

1983-84 School Budget

13 Aides To Lose Jobs

By JOEL CARPENTER
The Kings Mountain District Board of Education met Monday evening and reviewed the tentative proposed budget for 1983-84. Board members listened to Superintendent William Davis as he explained each proposed expenditure of the \$1,261,254 County Appropriation Budget.

The proposed budget figure, \$82,512 more than last year's price tag, will cause some belt tightening throughout the school system. As the result of cutting expenditures, 13 teacher aides will not be re-hired in the coming school year. Davis explained

that teachers who presented have an aide working with them will not be totally without the assistance of an aide, but an aide's time would be proportioned out differently. Davis pointed out to board members that 85% of the total budget is in personnel and that is where the major cuts will have to occur. Despite the removal of the 13 aides, the new budget is constructed to include a 5% pay increase for school employees.

"We're almost living on a month to month basis with a zero fund balance," Davis told board members. "In the previous years, we have had a surplus at

the end of the year to offset the cost of expenditures but this year, we have nothing."

Davis cited several reasons for the lack of sufficient remaining funds. The Board expects \$30,000 less earnings on funds because of the declining interest rates. The Board also expects to receive \$23,769 less through the State Vocational Program.

The proposed budget, which will be presented to the County commissioners for their approval, leaves no money for the expansion of improvements of present programs. Board members are optimistic about getting entire increase from the

commissioners, which will be a 7% increase over last year's budget. Davis emphasized to board members that this year's projected budget is not padded in any way and that all of the money requested is needed.

Board members discussed several different options for the acquisition of new funds. An increase in the Supportive Tax was brought under discussion. A 2° to 3° increase in the tax would be needed to make any type of substantial difference of incoming funds. A 3° tax would bring in an estimated \$100,000. The board is also expecting some funds to come in from Gaston

County. Gaston County is required to pay approximately \$450 per pupil for each pupil that lives in Gaston County but goes to school in Kings Mountain. Approximately 180 students fall into this category. This would bring in more than \$80,000.

Also slated on Monday night's agenda was the possible sale of the Compact School property. The school, located near Grover, was last used in 1973. The school, the site of original Compact High School and in its latter years the site of classes for special education students. The building was also used at one

time by Cleveland Tech for continuing education classes.

The school, still in the hands of the Kings Mountain School District, requires up-keep costs although it is not being used. The windows have been covered with plywood to try to prevent any vandalism and the roof has required several repairs to stop leaks. Board members listened to the town's attorney, Scott Cloniger, as he presented the legalities that would be required if the sale of the property was approved.

If the school and the property

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Jerry Ledford Resigns School Board Position

Jerry Ledford resigned Tuesday as a member of the Kings Mountain District Schools Board of Education.

Ledford served just over a year of the six-year term to which he was elected in November of 1981.

In a letter to Superintendent Bill Davis, Ledford cited "increasing pressures in time and work" as his reasons for stepping down.

Ledford, whose job with a Gastonia company requires that he spend much time out of town, "with a great deal of regret" that he submitted his resignation and added that it "has been a distinct pleasure to serve with the board."

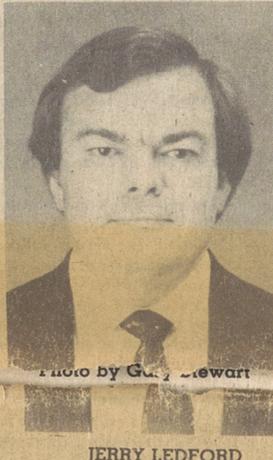


Photo by Gary Stewart

JERRY LEDFORD

Lineberger's term, will be available for two years and Ledford's seat will be available for four years. Lineberger also recently resigned from the board.

The only seat not becoming vacant this fall will be that of chairman June Lee.

Superintendent Davis said he did not know if the board would appoint someone to replace Ledford since the election is just around the corner. He said he has checked with State Election officials and the board does not have to make an appointment.

"I'm not sure what the board will decide to do," Davis said "but there is some thought of operating with a four-member board since it's so close to election time."

Persons seeking Ledford's and Smith's seats must live inside the city limits of Kings Mountain. Persons who live outside the city may seek McDaniel's and Hord's seats.

Lenten Service Wednesday

A mid-week Lenten service will be held Wednesday from 12:05 until 1 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church.

Rev. Harwood Smith, pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, will be the worship leader and Rev. Gerald Weeks, pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church, will bring the message.

A light lunch will be served at 12:30. A minimum one dollar donation is asked for each lunch.

The community is invited to attend.

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3-Legged 26" Tall - 10 1/2" Basket

\$299

Photo by Gary Stewart

IN THE POKIE - Kings Mountain Police Chief Jackie Barrett, right, escorts a handcuffed Mayor John Henry Moss to the pokie Tuesday. Already in the jail are Jonas Bridges, left, manager of WRMT Radio, and L.E. "Josh" Hinnant, Cleveland County Commissioner and

local banker. The three were jailed to let the public know what it'll be like for many area citizens Thursday and Friday, March 24 and 25, when a jail-a-thon will be held at the old First Union National Bank building to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

Cancer Jail-A-Thon Scheduled Next Week

Wanted: Bosses, employees, husbands, wives, teachers, and other local residents to serve time in a mock jail at the 1983 jail-a-thon to be held Thursday and Friday, March 24 and 25, in the old First Union National Bank building at the corner of West Mountain Street and Battleground Avenue.

The jail-a-thon is sponsored by the Cleveland County Unit of the American Cancer Society and is being done in the spirit of fun.

Anyone contributing \$25 or

more to the cancer fund may have someone tagged an "outlaw" and have him arrest by an off-duty policeman. He will be read his "rights of health", a humorous and informative speech about health care, and will then be handcuffed and sent to the mock jail set up inside the bank building.

Judges will try him and set bail. He must then get on the telephone and solicit pledges totaling the amount of bail before he is set free.

Persons wanting someone ar-

rested may make arrangements for the arrest by calling 739-8219 or 739-7589 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. through next Wednesday. Of course, arrangements can also be made on the two days of the jail-a-thon by calling those same numbers.

Persons who pay \$25 to have someone arrested do not have to be identified to those who are being arrested. So, if you'd like to stick it to your boss or someone else, you can do so without fear.

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Attorney Advises Against First Street Speed Breakers

The City Board of Commissioners was advised Monday night by City Attorney George Thomasson not to place speed breakers on First Street.

Citizens of the First Street area recently requested that the city construct speed breakers in the street to help slow traffic in the area.

Thomasson, who checked the legality of the matter with Doug Johnson of the State Attorney General's office, said it is legal for the city to construct the breakers, but it is not a good practice.

Thomasson said it would "set a precedent, and if you put them on First Street, many other citizens will request them throughout the city."

Thomasson also said Johnson advised him that the city could be liable for any accidents, property damage or personal injuries caused by the breakers.

"The city should look to other methods of controlling traffic, such as lower speed limits or beefed up patrol of the area," Thomasson said.



Photo by Gary Stewart

CHECK FOREIGN LANDS - Members of the Friendship Force committee located countries on the world globe which area citizens may visit this summer during the annual Friend-

ship Force exchange program. Left to right are Mrs. Sara Griffin, Charles Hamilton, Lee Crosby, Betty Gamble, Lynne Mauney and Mrs. Charles Carpenter.

Here's Your Chance To Travel Abroad

Do you (a) Love to travel (b) Enjoy meeting people? (c) Enjoy new experiences? (d) All of the above?

If you answered (d) then the Friendship Force might your ticket to a difference travel experience.

A group of 40 representatives from a city in Western Europe will arrive in the Kings Mountain/Gastonia area during the week of July 10. The trip is different because the representatives will be staying in homes for at least a portion of the 14 day period. For that reason, these representatives are called ambassadors.

The specific city has not been announced. The purpose for the secrecy is that ambassadors from Europe and Kings Mountain must agree to take the trip regardless of the destination. The point of the program is friendship and cultural exchange.

Individuals, couples and children may participate. A cross-section of representatives will be selected to participate.

Hosts and ambassadors are matched according to age, occupation and interests. Application involves a personal interview.

A two week trip for Kings Mountain/Gastonia ambassadors to western Europe is scheduled for September 16. The cost of airfare will be approximately \$725.00.

The trip is divided into two phases. An ambassador stays with a host or host family for half the visit and then has the option of either staying with a second host or traveling independently.

During the visit, ambassadors are encouraged to follow their hosts' daily patterns, including shopping and going to work.

Language workshops are being planned to help prepare hosts

and ambassadors for the exchange. Once the selection process is completed, the destination will be announced.

The Friendship Force, Inc. is a non-profit, private organization. Over 30 counties on five continents have participated in Friendship Force exchanges, including Brazil, Germany, Italy, Korea, Belgium, Japan, and England.

Applicants from Gastonia and Kings Mountain may interview March 24 from 6-8 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 190 East Franklin Boulevard, Gastonia; March 26 from 10 a.m. through 1 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Gastonia; and March 28 from 6-8 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 111 East King Street, Kings Mountain.

For more information call Lee Crosby at 739-1120 or Susan Huntley at 865-2713.