a good reputation, but easy to lose it, adding it's easy to get a bad reputation and hard to change it.

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lowing three points about caring with them throughout their lives:

Care for themselves through dressing appropriately and thinking about how their actions look in the eyes of others; Care for others by not laughing when a fellow student finds himself in an embarrassing situation; and Care for their school by not vandalizing the school and writing on the walls and desks.

Heritage Community Services

was started in Charleston five years ago and covers the state presenting speakers and teaching abstinence and character building to students. This is the first year that the group has brought its program to the Lake City area. The abstinence program was presented to seventh and eighth graders at Ron E. McNair and J. Paul Truluck before Christmas break, Moore said.

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He used Revolutionary War era traitor Benedict Arnold as an example of this.

Mayor Alford spoke to children about putting what's best for others ahead of a person's will, telling the students it is important to listen and accept constructive criticism in order to