

**MAUNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY** children's program will be held at Southern Arts Society at the Depot Wednesday, August 13, at 10:00 am.

Pre-registration is required for the Scratch Art program; call 704-739-2371, option 2.

**KINGS MOUNTAIN WOMAN'S CLUB**, 109 E. Mountain St., will hold a yard sale Saturday from 7:30 a.m.-12 noon featuring a large selection of items. Vendor tables are for rent at \$10 each. Call 704-487-7144. Money helps pay for scholarship for a high school senior.

**THE INTERNATIONAL DEMOLITION DERBY** at the Bar H Arena in Boiling Springs, NC on Saturday, Sept. 6 and Saturday, Sept. 13. The event starts at 7:30 pm each day. The Boiling Springs Fire & Rescue is the sponsor of the event. For more information or to enter go to website [www.barhevents.com](http://www.barhevents.com) or call (704) 434-2866. Advance tickets available.

**KMLT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** - Anyone interested in working on the technical aspects of "Liberty Mountain" and those who could not make the previous audition dates are encouraged to attend the first rehearsal on Monday, August 18 at 7 p.m. If you have questions call Jim Champion at 704-692-2897.

**OFFICIALS ATTEND PINEHURST MEETING** - Mayor Rick Murphrey and four members of city council attended the annual conference of ElectriCities at Pinehurst last week. Mayor pro tem Mike Butler and councilman Rodney Gordon, Tommy Hawkins and Keith Miller attended the meeting, which convened Thursday.

**SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED**- Veronica Poole-Adams, Kathy Beaver, Belinda Chestnutt and Sheila Blake-more were also leaders in initiating the Lottie Goforth Nursing Scholarship which Avis Morrow, Admission/Discharge Nurse at Kings Mountain Hospital, received recently.

## SCHOOL BOARD: cries foul on state budget provisions

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the pie will be. Lawmakers were five weeks late in agreeing on an overall budget deal.

Lee's analysis of the education budget was met with knowing dismay from most members of the board, who questioned the wisdom of a budget that they said failed to fund common-sense education goals.

"It amazed me," said vice chairperson Shearra Miller. "I don't know what they (N.C. legislators) drink up there. It sounded really good (when political leaders first touted the budget). But I see now that it's not as great as they spun it."

Board member Donnie Thurman called it "a nightmare of a budget" while fellow board member Richard Hooker said "children are held prisoner by this budget as the rich get richer."

Lee's report estimated that at the county level about \$2.1 million will be sliced from the budget that was formerly used to pay teacher assistants.

It characterized state political leaders' claims that their budget saved teacher assistant jobs as "disingenuous or flat-out wrong."

Statewide, \$113 million in funding that had previously been earmarked for TA jobs was removed from the general fund and moved to N.C. Education Lottery funding. That means that freeing it up would require fresh law every year.

Nevertheless, Superintendent Dr. Stephen Fisher said the school system has no plans to lay off any teacher assistants. Instead, it expects to lose a number of them through attrition.

"The short answer is that we're always looking for ways to absorb positions," Fisher said.

Another sore point for Lee and members of the board was a line in the budget that eliminated funds for driver education. Meanwhile, lawmakers maintained a mandate that schools must provide the instruction and training for would-be drivers.

In other news at the board's monthly meeting, Fisher provided highlights from the results of a report furnished by a school accreditation group that yielded high marks for staff satisfaction within the school system.

A recent and anonymous survey by teachers in the Cleveland County Schools found overwhelming support among teachers for the

way that administrators manage schools, including class-size, school safety and academic freedom.

In the survey, nearly 83 percent responded that they have significant resources to carry out their jobs. 75 percent said class sizes are "reasonable." A little more than 94 percent said their schools do a good job of engaging parent/guardian involvement. About 92 percent agreed that they "enjoy autonomy to make decisions about instructional delivery."

Many board members said the results were praiseworthy, noting especially that Cleveland County Schools teachers responded more favorably to the survey in nearly every category than state averages.

"It really says a lot of good things about Cleveland County Schools," said board members Jerry Hoyle.

Not all were convinced though that the work atmosphere didn't have much room to improve.

"I still think that many teachers are afraid to speak up and make suggestions about how we can better educate our children," said board member Danny Blanton, who reiterated a suggestion he has made in the past. Blanton wants to install anonymous suggestion boxes at every school to give teachers the chance to speak out on matters concerning their administrators.

The report was assembled by AdvancED, a group that includes ad works in conjunction with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement.

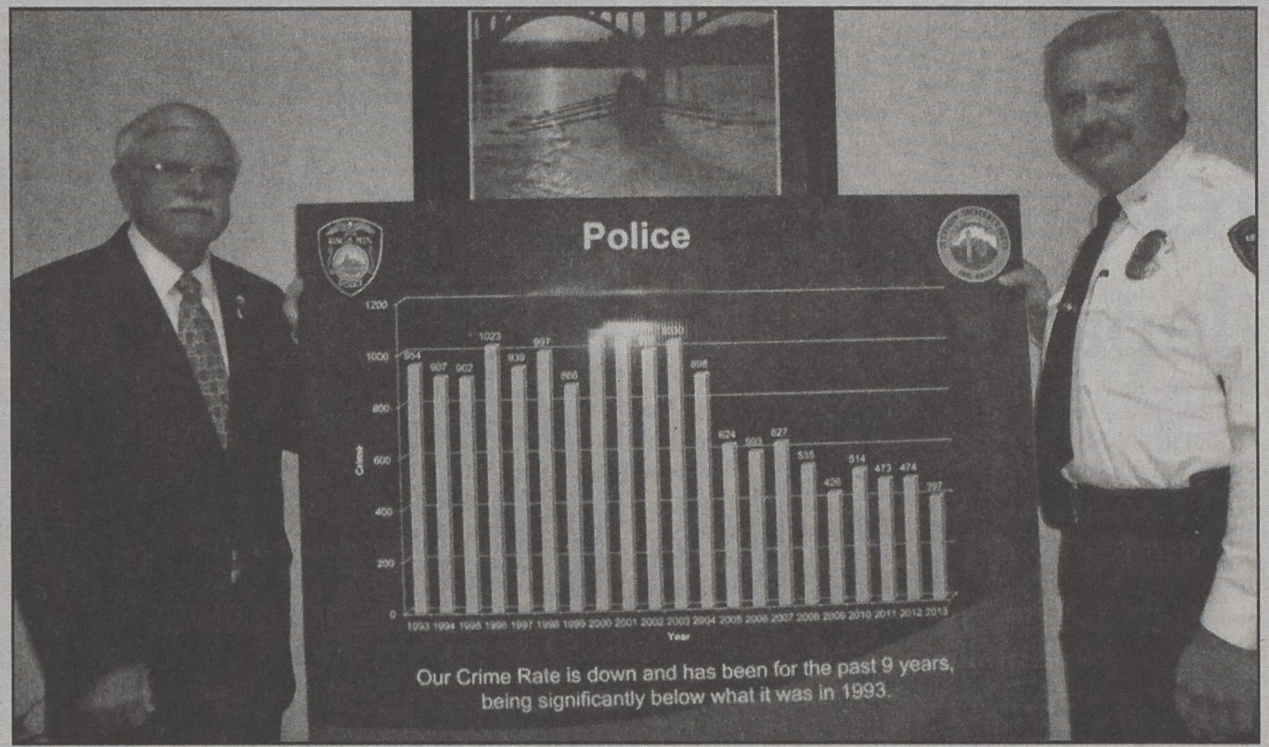
In other board business, the panel saw a mock-up of a new look for the school district's web site.

The site, which may go live in the next several weeks, has a "very clean and easy to navigate" look, according to the school district's director of communications Greg Shull.

Built using Google Docs, Shull said the new site will be faster and feature a number of social media components, including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest. He explained the new layout of the web site and asked for feedback from board members.

Also before the board Monday night was a decision whether to grant the city of Grover a right of way on the property of Grover Elementary. The motion was tabled for further discussion.

## CRIME RATE: low says KM's Chief Proctor



Mayor Rick Murphrey, left, and Chief of Police Melvin Proctor display the board in the Chief's office they are proud of because the graph points out the city's low crime rate for the 9th year during the last nine years and significantly below 1993 statistics.

Photo by LIB STEWART

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believes when the economy stabilizes and jobs are created that this will stop.

The narcotics division is currently working with area law enforcement agencies and with the Federal Task Force in reference to potential gang problems traveling from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

Re-balancing the city wards and two annexations in

2010 have brought the estimated population to 11,174, compared to the official 2010 census data official number of 10,296. Several annexations became effective after the 2010 census cut-off which brought the estimated figure higher than the official figure, said Steve Killian, the city's planning director.

In 1990 the city's official population per the census was 8,763. In 2000 the city's official population per the

census was 9,693.

Killian said that currently the city's incorporated area is estimated to be 13,456 square miles and that number accounts for the various satellite areas, all of which are covered by the city's rolling services (police, fire, garbage pickup.) The 1990 census figure was 8,763 or 5.56 square miles because it was not until 1997 that the city starting doing significant involuntary annexations, he said.

The Chief said police have built relationships with the community by Operation Medicine Drop, which last year collected 41,421 outdated prescription medicines and the 10th year of its Christmas Toy Store project that served 254 children with food, clothing and toys. Community Watches also are credited for the low crime rate.

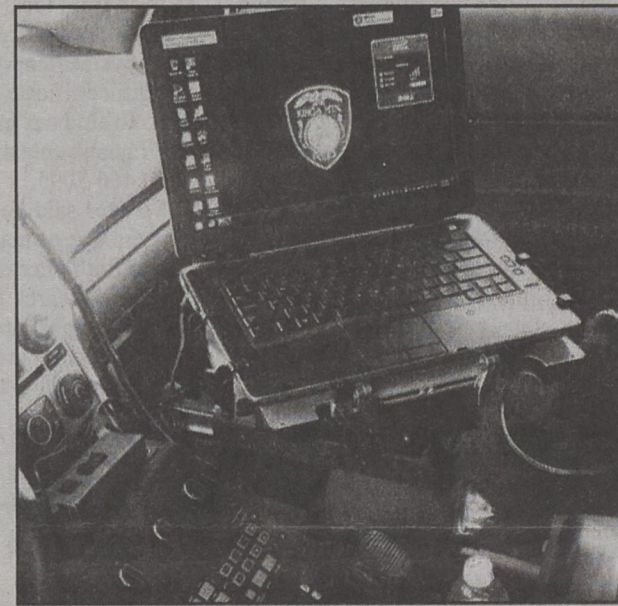
The city's 911 Center was upgraded from Positron to Viper, the most advanced radio system. The new radio system is a show piece in the state in technology and was demonstrated recently to a customer from South Africa.

Working with Matthew Dull, the city's Information Technology specialist, the

Chief said the department connected with CJIN ( the North Carolina Criminal Justice Information Network and met strict FBI requirements. The main requirement and hardest to implement was becoming compliant with AA (Advanced Authentication, which he said is the process of requiring more than a single factor of authentication. Kings Mountain was one of the first agencies in the state to accomplish this.

In his recent annual report to council for the 2014-15 budget year, Proctor said that the Kings Mountain ABC Board contributed \$9500 toward the purchase of three Ford Explorers. One of the new cars was displayed at the National Police Fleet Expo at the Charlotte Convention Center. Ballistic bulletproof vests were purchased, half the cost paid for by the federal government; the police department purchased its second K-9, Aaron, with monies donated by citizens, businesses, and the ABC Board. The latest equipment includes computers and video cameras in every police car.

Police sponsor Explorer Scouts who has been active in meetings at the police department for 10 years.



Pictured is a laptop computer in a patrol car, an MDT, an acronym that stands for mobile data terminal.

Photo by MATT DULL

## DRIVE-IN: closing after 65 years

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a 400-car capacity and charges \$10 per car. Drive-ins typically show double features.

"I was born into it," he said, adding that he has lots of memories of the theater both as a youngster and a business owner. "I love the movies and have always loved them ... but you can't be a critic. The ones that bring in customers is the ones you got to play."

Digital technology does has some advantages for theaters. The image never degrades even after multiple

screenings. Films on the other hand show scratch wear and tear.

For studios and distributors, going digital represents large savings. Making and shipping 35-millimeter prints—which for a two-hour movie can run up to 10,000 feet long, is far more expensive compared to shipping a small hard drive weighing just a few ounces.

And even Stinnett concedes that the new technology is a step up.

"The digital looks better," he said. "The bulb (in the projector) is much brighter. They're better to watch."

Stinnett says sticking to older

movies isn't really an option because they don't draw very large audiences.

"Older movies ... you can't make it on that," said the owner of the drive-in, which also sells hot dogs, corn dogs, nachos, popcorn and candy, as well as other treats.

Presently showing at the theater are "Guardians of the Galaxy," the summer hit about a Marvel super hero team of the same name, and "Lucy," a science fiction thriller that stars Scarlett Johansson as a woman who acquires increasingly powerful mental talents and enhanced physical capabilities.

**Now Enrolling**

**The Carpenter's Clubhouse**

2014-2015 School Year

- We are accepting 2, 3, 4 year olds.
- Your choice of 2, 3 or 5 days.
- Call for information or a tour!

**(704)739-2471 ext. 12**

Central United Methodist Church

113 South Piedmont Ave.

**Community Back-to-School Pool Party!**

Swimming!  
Games!  
Music!

Bouncy House!  
Hot Dogs!  
FUN!

**August 23 • 10am - 2pm**

**Kings Mountain Family YMCA**  
211 Cleveland Ave.

Free Admission\* with canned good or school supply donation

Hosted by Arise Church & Kings Mountain Family YMCA