

## KMDS to spend \$1.4 million on capital projects

BY ANDIE BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain District Schools are projected to receive \$1.4 million in capital outlay funds from Cleveland County, board members learned during a Friday work session.

Superintendent Dr. Larry Allen told board members the money is currently tied up at the state level. Because the money comes from state sales tax revenue, the county must wait before it can release the funds to the schools.

The projected money covers several projects and needs across the school district.

Renovations on the Phifer Road property are allotted \$600,000. The property, which is across the street from Kings Mountain High School, will be used to house the school's career technology program. Construction will begin in November or December of 2004. The projected occupancy date is fall 2005.

Maintenance and repair projects will receive \$118,400.

The high school cafeteria will be renovated at a cost of \$100,000.

Seven additional mobile units are being leased for the high school. Some \$30,000 in capital outlay funds will be used to set the

units up. The seven new units will bring the total to 14. The units will be set up in the parking lot beside of the mini-gym.

"We didn't have a choice unless we put them in front of the school," board member Stella Putnam.

The new units will house math, Spanish, history and exceptional children's classrooms. The parking area will be replaced with a lot to the left of the road leading to the stadium.

Some \$70,000 will be divided between the district's eight schools. The schools can use this money for items like computers,

video equipment, maps, globes and furniture.

Bethware Elementary will get a new bus costing \$65,000.

Technology upgrades are budgeted at \$50,000. Out of that \$32,000 will be used to replace older computers at the middle school, high school and North Elementary.

The pool walls and floor in the natatorium will be replaced and new lockers installed costing \$50,000.

Bethware and North elementaries and the middle school are slated to get new HVAC units costing \$50,000.

The natatorium and Bethware

gymnasium will be painted at a cost of \$35,000. Carpet in the auditorium will be replaced costing \$25,000.

Some \$30,000 will be used to make the final payment on renovations of the district's administrative building. This loan came from the state's literary fund money.

The district's contingency fund will receive \$200,000. If that money is not used by the end of the next fiscal year, it will be added to the Phifer Road career technology program fund.

During the work session, the board approved changing its July meeting to July 10 at 7 p.m.

## Teacher assistant requirements changed

BY ANDIE BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Education requirements for new teacher's assistants got tougher this week. The Kings Mountain District Schools' board voted during a Friday work session to require assistants hired after July 1 to have an associate's degree or 48 semester hours of college credit.

The change in procedure comes stems from federal requirements attached to Title I funding. The

funds are primarily used to teach reading.

East Elementary is the only school in the system to be considered a school wide Title I site. This gives the school more flexibility in how it uses Title I money.

At the district's four other schools, Title I money must be used only to purchase reading instruction supplies and to pay teachers who work with targeted students.

By requiring all teacher's assis-

tants across the district to meet the Title I requirements, the district has the option of reclassify all elementary schools as Title I. This would give those four schools the same flexibility in spending as East Elementary now has.

Teacher's assistants hired before Tuesday must either meet the educational requirement or pass a competency test in reading, writing and math and complete 96 hours of training.

Currently, assistants at East and

those at other elementary school who work with targeted students are working toward the requirements. Title I allows schools to use five percent of that money for staff development.

During the past school year, those assistants completed 48 of the required 96 training hours. This fall, the assistants will complete the remaining 48 more hours.

There are approximately 80 teacher's assistants working in the district.

Currently, teacher's assistants who meet the educational requirement receive an additional \$25 each month. Board members are considering upping this amount.

In a similar move, board members directed Director of Administrative Services Mary Accor to research upping requirements and creating a training program for substitute teachers. At this time, substitutes are only required to have a high school diploma.

## Personnel items approved at work session

Kings Mountain District School's board approved a number of personnel changes during a Friday work session.

New contracts: Janice Resetar, physical education, KMHS; Stephen Braggs, physical education, KMHS; Suzette Feemster, sci-

ence, KMHS; Dayna Rupp, exceptional children, KMMS; Linda Trevino, music, Bethware and Grover elementary schools; Rich Williams, physical education, KMHS; Cheryl Griffin, fourth grade, Bethware Elementary.

Resignations: Lisa Howell, teacher's assistant, Bethware Elementary; Pam Crawford, cafeteria, Bethware Elementary; Sallie Burton, Cafeteria, Bethware Elementary; Tony Leigh, physical education, KMHS; Amy Owenby, science, KMHS; Randy Malloy,

math, KMHS; Paul Hall, physical education, KMHS; Melissa Swanger, fourth grade, Bethware Elementary.

Transfer: Elroy Wilson, teacher's assistant at KMHS to Bethware Elementary; Sherry Parker,

teacher's assistant to CORE at Bethware; Channon Vogel, math, KMIS to KMHS; Becky Williams, KMMS to West Elementary, fourth grade; Amy Hord, North Elementary to KMIS, fifth grade. Leave of absence: Elaine Stewart, fifth grade, KMIS.

### JIM

From 4A

those foils.

For a long time, I fretted about tossing all those two liter soft drink bottles. I have seen some at the flea market on Hwy 321, that have been turned into artsy looking decorations, but I don't think of that as useful.

"I know there's a use for them," I said to my keeper.

"You're nuts," she replied. "If it was up to you, our driveway would be lined with old whitewall tires, and the back yard would be filled with rusting automobiles. You're the only person I've ever known who will wear a pair

of tennis shoes down to the label. Just forget about the soft drink bottles. You're not going to clutter up this house and yard with them."

Of course, I knew that perseverance would provide a way to use those bottles. The extended drought gave me my answer.

All through the winter months, I kicked ideas around, and I think I have the right one.

If you get a good strong needle, preferably one of those used for sewing leather, and put it into a pair of vice grips, you can punch holes in the bottom and around the sides near the bottom of the bottle. That's what I did,

and I buried one of those ventilated bottles between each of my tomato plants.

By filling those bottles with water, the seepage should nourish the tomato plants. You can also pour liquid fertilizer in them instead of side dressing your plants.

Thus far, of course, I've been thwarted. There is no drought this year, but never mind, they still work well for fertilizer.

Take warning, don't collect too many of those bottles. Your spouse may show you a new use for a plastic laundry bag.

### GARY

From 4A

prevent voters from sweeping the board clean on election day and creating an all-inexperienced board.

I disagree. My opinion is, that if it takes someone two years to learn a part-time job they don't need to be in that job. And when some council members are not doing a good job overall or are simply there because they have an ax to grind, there needs to be a way to get them out of office quickly. You shouldn't have to put up with them for

four years.

On the other hand, if council members are doing a good job they will be reelected.

And besides all of that, the day-to-day running of the city is the responsibility of the city manager, not the council. Council's main priority should be to set policy for the city manager to carry out and to always have a qualified, experienced city manager.

Kings Mountain has had four-year terms in the past, but in my opinion the two-year term has worked well here because for the past several years

we've had a very good city manager, mayor and council that for the most part have worked as a team. They have gotten past the problems that existed in 1995 and citizens have benefitted from their "public servant" approach to politics.

Those are my reasons for leaving the terms alone. Others may have better reasons for having four-year staggered terms. If they do they should take the same initiative as Gene White did in 1995 and get the required number of signatures on a petition that would require council to call for a vote.

### ANDIE

From 4A

creatures, he told me they had to eat, too. "Why can't they munch on kudzu then and leave the pretty stuff alone," I said, demanding an answer from the beetle defender.

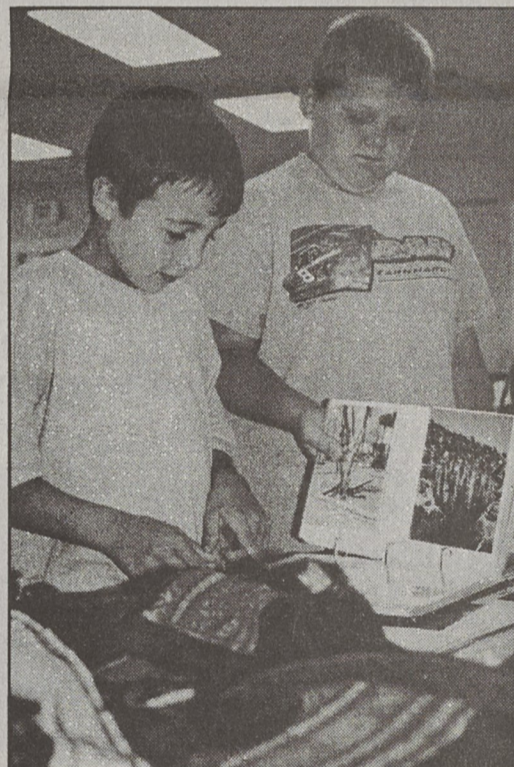
It wasn't long until hubby was the

one issuing orders. He spotted a monarch butterfly and ordered me to stop right there. Out came his camera equipment. The monarch was captured on disc. I guess that is more noble than my bug squashing.

Walking through the garden both humbled and inspired me. I know there is no way I'll ever achieve a masterpiece like Stowe but I did come home with ideas and a few plants from

the gift shop.

Intrigued by the chance to have a blue cardoon of my very own, I purchased one. I'm considering returning to buy a few more. Beauty like that needs companionship. I also decided to follow the higher path and not steal Stowe's basil. Of course that high minded decision didn't come until I found a lone basil plant for sale in the nursery.



Devin Bradey and Cody Francis look at photos from Chile at Monday's Summer Reading program at Mauney Memorial Library in Kings Mountain.

ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD

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