

County to vote on budget

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

Cleveland County has finished a proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, and it will be voted on in a meeting June 5 at the County Commissioner's chambers in Shelby.

County Manager Lane Alexander said the county's tax base has increased by 3.5 percent from fiscal year 2000, which he said is because of new growth and investment in Cleveland County.

With the state's current shortfall of \$853 million, and increased cost of Medicaid and special assistance, the county froze positions and delayed capital expenditures to make up for the loss.

"Because school merger forced a tax increase in a reevaluation year," Alexander said in a memo attached to the budget, "commissioners did not feel they could increase taxes this year."

Alexander said he denied any new budget requests from agencies that have not received

previous county money.

The budget for next fiscal year does not include a blanket cost of living increase for county employees.

Commissioners will consider a \$200 increase across the board for county employees who will be working on June 15, 2001.

The proposed increase was not factored into the recommended budget.

Alexander said the proposed increase would help offset a 13 percent increase in medical coverage for employees with dependent and family coverage.

Funding increases to the Department of Social Services amounts to approximately \$1.4 million, with the Medicaid and Special Assistance costs taking up much of the increase.

Capital projects included in the proposed upcoming budget include an Emergency Medical Services Base Station for \$450,000, separate water and sewer projects at \$200,000 apiece and a payment of \$383,333 in grants to the senior centers in Kings Mountain and Shelby.

Alexander said the county will commit to providing a satellite clinic of the Health Department in Kings Mountain, as part of the agency's budget for the upcoming year.

The Health Department's budget increased by 9.93 percent or \$722,042 while the county increase amounts to approximately two percent or \$60,000.

A \$2 increase in the solid waste tipping would bring the current cost to \$28 per ton. The jump is the first one since the 1995/1996 fiscal year.

Two grants were awarded to the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office, and are reflected in the budget.

One of the grants involves the sheriff's office patrolling certain areas of Interstate 85 and U.S. Highway 74.

The grant allows the sheriff's department to use five of his existing employees, and results in a savings in county funds.

The second grant, which attempts to address domestic violence, provides funds to pay for a deputy/social worker. Cleveland County's general

fund will increase by approximately one percent once Medicaid and Special Assistance costs and the two sheriff's department grants, the economic development commission grants are deducted.

An additional \$300,000 from a hospital lease is also factored in the general fund budget.

Kings Mountain and Shelby Schools will lose students in its average daily membership from last year but the two city systems along with Cleveland County will share \$264,000 which will be created from the \$1.16 supplemental property tax.

The proposed budget does not include an increase in current expense or appropriations based on average daily membership.

Current expense appropriation increased by 5.8 percent, while the average daily membership allocation increased to \$557.

Alexander said the county will continue to give \$118 per student in the recommended budget.

OBITUARIES

JUDY DAY

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Judy Anne "Boots" Day, 55, Charles St. Apt. 94, died May 25, 2001 at her home.

A native of Gaston County, she was the daughter of the late Stanley Hall. She was a homemaker and attended Bessemer City Church of God. She was a 1964 graduate of Bessemer City High School and a graduate of Gaston College in Industrial Engineering.

She is survived by her husband, Tony Day of Cherryville; son, Stanley Dean Day of Shelby; daughters, Kirstie Denise Day of Gastonia, Amy Starlene Day-Watts of Cherryville, and Brittany Lee-Allison Day of Cherryville; mother, Elsie Lee Hall of Kings Mountain; brothers, Jerry Hall of Bessemer City, Edward Hall of Rock Hill, and Stanley, Tommy and Ricky Hall, all of Kings Mountain; sisters, Jackie Jenkins of Asheboro and Sunny Long of Kings Mountain; aunt, Annie Mae McMillan of Bessemer City; and grandchildren, Shirley Ann Day, Julia Nicole Day, Tonya Christine Day, Lacey Day, Olivia Bolick, Tiffany Vollmer, and Tony Day II.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Thurman Jenkins, David Hall and Don Capell at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Bessemer City Church of God. Burial was in Cherryville Memorial Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Jerry, Stanley, Edward and Tommy Hall, Ray McMillan and Charles Getz.

Sisk-Butler Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

EDNA ROSS COOK

GROVER - Edna Ross Cook, 85, 205 Carolina Avenue, died May 23, 2001 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Lee and Laura McSwain Ross. She was a member of Bethany Baptist Church. She was a homemaker and former owner of Edna's Lingerie Shop.

She is survived by her husband, Pinkney Cook of the home; sons, Jerry Cook and wife Charly of Blacksburg, SC, and Louis Cook of Kings Mountain; brother, Hubert Ross of New Smyrna Beach, FL; sister, Mildred Lowman of Hildebran; grandchildren, Renee Wilson and husband Terry of Lawndale, Phillip Cook and wife Abbie of Grover, and Brian and Jeff Cook, both of Kings Mountain; and great-grandchildren, Dustin Wilson, Jordan Moore, and Justin Cook.

A graveside service was conducted by the Rev. Tim Lowery at 11 a.m. Saturday at Grover Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Grover Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 158, Grover, NC or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Relay for Life teams to meet Monday 5:30

A meeting of team captains for the upcoming Kings Mountain Relay for Life will be held Monday at 5:30 p.m. at the Alexander Building on East Gold Street.

T-shirts will be passed out and teams will be assigned tent sites.

Teams are also asked to turn in sponsorship and luminary money at this meeting.

ELOISE EARLY BAITY

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Eloise Early Baity, 89, 915 Brookwood Drive, died May 28, 2001 at Wendover Hospice, Shelby.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Boyce Crayton Early and Willie



BAITY

Morris Early. She was wife of the late Arthur Pinkney Baity Sr. She was also preceded in death by her son, Arthur P. Baity Jr.; brothers, Jake Early and Cran Early; and sisters, Minnie Early Murray, Mary Early Wake and Catherine Early.

She was a member of the Gastonia Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her son, David J. Baity and wife Barbara of Gastonia; daughters, Valerie Baity Coleman and husband Don of Demorest, GA, Linda Baity Bennett of Kings Mountain, and Deborah Baity West of Charlotte; sister-in-law, Jo Ann C. Baity of Kings Mountain; seven grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

A graveside service was conducted by Don Coleman at 4 p.m. Wednesday at Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Road, Shelby, NC 28150.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

DOROTHY GOFORTH

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Dorothy Cloninger Goforth, 75, 803 Meadowbrook Road, died May 25, 2001 at White Oak Manor.

A native of Gaston County, she was the daughter of the late Labon June and Flossie Simmons Cloninger. She was also preceded in death by her brother, Jim Cloninger, and sisters Hazel Cloninger and Joyce Hayes.

She was a member of Boyce Memorial ARP Church and was retired from the textile industry.

She is survived by her husband, Robert L. Goforth of Kings Mountain; sons, Robbie Goforth and Larry Goforth of Kings Mountain; daughter, Lynn Wooten and husband Bobby of Forest City; brothers, Earl Cloninger of Kings Mountain, Bob Cloninger of Mt. Pleasant, and Reece Cloninger of Atlanta, GA; sisters, Dutch Cloninger, Betty Smith and Annie Fredrick of Kings Mountain and Peggy Harmon of Kernersville; four grandchildren, Robin Durham and husband Adam, Jason Goforth, Shane Barnes and wife Fonda, and Gray Wooten; and three great-grandchildren, Nolan Durham, Lindsey Barnes and Carly Barnes.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Doug Petersen at 2 p.m. Sunday at Boyce Memorial ARP Church. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Road, Shelby, NC 28150.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

KM Classes of 1970-79 reunion September 8

Kings Mountain High classes of 1970-1979 will hold a reunion September 8 at the Little Big Horn in Dallas. The cost is \$25.

For more information call Ann Sanders at 734-0649.

COUNCIL

From 1A

up again."

In another matter Tuesday, Council held a public hearing on the city's redistricting of wards. The only person to speak was City Attorney Mickey Corry.

Corry said the 2000 census showed 10,429 people in the city limits, and said that the Redistricting Committee was charged with the responsibility of drawing five wards that would be within 10 percent of the average of 2,059 residents.

New ward populations, if approved by the U.S. Justice Department, would be Ward 1, 2,092; Ward 2, 2,044; Ward 3, 1,969; Ward 4, 2,110; and Ward 5, 2,084.

By law, Council can approve the plan at its June meeting. Corry said Kings Mountain was the first city in the U.S. to request an "expedited review" of its plan by the Justice Department, and it is possible the November election could be held on time.

The State General Assembly has already approved extending the filing date from July 6 to July 23, he said. For the election

to take place on its regular November date, the plan must receive Justice Department pre-clearance on or before July 20.

In other action, Council:

- Set a public hearing for 7 p.m. June 26 to consider a request from Christina Jones to rezone property at 808 N. Piedmont from Residential R-8 to General Business G-B; a request from Whitley Hambricht Properties, Inc. to rezone property at 2034-1 Shelby Rd. from R-10 to R-20; a request from Whitley Hambricht Properties, Inc. to rezone a lot at 2034-1 Shelby Rd. from R-10 to G-B; a request from James Stumbo to rezone property at 246 Wright Rd. from R-10 to Conditional Use R-20; a request from Carl V. Wiesner and Nancy W. Henley to rezone the old Mountaineer Pharmacy property on W. Mountain St. from Residential R-8 to N-B; and set a public hearing for June 26 at 7 p.m. on the proposed fee schedule charges for the Building Codes and Zoning Enforcement Department.

- Adopted a resolution honoring East School as a Title I School of Distinction.

- Reimbursed KM District Schools \$18,933.25 for building permit fees for the new Kings

Mountain Intermediate School.

- Recognized the following city employees for years of service: Gene Waldroup (25), Duke Henson (15), Ricky Putnam Sr. (15), Dorus Bennett (15), and Ralph Champion (10).

- Presented a \$3,600 check to Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry. The city gives the Ministry the \$300 per month fee it charges the Employment Security Commission for rental of office space at the Community Center.

- Adopted a resolution noting the 150th anniversary of the YMCA, and heard a report from Kings Mountain Y Director David Ozmere.

- Presented a proclamation to Joyce Roark, chairman of the 2001 Kings Mountain Relay for Life.

- Approved the following rezoning requests: Albert Perkins to rezone property on east side of Crocker Rd. from R-20 to R-10; Charles Scism to rezone property at 2027 Shelby Rd. from R-10 to G-B; C.J. Holland to rezone property at 706 E. King St. from R-8 to G-B; Paul Medford to rezone property at 809 E. King St. from R-8 to G-B.

- Denied the following rezoning requests: Cynthia Falls to rezone property at 112 Tact Court from R-8 to L-I; Nome Manivong to rezone property at 920 S. Battleground Ave. from R-10 to N-B.

- Continued until June 26 rezoning requests from Tommy and Tina Hall to rezone property at 204 Cansler St. from RS-6 to R-6; and Barbara Bigger to rezone property at 115 Perch Dr. from R-10 to R-20.

Mountain Intermediate School.

- Recognized the following city employees for years of service: Gene Waldroup (25), Duke Henson (15), Ricky Putnam Sr. (15), Dorus Bennett (15), and Ralph Champion (10).

- Presented a \$3,600 check to Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry. The city gives the Ministry the \$300 per month fee it charges the Employment Security Commission for rental of office space at the Community Center.

- Adopted a resolution noting the 150th anniversary of the YMCA, and heard a report from Kings Mountain Y Director David Ozmere.

- Presented a proclamation to Joyce Roark, chairman of the 2001 Kings Mountain Relay for Life.

- Approved the following rezoning requests: Albert Perkins to rezone property on east side of Crocker Rd. from R-20 to R-10; Charles Scism to rezone property at 2027 Shelby Rd. from R-10 to G-B; C.J. Holland to rezone property at 706 E. King St. from R-8 to G-B; Paul Medford to rezone property at 809 E. King St. from R-8 to G-B.

- Denied the following rezoning requests: Cynthia Falls to rezone property at 112 Tact Court from R-8 to L-I; Nome Manivong to rezone property at 920 S. Battleground Ave. from R-10 to N-B.

- Continued until June 26 rezoning requests from Tommy and Tina Hall to rezone property at 204 Cansler St. from RS-6 to R-6; and Barbara Bigger to rezone property at 115 Perch Dr. from R-10 to R-20.

CANCER

From 1A

have."

Though Larocca looks forward to the Relay for Life each year, it's in her weekly trips transporting patients to their appointments that she really gets in the trenches in the fight against cancer. Typically, Larocca makes at least two or three trips each week ferrying folks to the Comprehensive Cancer Center at Gaston Memorial Hospital.

"I've picked up patients as far away as Cherryville and taken them to Gastonia," Larocca said. "I try to go whenever Deana calls me."

Each year for the last two years, Larocca has driven about

400 miles as a Road to Recovery volunteer. Not only does she give patients a ride to the doctor, she waits on the person to finish their appointment before taking them back home again. Larocca's daughter Rhonda Craig also volunteers as a Road to Recovery driver in Gastonia.

"I hope to keep volunteering with Road to Recovery as long as Deana keeps calling me," she said.

For more information about the Road to Recovery program, call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345, Tracie Lewis, Community Cancer Control Manager, at 1-803-328-6048, or Deana Shortridge at Gaston Memorial's Comprehensive Cancer Center at 704-834-3551.

BENNETT

From 1A

The Relay for Life, Bennett said, is a good way to raise money for more treatment for cancer.

"I think it's great," Bennett said about the relay. "I don't think we go out enough for it."

Bennett said the cemetery buries a lot of people with cancer, and he knows some of them as well.

"I know sometimes when they catch it, it goes all over their bodies," Bennett said.

Bennett sees people that are still battling the disease as well. He keeps several framed paint-

ings in his office at Mountain Rest that depict a pelican eating a frog. The frog, in the painting, says "Don't ever give up."

"It's not an easy thing to be told that," Bennett said about being told he had cancer. "But you can't give up, if you give up you're gone."

Cancer is a disease that could come back any time, but Bennett said that thought has rarely crossed his mind.

"Lots of time you worry about lots of stuff and it doesn't ever come," Bennett said.

"You're just wasting your time, so just think good thoughts."

Country Breakfast & Bake Sale
El Bethel United Methodist Church
El Bethel Rd., Kings Mountain
Saturday, June 2nd
6:30-10am

MEDICAL ASSOCIATES OF KINGS MOUNTAIN

Kings Mountain Hospital is proud to announce the opening of Medical Associates of Kings Mountain, a new internal medicine practice. The office, temporarily located in the Outpatient Department at Kings Mountain Hospital, provides all aspects of adult medical care. Physicians include Dr. Michael Adix, Dr. Keli Mayfield and Dr. Bonnie Bailey. To schedule an appointment call 704-739-7880.

Kings Mountain Hospital
Carolinas HealthCare System
www.carolinashalthcare.org
706 W. King Street • Kings Mountain, NC • 704-739-7880

ASSISTED LIVING

\$5,000 SAVINGS OFFER ENDS SOON!

Offer Includes:

- \$5,000 Move-In Allowance on select apartments
- Lifetime Rental Rate Guarantee
- 100% Satisfaction Guarantee

Manorhouse Assisted Living

2755 Union Road • Gastonia, NC 28054
www.manor-house.com

Call Today For Details: 704-810-0111

ARNOLD'S Gift Gallery

For the Graduate Or Bridesmaids

CUFF BRACELETS

These beautiful 1" cuff bracelets offered in precious pewter will make a stunning addition to any attire. Monogrammed or not the cuff bracelet is the perfect gift for that special person.

\$12.95

including Monogram Free Gift Wrapping

226 S. Washington Street, Shelby, NC 28150
(704) 487-4521