

School board cries foul on state budget provisions

DAVE BLANTON

dave.kmherald@gmail.com

Members of the Cleveland County Board of Education heard from the school system's top finance officer Monday about what the recently passed state budget mean to students and teachers at the local level.

Dr. David Lee, finance director, did not paint a pretty picture.

"In the big picture and in the long run, the pay raises offered to teachers amounts to diminishing returns," Lee said in a scalding appraisal of an \$8.1 billion state education budget that was passed in July after prolonged wrangling among Raleigh lawmakers.

"All that glitters is not gold," Lee said.

He was, in part, referring

to a part of the budget that allocated an average 3.3 percent increase in teacher salaries. He conceded that for younger, less experienced teachers the raise mandated by lawmakers is close to 18 percent, but said that as teachers acquire more years on the job, the pay bump fades to almost zero. The budget caps future pay for teachers at \$50,000 per year.

Although the matter of the budget has been settled and signed into law, schools still cannot yet plan for the upcoming fiscal year because the North Carolina's Department of Public Instruction, which directly allocates monies to local systems, has not notified schools what their share of

See **SCHOOL BOARD, 7A**



Motorcycle riders on the American Legion Legacy Run, some 600 strong, will arrive in Kings Mountain Thursday, Aug. 21, at 2:45 p.m. and will be hosted by American Legion Post 155. It will be the last leg of a 1,360 mile ride over five days in eight states.

Photo: AL Legacy Run website

Riding for a cause

ELIZABETH STEWART

lib.kmherald@gmail.com

Imagine hundreds of motorcycles of all shapes and colors roaring through eight states completing an American Legion Legacy Run composed of wartime veterans, and ending at American Legion Post 155, East Gold Street, next Thursday, Aug. 21, at 2:45 p.m.

"We are excited and we will be ready to feed this group barbecue with all the trimmings," said Post Commander Curtis Thrift.

Thrift said that more than 600 veterans had signed up for the ride and he expects some 500 to be on motorcycles coming into the Post parking lot, led by riders from the local Post and Kings Mountain Police. Mayor Rick Murphrey

will be on hand to welcome the visitors to Kings Mountain.

The contingent of veterans start their ride from Indianapolis, Indiana, headquarters of the 2.5 million-member American Legion, from Post 64, riding five days to raise funds for the American Legion Legacy scholarship fund for children of US military personnel killed on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

Thrift said a 4,000 square foot tent will be set up in the parking lot of the Post home and equipped with tables and chairs to serve 300 people. A stage will also be set up in the parking lot. The riders will proceed through a buffet, finding their places to eat inside and outside the Post home. Members of Unit 155 Auxiliary, of which Lisa Carrigan is president, will assist in serving the meal.

The caravan of cyclists will be riding 1,360 miles. They will be recognized at the American Legion World Series championship game at 7 p.m. in Shelby on August 19, then travel to Georgia on August 20.

From Kings Mountain on August 21 the Riders will travel to Charlotte to attend the 96th American Legion convention.

Since 2006 riders from American Legion Riders chapters have participated in the Legion Legacy Run to annually raise money for scholarships and the chapters are well known for their charitable work, which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local children's hospitals, schools, veteran homes, and severely wounded service members.

Crime rate low says KM's Chief Proctor

ELIZABETH STEWART

lib.kmherald@gmail.com

Significant involuntary annexations began in 1997 and remarkably, for the 13,456 square miles that city police patrol, the crime rate has been substantially low for the ninth consecutive year.

Chief of Police Melvin Proctor credits the low rate to a partnership with the community.

Mayor Rick Murphrey agrees, going another step to point out good police work and great communication by police and the community.

"The city council is committed to provide the police department with the latest technology and the best equipment while pushing education in a career development plan with officers," said the mayor. He added, "Having well trained offi-

cers and employees is critical in today's litigation society and we are now moving key personnel into upper level management training which is the key to future department leadership."

"We continue to use crime maps to identify where crime areas exist in the city and from this information we develop plans and strategies to address those crime patterns and trends in those areas," said the chief.

The statistics board in the chief's office at the police department displays figures provided by the Special Bureau of Investigations. During the past nine years Kings Mountain has been significantly below the statistics in 1993. The Chief said that larcenies and assault head the list this year and he

See **CRIME RATE, 7A**

Electrical panel explodes at KM metal fabricator

A fireball type explosion in a large electrical panel at Alcoa Metal Fabricators, Cansler Street, will close the plant for a couple of days while repairs are made, ac-

cording to Fire Chief Frank Burns.

The Kings Mountain Fire Department and Kings Mountain Police Department were dispatched to the plant at 9:23 a.m. Tuesday morning.

"This was a small fire but the fuse panel was damaged and it will take awhile to repair it," said Burns.

Burns said the large electrical panel will have to be completely redone.

DAVE BLANTON

dave.kmherald@gmail.com

A drive-in theater whose screenings of such classic films as "Peter Pan," "Goldfinger," "Rocky" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark" have delighted tens of thousands over the decades has announced plans to close down after Labor Day weekend, citing a shift in the technology Hollywood uses to distribute movies.

Rick Stinnett, whose mother and father opened the Bessemer City Kings Mountain Drive-In, in 1949, says the theater will not be able to afford the changeover from conventional film to digital media.

"Nowadays, you have to have a digital projector and that's just too expensive to do," Stinnett said, adding that the cost of the conversion would be in the neighborhood of \$100,000. "It puts us in a bad position."

Stinnett says he will continue to operate the Sunset Drive-In in Shelby, which he



This will be the last summer for the Bessemer City Kings Mountain Drive-In. Owner says he will not be able to make necessary upgrades.

recently upgraded to accommodate movies that are delivered via digital technology, which arrive on a small hard drive or a Blu-Ray disc instead of long

rolls of actual cellulose film. "I know what I'm up against," he said in an interview last week. "I wouldn't be able to recoup it."

Stinnett, who grew up

with the business and with the movies, said he's not happy about the business decision for the theater that has

See **DRIVE-IN, 7A**



Creating Dazzling Smiles that Brighten Your Life!

Preventative, Restorative & Cosmetic Dentistry

To schedule an appointment contact Baker Dental Care today! Call 704-739-4461

703 E. Kings St., Suite 9, Kings Mountain • www.BakerDentalCare.com

Now
Open on
Fridays!