

W-S Police receive money to fight gangs

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Governor's Crime Commission awarded \$20.6 million to state and local agencies last week in an effort to make communities throughout the state safer and to assist crime victims.

The money will help programs that detect and deter gang activity, assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, prevent juvenile delinquency and fight drug abuse.

Forsyth County agencies' slice of the pie was \$250,717.16. The Winston-Salem Police Department was awarded \$93,231 for to support a gang coordinator position. Family Services will receive \$150,000 for its Vantage Pointe - Child Advocacy Center. The Kernersville Police Department received about \$7,500 to pay overtime to officers and investigators who have worked long hours probing gang and drug activities.

"Preventing crime, gang activity, domestic violence and child abuse requires that we work together at the community, state and federal levels," said Gov. Mike Easley. "These grants help our state and local agencies develop programs and get the resources they need to keep our communities safe and secure."

The commission awarded 187 grants to state and local agencies, including nearly \$4.8 million to reduce and prevent gang activity and more than \$5.8 million to help domestic violence and sexual assault victims. Most of the grants will support locally-developed initiatives designed to meet the specific needs for that community.

The Administrative Office of the Courts received funds for drug treatment courts, federal drug prosecutors and initiatives dealing with domestic violence, child abuse and other family-related issues. The Department of Juvenile



Gov. Mike Easley announced the grant awards recently.

Justice and Delinquency Prevention will be developing partnerships with local agencies to address the disproportionate number of minorities who end up involved with the juvenile court system.

Money for the gang violence prevention programs was provided by the General Assembly through a special appropriation in 2007.

Funding for the remaining grants comes annually from the U.S. Congress to the federal Department of Justice for distribution to the states in four categories: Justice Assistance Grants; Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Grants; the Victim of Crime Act; and Violence Against Women Act programs. Federal funds for this year's Justice Assistance Grants were cut by two-thirds in the 2008 spending bill, but may be restored in supplemental appropriations legislation later this congressional session.

The Governor's Crime Commission, a division of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, administers the federal grants to provide money to establish new programs. Once the new programs are in place, local resources are expected to be used to maintain them.

Asians

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skills. And while their numbers have surged at many high-profile schools, enrollment among Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders is actually increasing faster at community colleges than at four-year ones.

Jih-Fei Cheng, coordinator of the Asian and Pacific Islander Student Center at California State Polytechnic in Pomona, said the "model minority" idea is a burden for many Asian-American students, who comprise about one-third of the student body there.

"What's insidious about that idea now is that a lot of the youth that are raised now in the U.S. of Asian descent, whether they're from families that have been here five or six generations, or just one or two, they are pressured by this 'model minority' myth by their families and society," he said.

But the report also argues the "model minority" argument can mislead policy-makers. While it dances somewhat gingerly around the topic of

affirmative action, the report cautions against using the academic success of Asian-Americans to demonstrate racial preferences aren't necessary - that the system is adequate for groups that work hard. It calls that argument an excuse to ignore deep problems in the education system.

"In reality, there are no winners" in a college system where the number of black and Latino students has plummeted with the end of affirmative action, the report argues.

Teranishi acknowledges the end of the affirmative action significantly boosted the number of Asian-Americans at schools like the University of California. But he says it's not clear that the narrow admissions criteria that replaced the old system have benefited Asian-Americans overall.

"Just as some Asians have probably benefited from the narrow definitions of merit that have been applied in the UC system, I think there are also a lot of Asians that probably are disadvantaged because of that," Teranishi said.

CHEW ON THIS!

Nine-year-old owns bubble gum enterprise

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Matthew Clinton may only be nine-years-old but he's already making regular trips to the bank to deposit profits from his own company.

He is the owner of Big Matt's Bubble Gum Company. His first gum machine is in Flashback Smoothies, a West End smoothie shop owned by his father, Michael Clinton.

Matthew checks the gum level in the three-section machine often, replenishing supplies when needed. The machine nets him \$20 - \$30 a month.

"My dad inspired me to do," said Matthew. "He wanted me to start learning how to be a business person, an entrepreneur, so I can follow in his footsteps. I got the bubble gum machine on my birthday, and I was really happy."

A gum machine may sound like an odd present, but Clinton said it was perfect for his son's entrepreneurial spirit. Clinton involves both his sons - Matthew and Michael Clinton, Jr. - in his business ventures. He made them both junior partners at his smoothie shop, where boys concoct smoothie flavors and helped to come up with the shop's name, Flashback Smoothies.

Both both boys work at the shop - cleaning tables, taking orders and running the register, which is Matthew's favorite job. He loves handling the money, his father says.

"I like money because I can save it and buy big things," said Matthew.

With his gum machine venture, he handles money often. He uses some of it to tithe at church, but he saves most of it so that one day he can invest in starting his own company. He also wants to put gum machines in other locations. He's already looking to add machines at a local salon and in Flashback Smoothies' other location at the Fulton Family YMCA. Matthew has three gum machines waiting to be placed. They were donated to him by a reader of Kids' Rule Magazine, a bi-monthly magazine started and operated by Michael Clinton, which featured a story on Matthew earlier this year.



Matthew Clinton stands by his profit-making venture.



The Clintons: Father Michael with sons Matthew and Michael, Jr.

Matthew has big shoes to follow when it comes to his dad. Clinton also has an online

musical instrument store and Web design company. Flashback Smoothies has been open for more than three years. Clinton wants to pass his brand of entrepreneurial spirit on to his sons.

"I believe the family unit is one of the core fibers of society," said Clinton. "There's an old saying that says 'The family that prays together, stays together.' We believe the family that works together, stays together as well. We make it a family venture."

Matthew, a fourth grader, is also in the Academically Gifted class at Bolton Elementary and is an honor roll student. His favorite subjects are math and history.

Matthew's gum machine and the downtown location of Flashback Smoothies is located at 1003 Brookstown Ave.

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Left to Right: June King, CMD; Mahta Mirzai McKee, MS, DABR; Dr. Brigitte Miller; Sandra Teague; Dr. Kathryn Greven; Lori Nifong, RN

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