

Kingsport BMA begins budget talks

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The proposed budget for property tax revenues growing by 1.2 percent, or \$320,500, to \$30.5 million. Kingsport's certified tax rate for Sullivan and Hawkins counties will be \$2.26 per \$100 of assessed value.

"That's not to say we've not had good growth. We have," Campbell said but added that the city took a \$248,000 hit in personal property tax revenue with the closing of the Quebecor facility in Kingsport.

"We should be in very good shape next year ... with the growth we've seen this year and because we won't have to take this hit," Campbell said.

The proposed budget estimates local-option sales tax collections and regional sales tax collections will increase by 3 percent. Sales tax collections in the Model City for the first nine months of the current fiscal year are running about 5 percent ahead of projections.

Campbell said the projected amount of sales tax collections includes a Kingsport business relocating to another city.

No one at the city mentioned the business by name, but the Kingsport Sam's Club is expected to close soon, while similar stores in Johnson City and Bristol, Va., are expected to open.

However, Campbell said the Kingsport Pavilion project would have a major impact on the city's sales tax collections once it comes online.

The project is a 78-acre shopping complex, with more than 30 stores and restaurants, including Target and Kohl's. The cen-

ter is expected to open in October.

"We won't see the impact until January. We didn't see the full impact of East Stone Commons until a whole year had passed," Campbell said.

Overall, Campbell said Kingsport will see an almost \$2 million revenue increase next fiscal year and close to \$700,000 in excess revenue over expenditures by the end of the current fiscal year.

Last week, Kingsport City Schools officials presented their fiscal year 2008 budget to the BMA, which included a request for \$455,000. Campbell said the city has no extra money budgeted for programs at KCS.

"We anticipate that the balance should be able to balance their budget," Campbell said.

Campbell is proposing 15 new positions within the city for the next fiscal year — five police officers, six firefighters, a librarian, deputy city manager, internal auditor, and a building inspector specializing in electrical work.

The cost of the officers and firefighters would be \$324,100, and the other positions would be \$225,900 for a total cost of \$550,000.

Police Chief Gale Osborne said annexation would add additional residences, roads and square miles of land, thus requiring more patrol officers.

Kingsport is also planning to build a new fire station in the Rock Springs community and looking to build another on Stone Drive.

The next budget work session is scheduled for Thursday afternoon.

Triple threat?

NEW YORK — Sanjaya Malakar is so famous, he can't walk anywhere without getting noticed.

"It's really weird. I mean, I'm just Sanjaya from Seattle," the 17-year-old "American Idol" cast-off said Monday on "Live With Regis and Kelly."

"It's paparazzi (who) get at you," he said, "and fans come up and try to give you hugs and get autographs. I would love to just be able to hug everyone and give autographs and take pictures, but you can't."

Malakar was voted off the Fox talent competition last week after a long and unlikely run in which he outlasted better singers and captivated millions of TV viewers with his goofy charm and ever-changing hairdos.

He wants to be a triple threat: singer, actor and model.

"Like, I really — what I want to do is experience the whole entertainment business because, I mean, I'm not just a musician, I'm an entertainer," Malakar said.

Fresh off "American Idol," the lanky teen/media It Boy is in demand. Another stop on his post-show publicity tour was David Letterman's "Late Show" on CBS, where Malakar was to read the "Top Ten" list Monday night.

On Saturday, he attended a White House correspondents' dinner in Washington as a guest of People magazine.

"It was really weird because the governor of New York came up to me and said, 'I'm a fan, I vote,'" Malakar said.

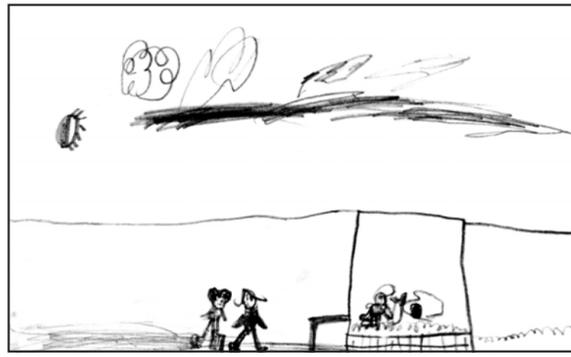
"That's Malakar," said Kelly Ripa, co-host of the syndicated daytime talk show.

"It was really weird," Malakar said.



MALAKAR

Drawing Card



'Partly Sunny' drawing contributed by Jackson Noah Kilgore, 6, of Gate City.

Children through fifth grade may submit entries for the Drawing Card. Artwork should be on an 3 x 5 index card. Drawings may be submitted to Drawing Card c/o of Kim Absher, Kingsport Times-News, P.O. Box 479, Kingsport, Tenn. 37662. Color and black-and-white drawings are accepted, but all drawings will be printed in black-and-white. For details, call 392-1361 between 9 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Jimi Hendrix experiments

LOS ANGELES — Guitarists have been copying Jimi Hendrix for decades. Now they can learn some of the legendary rocker's work note for note.

Guitar World magazine will release a special 16-page Hendrix tribute and an instructional DVD that shows how to play each memorable note and string-bending lick on his classic 1967 album, "Axis: Bold As Love." The DVD-magazine package hits newsstands Tuesday.

"Not only are you going to learn some of Jimi Hendrix's greatest licks," the magazine's editor-in-chief, Brad Tolinski, says on the DVD's introduction, "but we also hope to provide you with a little bit of history on the making of 'Axis: Bold As Love,' as well as some insight into his creative musical genius."

The magazine tribute includes a complete

biography of the guitarist and replicas of concert posters. The DVD includes original photographs and studio footage of Hendrix at work, as well as three hours of instruction covering the 13 songs on "Axis," which Tolinski describes as "the disc that captures a perfect moment in the life and career of James Marshall Hendrix."

Janie Hendrix, Jimi's stepister and chief executive of Experience Hendrix, which oversees his musical legacy, said the tribute package "underscores the timelessness and Jimi's music and spirit."

This is the first in what is set to be a series of special releases, Tolinski said.

The package sells for \$9.99.



HENDRIX

DAYBOOK

Today

Volunteer Kingsport, a program of the United Way of Greater Kingsport, will hold a Volunteer Honoree Breakfast from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at Piccadilly in the Fort Henry Mall. Claudia Byrd will speak. Reservations required. Call 378-3409, ext. 12.

Washington County Commission work release committee will meet at 9 a.m. at the Detention Center, Jonesborough.

Washington County Library, Jonesborough, will offer story time for children 3 to 5 at 10 a.m. and for children 18 to 35 months at 11 a.m. with the theme "The Wild, Wild West."

Downtown Kingsport Optimist Club will meet at noon at the Americourt Hotel, Stone Drive, Kingsport. Doris Ladd and Maria Catron with the Kingsport Housing Authority will speak about the HOPE VI project.

Wellmont Health System's Marsh Regional Blood Center will hold public blood drives from 1 to 6 p.m. at Valley View Freewill Baptist Church, Clintonwood; from 1 to 6 p.m. at Food City, Lebanon; and from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Mafair United Methodist Church, Kingsport. Donors must be 17 or older, weigh 110 pounds or more, and be in good health. Call 224-5888.

Sullivan County Commission insurance committee will meet at 6 p.m. at the Sullivan County Courthouse, Blountville.

Ketron High School Alumni Association will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the library at Ketron Intermediate School, Bloomingdale Road. Call Mary Farmer Banks at 416-0550 or e-mail mfbanks@charter.net.

Lisa Alther, Kingsport native and New York Times best-selling author, will speak on her new book, "Kinfolks: Falling off the Family Tree," at 7 p.m. at the Kingsport Public Library's Mead Auditorium, Broad Street. The free event is sponsored by the Friends of the Kingsport Public Library, which will hold its annual meeting at 6 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise Rotary Club will hold a club assembly at 7:30 a.m. at the Downtown Kingsport Association.

Early voting for the Kingsport, Bristol and Bluff City municipal elections will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Election Commission Office, 3258 Highway 126, Blountville.

Wellmont Health System's Marsh Regional Blood Center will hold public blood drives from 10 a.m. to noon at CGI, Lebanon; from 1:30 to 4 p.m. at Alcoa, Lebanon; and from 3 to 7 p.m. at First Broad Street United Methodist Church, Kingsport. Donors must be 17 or older, weigh 110 pounds or more, and be in good health. Call 224-5888.

To submit notices to be published in Day Book, fax to 423-392-1385, attention Becky Whitlock; mail to Becky Whitlock, Kingsport Times-News, P.O. Box 479, Kingsport, Tenn., 37662; or e-mail to bwhitlock@timesnews.net

In the Air

• Pollen 207 (very high) Source: trees • Mold spore: 1,302 (high)

(Courtesy of Dr. W. Jan Kazmier, allergist)

LOTTERY

The numbers drawn in the Virginia Lottery Monday were:

Day drawing
Pick 3 — 9-6-4
Pick 4 — 6-7-3-7
Cash 5 — 2-12-16-17-29
Night drawing
Pick 3 — 7-9-5
Pick 4 — 0-0-6-6
Cash 5 — 4-16-17-22-24

The numbers drawn in the Tennessee Lottery Monday were:

Day drawing
Cash 3 — 5-9-7
Cash 4 — 5-9-8-6
Night drawing
Cash 3 — 0-6-4
Cash 4 — 1-3-3-1
Lotto 5 — 12-34-31-5-28

CORRECTIONS

The Times-News strives for accuracy in all of its stories, but errors do occur. If you see a mistake in any of our stories, please call 392-1369 so we can make a correction or clarification. Callers should ask for Hattie Palin, information editor.

Study: Aspirin may lower risk of cancer

Continued from page 1A

pirin fights inflammation, and thus pain, by inhibiting substances known as cyclooxygenase, or COX, enzymes. COX enzymes also are involved in the formation of certain kinds of tumors, such as colorectal, prostate and breast cancers.

Aspirin does something else, as well: It makes blood less likely to form clots, giving it an important role in fighting heart disease. A daily baby aspirin — 81 milligrams — is recommended for people with cardiovascular disease or who are at high risk for it.

In contrast, connecting the cancer dots — showing that reducing COX would in turn reduce tumors — is vexing. And because aspirin can cause stomach ulcers and bleeding, firm proof of an anticancer benefit is a must before any health group will recommend using it for that reason.

The hints of that benefit are tantalizing.

"Aspirin and cancer's not go-

ing to go away, and there's great value in figuring out how to use it," says Dr. Phillip Febbo, an oncologist at Duke University Medical Center who is closely following the research.

Aspirin and similar anti-inflammatory drugs reduce the risk of many cancers when tested in animals bred to develop human-like tumors. Evidence in people isn't nearly so clear-cut.

In so-called observational studies, people who say they regularly use aspirin seem at lower risk of colorectal cancer in particular, and also prostate, breast and a few other cancers. However, people who take aspirin on their own may be healthier than the general population and thus at lower risk of cancer anyway.

Some more rigorous trials randomly assigned people at high risk of colon cancer to use aspirin, and found those who did developed fewer precancerous growths called polyps — but stopped short of showing the drug

really prevented cancer, Thun explains. More disappointing news came in 2005, when a major study that assigned women to use either a baby aspirin or dummy pills found no effect on a whole list of cancers.

Thun and colleagues at the cancer society wondered if many of those earlier studies used too low a dose of aspirin to have an anticancer effect. So they examined adult-strength aspirin — 325 mg or more — in a study tracking more than 140,000 people.

Taking an adult-strength aspirin daily for at least five years was associated with a 30 percent lower risk of colorectal cancer, a 20 percent lower risk of prostate cancer, and 15 percent less cancer overall, they reported last week in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

That's not proof of aspirin's benefit, either, but it does suggest that clinical trials start looking at higher doses to tease out an answer.

Duke's Febbo says answers also may come from improved testing of the COX enzyme's role in individual tumors. As with other tumor stimulators, there may be subsets of people for whom COX is a big cancer factor, and others where COX, and thus aspirin, won't matter.

Until then, whether the average person to do? Neither the cancer society nor a government committee that sets health guidelines recommends aspirin to prevent cancer, even for those at high risk of colorectal cancer. Consult a doctor first if you're considering it anyway, Thun stresses — aspirin can be dangerous if someone bleeds easily or has certain other conditions.

For now, cancer specialists quote their cardiac colleagues' advice.

"Stick with what's heart-healthy," says Febbo. And stay tuned. "There's a lot of potential for aspirin" and cancer.

Boundless playground opens at Warriors Path

Continued from page 1A

ramped walkways to slides, and other equipment and sensory-savvy exhibits specifically designed to accommodate every child. And that, project chair Betty DeVinney said, means EVERY child.

"One out of every nine children in the Tri-Cities has a disability, and most of those have spent years watching instead of participating on the playground. That waiting stops today," said DeVinney.

This was the case for Jeanne Parish of Kingsport. Her 12-year-old daughter Kara has cerebral palsy, and trips to the playground were usually upsetting.

"She has a younger brother who when he was 4 and 5 would desperately want to stay and play and (Kara) would be in tears because there was nothing she could do," said Parish, who along

with Kara attended initial "dream and design parties" that allowed children to make and draw models of things they would like to see at the new play campus.

"We would all leave, and we would all be in tears. But now I am excited because now I will be able to bring both of them and they can truly play together on a playground," she added.

Phase two of the project will come online this August, said DeVinney, and will bring visitors into the world of "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" once a sensory trail is completed.

The walk path is named in honor of the Narnia book series made famous first by author C.S.

Lewis and more recently by the 2005 motion picture by Walt Disney Studios.

Phase three is scheduled for a spring 2008 opening, and that project will be a handicap-accessible, multi-level tree house on the eastern slopes of the campus.

Financial sponsors for those areas are currently being sought. Those monetary backers will join Eastman, Charter Communications, Food City, Mountain States Health Alliance and Speedway Children's Charities as banner sponsors for the facility.

This version of a play area that bounds but will not only be

a source of physical activity and fun, but DeVinney is also aware that some children will learn more important lessons as they swing, slide and leap.

"Maybe they will come to realize that we are all different, and all of us have special needs. Some of those are more special than others, and if they consider that it is harder for some kids to play than others, they will start to realize what those kids go through and better appreciate the world around them, and help others, just like Darrell would," said DeVinney.

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