

KM Schools to get \$563,000 in Title I funds

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

North Carolina school districts will receive \$1 billion, but Kings Mountain District Schools officials are awaiting word on how that will be spent.

The state will get the money for education this year as part of the education reform bill passed by Congress, according to a new study released Tuesday by Senator John Edwards, D-NC.

The money will come from Title I, one of the largest federal education programs.

Kings Mountain stands to gain a 17 percent increase or \$80,000. That would bring the district's Title I funds to \$563,000, according to estimated figures from Sen. Edwards' office.

KMDS Director of Curriculum and Instruction John Goforth said most of the money would be used for the CORE reading program, part of the district's Title I pro-

gram.

The CORE program has one teacher with one student, and they work on the child's reading skills. He said students who participate in the CORE program have done well.

Goforth said extra money could bring more accountability measures.

"I'm looking forward to more federal dollars," Goforth said. "I can assure you as a federal program, you'll have strings attached."

The extra money would be part of the Leave No Child Behind Act which was passed last month.

Goforth said the district is still awaiting word from the state on how to implement the federal legislation.

Edwards said the state can profit from the reforms in the new law.

"We in North Carolina are uniquely positioned to take advantage of both the reforms and the resources in the No Child Left Behind Act," Edwards wrote in a report

detailing the bill's impact on the state. "The legislation builds upon the practice and promise of North Carolina's example and provides increased federal resources to maintain the state's commitment to high achievement for all students."

Senator Edwards was a member of the conference committee that finalized legislation that will improve America's schools with higher standards for reading and math proficiency, smaller classroom sizes, rigorous training requirements for teachers and more resources for bilingual education, special education, and after-school activities.

Overall, funding for North Carolina's schools will increase 17 percent this year, including \$35 million more for special education funding, \$19 million more for teacher training, and \$4 million more for bilingual education. "While significant, these funds are only a down payment on the long-term national investment we must make in the years to come," Edwards said.

MOORE

From 1A

"I never had anything but a contested race so I wouldn't know any other way," he said. "You need tested, experienced leadership and that's what I think I offer."

One of the tougher issues Dedmon faced during the last session was a tax increase he favored, which is scheduled to end in July 2003. He said the increase would hurt citizens the least.

"When you're faced with the budget shortfall you're faced with, you do the best you can with what you have to work with," he said.

Dedmon said the tax decision was not an easy decision to make, but was part of the job.

"I was there to make the hard decisions, too," he said.

Incumbent Republicans Debbie Clary and John Weatherly will be running against each other for the district 101 seat.

ALAN

From 4A

back in those days. One was the champion roller skater Tom Gossett. Being a professional street urchin, I used to hang around his house a lot. He called my sister Beth by the nickname of "Squeaky." He and his wife were nice folks.

Another family that lived behind us were the Ballards. The man was "Pop" Ballard. His wife would watch my sister and I while our mammy was at work. Mrs. Ballard was a nurse. I have a crooked bone in my nose and I told Mrs. Ballard the little bulge was a peanut I had stuffed up my nostril and she got a flashlight and peered up my snout but there was no peanut to be seen (except perhaps my brain).

One other Catawba Heights caper was the day I decided I wanted to smoke a cigarette-you know how curious four-year-olds are. Anyway, the brand my mammy smoked then were Salems in a green and white pack. Since my sister and I looked quite a bit alike (pretty children we were called) I decided to put on one of her dresses as a disguise and sit on the porch for a puff. As I recalled, the cig wasn't as good as I thought it would be and the disguise didn't fool a neighbor who drove by and shouted my name out the car window.

Overall, I have some pretty fond memories of Catawba Heights, a place that might not be Beverly Hills, but where the folks are real and the times are never dull.

Economic situation may cause KM to tighten budget belt

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

Facing a revenue shortage with an industry leaving, and state withholdings, Kings Mountain continued its series of budget workshops Monday at the Patrick Center.

Monday city officials heard presentations on several departments that included Moss Lake, Police, Planning and Economic Development, Public Works, and Mauney Memorial Library.

A video of a police chase and several weapons and drugs have been used as training aids to help officers know what they could face, Chief Melvin Proctor said.

There has been nothing finalized on department allotments or tax rates, and additional work session dates are expected to be set at the February council meeting.

And while Proctor talked of keeping officers alive, he mentioned the department had applied for a grant through the American Heart Association for two defibul-

lators. The grant would be for \$3,118.80.

Many officers know CPR, which has a 50 percent survival rate, but Proctor said the rate could increase to 80 percent.

Although the department seeks defibrulators it has no plans to become first responders, he said.

Progress in the Hillway community cleanup was another topic during Proctor's Monday presentation.

The project is part of a community oriented grant.

The city started cleaning up the area after it recently annexed it.

After completion of the first two phases of the project, he showed a slide of Hillway Drive without garbage.

One problem in the area has been rental property.

"If you are going to keep the rental property, you're going to keep the problem," Proctor said.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said the project has been going well.

"Most of the people want to clean up the area," he said. "Now, today, it is a tremendous improvement."

One highlight of the project's third phase is changing the name of the community, and Proctor said it would take a stigma away from the area.

In other business, City Manager Jimmy Maney said the library has seen an increase in items, such as books and compact discs checked out.

In 1994-95, 49,409 items were checked out of the library, and in 2000-01 93,664 items were checked out.

The library is also linked with Cleveland Memorial Library and other libraries across the south. It also has been conducting several programs for children and adults.

Councilman Gene White said current librarians has helped strengthen the library. "Since Rose has been here, the library has come out of the stone age and into the modern age," he said.

KM ranked in top 100 sites for industry

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

Two Cleveland County cities were ranked in a corporate publication.

Kings Mountain and Shelby were recently ranked in the top 100 small towns for location and expansion of corporate facilities in the March edition of Site Selection Magazine, according to a Cleveland County Economic Development Commission announcement.

Towns with a population ranging from 10,000 to 50,000 people were included in the ranking. Shelby was tied for 32nd place while Kings Mountain was tied for 63rd.

North Carolina was ranked fourth in terms of number of projects that located in a small town during 2001.

Cleveland and Iredell Counties were the only two counties to have more than one city ranked.

Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey said infrastructure upgrades the city has made has helped businesses when they want to expand. He said the city's location, with U.S. Highway 74 and Interstate 85 in the city limits has also helped.

"We're still in a great location for economic development," he said.

EDC Board Chairman Ralph Dixon Jr. said the rankings send a positive message to the corporate community.

"What a positive message to send to the corporate world," Dixon said. "These are two great cities in Cleveland County that are recognized by the official publication for corporate real estate executives as being tops in the United States."

COUNCIL

From 1A

council approved action to fix drainage problems in the Hillside area, and tabled similar action on Ramsey Street.

Councilman Jim Guyton thought landowners should participate in the procedure.

City Manager Jimmy Maney said prison labor would perform work for the Ramsey Street project.

Continuing the matter would help the city be fair, according to Councilman Gene White.

"I suggest we table this and look at it some more," White said.

In other business:
• Council set the dates of March 5 and March 12 for the next two budget workshops at the Patrick Center at 5:30 p.m.

• Approved a budget amendment for the Senior Center to appropriate a state grant in the amount of \$5,682 for the purchase of computers, printers, and a bookcase.

• Approved a resolution giving the Kings Mountain Little Theater a downtown facade grant. According to a memo from City Planner Steve Killian, he recommended council award the group \$1,000 which would be distributed upon completion of the facade.

Health Department expands KM services

The Kings Mountain satellite office of the Cleveland County Health Department has expanded its services to include a full-time nurse.

The new facility at 824 East King Street, across from The Herald, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., except from 12-1 p.m.

Full-time registered public health nurses from the Health Department rotate at the KM office and offer such services as blood pressure checks, diabetes screening, pregnancy tests, cholesterol screening, hemocults tests, adult and child immunizations, breast exams, pap smears, TB screen testing, diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmit-

ted diseases, and HIV testing.

The office has also begun screening and treatment of head lice and skin rashes. The office also offers its WICS program for women and children, and family planning services.

Most of the services are free to the patients. Some of the services carry a charge to either the patient or their payment source. For information on any charges, call the office at 730-1371.

The Kings Mountain office opened in September 2001 and has had an overwhelming

response, according to Health Department officials.

Beth Moore, Nursing Director, said the office offers local patients the convenience of driving a short distance rather than the 13-mile one-way trip to the County Health Department in Shelby.

"We feel good about the Kings Mountain office," Moore said. "We know the need is there and we feel like the people are taking advantage of it. The main reason we put services there is because it is difficult for a lot of people to get to Shelby."

Friends of Lakes to visit Broad River

The Friends of the Lakes and Gateway Committee will be touring the Broad River Greenway Saturday, March 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The group is scheduled to meet at Kings Mountain City Hall and drive to the greenway near Boiling Springs.

For more information call Karen Roy at 704-730-9149 or Louisa Eldridge at 734-0263.

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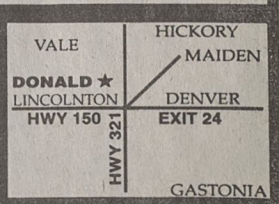


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