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KM Schools share of state referendum would be \$6.1 million

Kings Mountain District Schools would receive \$6,142,100 if a state-wide \$1.8 billion bond referendum is passed by voters November 8, Supt. Dr. Bob McRae said this week.

"It's essential that local voters go to the polls in the general election and support these bonds for education," he said.

McRae said it's his understanding that if the bond issue passes that the money would be spread out over the next five years.

Would the money be used for a new school as some have proposed between Bethware Elementary and Grover Elementary to take care of growing school populations in the two rural areas?

"The School Board hasn't looked at all the possibilities but if a new school was built that would take about \$5 million," said McRae.

McRae acknowledged that most of the projected growth over the next four or five years is in these two areas. Bethware is expected to register 620 K-5 students plus 34 Head Start students in the new fall term starting August 12 and Grover is expected to register 484 K-5 students plus 34 Head Start students in the 1996-97 fall term.

McRae said the two rural areas are drawing more people because of more housing and jobs by parents at area industries.

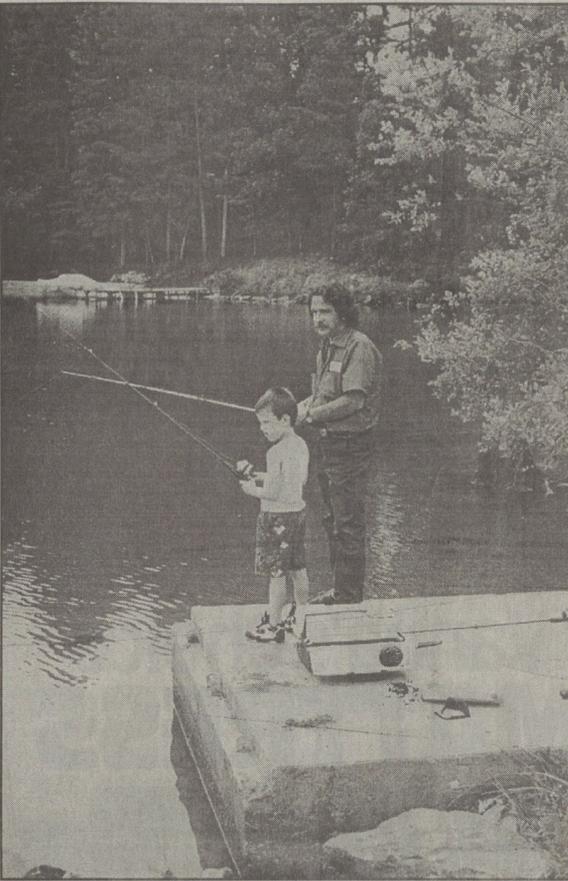
He said North Elementary in East Kings Mountain is also one of the fastest growing inside-city plants with a school population projected for the fall term of 438 K-4 students plus 17 Head Start students.

McRae said the school board will look at all the options if the bond money becomes available.

McRae said that the school system will be putting up at least one new mobile classroom at East Elementary this fall and that mobile homes are already available to take care of crowded conditions at Parker Street School.

Projected enrollment in the fall at the eight plants in the Kings Mountain Schools System is 4,165 K-12 students plus 85 Head Start students.

GONE FISHIN



GOING AFTER THE BIG ONES - The break from the high temperatures Tuesday morning provided the perfect excuse for Roger Gaither and 6-year-old Michael Allen Warren to get in some fishing at Moss Lake. They said they have had some good luck catching big catfish and carp.

KM Duke agree on 4-year rate

The City of Kings Mountain and Duke Power Company will sign a contract August 1 which means that the city's 5,000 electric customers can expect no rate increases for the next four years with reduced power bills coming in dollars still to be determined.

Utility Director Jimmy Maney said the city has been in negotiations with its supplier of wholesale electricity Duke for a new rate for three years in what appeared to be an uphill battle. The city filed a 206 complaint along with eight other Schedule 10 cities in May 1995 with the Federal Electric Regulatory Agency which regulates interstate power rates and sales saying Duke had overstated its rates. The city is expecting big bucks from the settlement which Maney says will mean reduced rates for customers.

The city also sought a coincident billing rate in which the city would peak the same time as Duke's system and would receive a load signal from Duke and for the elimination of a ratchet.

Currently when a customer sets a demand he is locked in for 12 months for that highest demand. With the elimination of a ratchet the customer would be billed at the demand he sets during the monthly billing, not the highest demand for the previous 12 months. The customers on a demand meter are those who exceed 30kw during any 30 minute interval, primarily commercial businesses and industry. Council would evaluate a rate reduction for residential users.

Last week, Kings Mountain, along with Dallas, Concord, Forest City, Due West, SC, and Prosperity, SC settled with Duke but two others, Greenwood and Seneca, SC did not.

Maney said it will take 60-90 days before a billing schedule can be in place. He has

asked for a recommendation of SVBK, the Charlotte consultants who completed the recent utility rate study.

Maney, the city's utility chief since 1981, called the relationship with Duke good for Duke and the city and foresees the city would remain as a Duke customer.

But with the onset of deregulation in the electrical business there are alternative suppliers that the city can use to purchase wholesale power.

Maney admits that was one of the negotiating factors in Kings Mountain's favor in a successful settlement contract that was hammered out by local officials in Washington, DC on the federal level to the state level in Raleigh.

"We made offer after offer on the table and now we're sure the wholesale cost will be reduced but the wholesale rate reduction for the city does not necessarily mean the same on the retail side but customers should be happy with the results," he said.

"Wholesale wheeling" is how Maney describes the process in which Schedule 10 cities have been negotiating with Duke Power for several years now. He said the city even looked at buying power from another company.

The federal government legalized shopping around for power for largest users, such as cities, that buy electricity wholesale in 1992. City Council approved "shopping around" by Maney and backed his approach wholeheartedly.

The new contract with Duke will allow the city to better predict when electric use and costs are highest so they can switch to cheaper generators or conserve to lower costs.

See Duke, 8-A

Bethware Fair to open July 30

Gates swing open July 30 - the earliest ever opening date - of the 49th Bethware Community Fair.

Co-managers Glenn Hicks and Marshall Jones predict this year's event at Bethware School in Kings Mountain will be the biggest ever with 22 all-new rides, an expanded 32-space exhibit hall and entertainment for the whole family for five big days through August 3.

Members of the Bethware Progressive Club are working feverishly to meet the early opening deadline, expanding the exhibit area in the Bethware School gymnasium to give exhibitors plenty of room to display their wares and also to offer space for vendors of flea market-type goods.

This week the aluminum pipe framing went up for the booths and pegboards and black and gold canvass will be used as dividers. Cost of the expansion is estimated at \$6,000.

The agricultural fair, which started 49 years ago with cakewalks and a Fiddler's Convention as the group's first school fundraiser, has grown over the years and now offers \$3,000 in cash prizes to first and second place winners in home-grown products. Over the years the club has presented such items as computers, a piano and cash to Bethware School.

Hicks said the 35-member club had difficulty booking rides for a September fair this year and decided to hold the fair when school was not in ses-

sion, contracting with Jon Stines Amusements to bring rides which have never graced the midway before, such as a double ferris wheel, a pirate ship, scrambler, tilt-a-whirl and much more. Hicks said the Midway will feature clowns, a petting zoo, plenty of good food, and tents where people can sit and renew friendships.

"Many of the fair are former students of Bethware School and this is a chance for them to see their former classmates and the school again," said Hicks.

Family Nights will be Tuesday and Thursday of Fair Week when they can pay one price for unlimited rides for the whole family.

See Fair, 7-A



DEDICATION - Bethware Progressive Club President Craig Mayes, left, presents a Bethware Fair catalog to Fred Tate for whom the book is dedicated. Tate joined the club 28 years ago and has served in virtually all offices from chief chef for steak suppers to club president.

Annexed plants file suit against KM

Five Gaston County industries the City of Kings Mountain plans to annex have filed suit trying to stop it.

Bali Company, Commercial Intertech, Firestone Fibers & Textiles, Turbo Conveyor and Metal Fabricating Leasing have asked for a hearing before a Superior Court judge in Cleveland County.

The suit asks for an opinion by the judge on whether or not the city has met all the statutory requirements for annexation.

City Manager Gary Hicks said City Attorney Mickey Corry is filing an answer to the suit.

Hicks said the city will contend that it followed proper procedures and the data is accurate.

Kings Mountain City Council adopted an ordinance May 28 that calls for annexation of 758 acres of land effective July 1, 1997.

The first parcel north of the city along Second Street would take in homes and several small businesses.

The industrial parcel would take in 555 acres along I-85 and Canterbury Road east of the city.

The lawsuit claims that the

See Suit, 7-A

Betty White has been Fair volunteer for 25 years

It was natural that Betty White would get hooked on the Bethware Community Fair.

A volunteer with Tabor City Yam Festival for years, Betty Gaskin White moved to Kings Mountain when she married Cesko White and became an assistant teacher and bus driver at Bethware School.

She said the activities of the children sparked her interest in the agricultural fair nearly a quarter century ago and she

volunteered to work the exhibit hall.

Mrs. White is probably one of the top boosters of the agricultural fair which returns to Bethware School July 30 for a five-day run.

For two days, July 29 and July 30, White and her crew will be busy in the school gymnasium taking in entries and marking them properly for judges to judge everything from canned goods to pantry and dairy



"It takes a lot of hard work by many people to make the Fair a success ..."

-Betty White

items, household arts, ceramics, flowers, antiques, plastic canvass and horticulture.

Household arts has become one of the most popular category over the years and includes

anything handmade.

Last year 1,894 entries competed for cash prizes and this year with increased exhibit areas White says there will be many more. In 1994 more than 2400 exhibits were logged. The White committee burns the midnight oil and love it.

"It takes a lot of hard work by many people to make the Fair a success but the money the

See White, 7-A

Kings Mountain People

It's always Arnold to the rescue

The Kings Mountain Rescue Squad is not only Jack Arnold's hobby but his life.

"I'm there when they need me," says the 26-year-old Kings Mountain man who was introduced to the Rescue Squad two years ago by his cousin who then dropped out of the squad.

"My cousin had other priorities since he was a family man but I'm single and I can give full-time to the rescue profession," said Arnold.

Lt. Arnold has moved up quickly in the ranks and is working toward paramedic status from Intermediate. He has also trained for the diving team and is one of five certified rescue divers who share the responsibility with divers from the Shelby Rescue Squad for water safety at city-owned Moss Lake.

Arnold says advanced training could qualify him for a paying job at some point in his career. He sees Rescue Squad training as a real plus for

young men and young women.

"The knowledge that we get from this training means that we could save a life and that's what it's all about," said Arnold, who moved to Kings Mountain with his parents, Don and Joy Arnold from Detroit, Michigan. Jack graduated from Kings Mountain High School in 1988 and was in the US Army Reserves Airborne Division.

Arnold said his family chose Kings Mountain because of its freshness and uniqueness and working side by side with paramedics has given him an opportunity to get to know people.

"I had thought I'd get into law enforcement but I've liked the water ever since I was a kid and I've found I can use my training as a diver now with my rescue work," said Arnold.

Arnold says he plans to stay in rescue work as long as there's a need for volunteers.



JACK ARNOLD

INSIDE AT A GLANCE

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