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KINGS MOUNTAIN

KM To Recover Almost \$100,000

Phillips: There Was No Cover-Up

District 6 City Commissioner Harold Phillips labeled as "false" accusations by some citizens that the Smith Administration was covering up an investigation into missing funds in the city utilities department. Phillips made the statement at the close of Tuesday's night city board meeting.

"I have a matter of great concern that I would like to get cleared up, both with the press and the community, he said.

"During the past week, I and some of my friends have received numerous phone calls accusing this board of commissioners and this administration of covering up and using our influence on the sentences that these former employees of the City of Kings Mountain received recently on the charges that were brought against them.

See Phillips, 11-A

Kings Mountain will recover nearly \$100,000 from four former city utility employees following a 3 1/2 month investigation into missing funds by city police, State Bureau of Investigation and city auditors.

According to City Attorney Mickey Corry, the four ran up more than \$36,000 in unpaid utility bills. They allege a supervisor told them for eight years not to pay the bills in compensation of overtime work.

Two of the four employees are now retired. One quit during the investigation and one was fired. Two of the four also recently pleaded guilty to embezzling more than \$56,000 in city funds. Judy Harmon and Dianne Dellinger were both indicted by a Cleveland County

Grand Jury and each plead guilty in court recently and received a five-year suspended sentence.

Corry said that restitution would total \$98,506.35. This week the city received restitution regarding the utility payments from retired employee Grace C. Wolfe for \$17,931.18; from former employee Judy Harmon for \$10,396.12 and from retired employee Margaret Wilson for \$6,864.61. Former employee Dianne Dellinger still owes \$1,169.90. All are former veteran employees of the city utilities department.

After meeting in closed session for more than two

See City, 11-A



SCHOOL BOARD FORUM - William Davis, left, moderates a forum for school board candidates Monday night at B.N. Barnes Auditorium. Candidates, seated left to right, are Calvin Miller, Larry McDaniel, Billy Houze, Paul Hord, Ronnie Hawkins, Wanza Davis, Priscilla Mauney and Tom Bennett.

KM School Candidates In Forum

Eight candidates for three seats on the Kings Mountain Board of Education participated in a Chamber of Commerce-sponsored forum Monday night at B.N. Barnes Auditorium.

Over 100 citizens crowded into the auditorium lecture room to hear the candidates give their opinions on such issues as SAT scores, school transportation, equality in the schools, participation in Senate Bill 2, merit pay for teachers and

the board's nepotism policy. William Davis, former superintendent of Kings Mountain Schools, was moderator. Questions were printed on index cards prior to the meeting and no questions were allowed from the floor.

Incumbent Priscilla Mauney faces Tom Bennett for an inside-city seat and incumbent Paul Hord Jr. and newcomers Billy Houze, Ronnie Hawkins, Larry McDaniel, Wanza Davis and Calvin Miller are

seeking two outside-city seats. Board chairman Bill McDaniel, who holds one of the two outside-city seats, is not seeking re-election.

Most candidates had similar opinions on most questions asked, however, there were some differences of opinion.

Most candidates agreed that too much emphasis is placed on SAT scores and said it is not fair to compare one system's or state's

scores against another's.

"The SAT should be used on an individual basis to know where to go with each individual student," McDaniel said. "All school systems don't have the same students with the same problems."

Houze said local and state SAT scores need to be improved, but that SAT scores are not "true indicators" of a student's progress. "We

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City Election Next Tuesday

Kings Mountain voters will return to the polls Tuesday for the run-off election for two city council seats.

In District 6, newcomer Scott Neisler will again try to take the most votes and unseat incumbent Harold Phillips. In the Oct. 10 election, Neisler led Phillips by 256 votes. The vote total was: Phillips, 328; Neisler, 584.

Four-term District 2 councilman Humes Houston is being challenged by newcomer Elvin Greene. In the Oct. 10 vote, Houston led the three-man ticket with 591 votes with Greene following at 382 and Gilbert Hamrick placing third with 277.

Polls open at East Kings Mountain Precinct at the Community Center and West Kings Mountain Precinct at the National Guard Armory at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. A total of 4,800 citizens are registered to vote. Since the city has recently bought electronic voting machines, the counting should be over soon and the results will be posted about 8 p.m. at City Hall.

Mrs. Cook estimates that 30% of registered voters will cast a ballot. She reminds that citizens voting at the Community Center should drive to the back entrance to vote in the gymnasium, large enough to accommodate both city and county voter booths and election officials. Kings Mountain city voters can also cast ballots for three school board members and some East KM



PHILLIPS



NEISLER



HOUSTON



GREENE

residents can vote for three commissioners for the Cleveland County Sanitary District. Incumbents J. Doc Turner, Daniel Lattimore and Maynard Ledford are being challenged by Bobby G. Austell and Edwin A. Patterson Jr.

The runners-up in the city election Oct. 10 asked for runoffs since the first place finishers didn't have a majority of the votes.

Neisler is a sales executive at Dicey Fabrics in Shelby. Phillips is a retired superintendent of Craftspun Yarns. Greene is a supervisor at

See Election, 11-A

KM School Board Race Tuesday

A total of 8,170 voters in the Kings Mountain School District are registered to vote in Tuesday's election to decide three seats open on the board of education and election officials predict a 35% turnout at the polls.

The three seats up for grabs include one inside-city seat and two outside-city seats on the board. Voters will vote for three candidates among eight running for election.

Incumbent Priscilla Mauney is

being challenged for her seat on the board by Tom Bennett. Running for two seats on the board are incumbent Paul Hord Jr. and challengers Ronnie Hawkins, Wanza Yelton Davis, Billy D. Houze, Vernon (Larry) McDaniel, and Calvin C. Miller.

County Elections Board Chairman Debra Blanton said that the four polling places will open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m.

At Bethware, where voters will cast ballots at David Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, a total of 1,178 school district voters are registered. At Grover, where citizens will vote at Grover Rescue Squad, 1,058 citizens are registered to vote. At East Kings Mountain, where voters will vote at KM

See Questions On Page 1-C

See School, 13-A

Grover To Elect Three

Grover voters will go to the polls Tuesday to elect three members of the town board of commissioners. Six candidates are running for three seats.

A total of 257 citizens are registered to vote in the town board election. Polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. at Grover Rescue Squad where Doris McDaniel is registrar.

Incumbent Commissioners Jim Howell and Donald Rich are being challenged by Carmel Honeycutt, Norman King, Dwana (Dee) Ellison, and Timothy Rowland. Three seats are open on the board, including the seat of the late Grady Ross. Terms of Mayor W. W. McCarter, Mayor Pro Tem Ronald Queen and commissioner Sandra Ellis will expire in 1991. The council members are elected to four year terms. Four of the six candidates reside in Spring Acres. King is a former 22-year veteran on the Kings Mountain board of commissioners.

Grover voters will also be voting for three members of the KM District Board of Education where eight candidates are running. In Grover, 1,058 voters are registered to vote in the school board election and all registered voters, except those living in the town limits, will also be deciding membership on the Cleveland County Sanitary District where five people are running for three seats on that board which merged with the Piedmont Water District.

Elections Board Chairman Debra Blanton points out that voters on Stewart Road and Dixon Road who



HOWELL



HONEYCUTT



KING



RICH



ELLISON



KING

vote at Grover, and voters living south of the Bethlehem community who vote at Bethware, can also vote in the Sanitary District election as well as some voters residing in East Kings Mountain who cast ballots at the Community Center.

Blanton advised voters to check with registrars at the polling places if they have questions about any of the elections.

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City Going On With Plans To Renovate Old Post Office

City Council Tuesday took the first step to convert the city's old post office to a long-awaited law enforcement center by authorizing Mayor Kyle Smith to appoint a new ad hoc committee to recommend an architectural firm for the renovation project estimated to cost \$300,000. Kings Mountain officials hope the renovation project can start in July and be completed over the next 18 to 24 months.

Last month the city made the

last payment on the old post office building at the corner of Mountain and Piedmont streets. The building cost the city \$90,000.

When city police move from the old historical site on Piedmont Avenue the building is expected to be utilized by the Chamber of Commerce and the KM Historical Association.

Mayor Smith said he will appoint three commissioners to the

See Post, 12-A

Stocking Fund Begins

For the first time in several years, Kings Mountain will have an Empty Stocking Fund this year to benefit needy children and others at Christmas.

The fund is being co-sponsored by the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association and the Kings Mountain Herald and is being kicked off this week.

Margaret Dilling is chairman of the committee which is heading the fund drive, and Tom Tate of Home Federal Savings and Loan is treasurer. Other members of the committee are Bill Russell, Denese Stallings, Dot Hayes, Hallie Blanton, Jonas Bridges and Gary Stewart.

The public is asked to contribute to the fund by taking their donations to Home Federal Savings and Loan and depositing them into a special account there, or by mailing them to the Empty Stocking Fund, P.O. Box 1491, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086.

The Empty Stocking Fund was the idea of Dot Hayes, a retired Kings Mountain magistrate who in the past has contributed to the Empty Stocking Fund in Shelby. After retiring, she felt a need to start such a fund in Kings Mountain and made arrangements through Rev. Harwood Smith, president of the Ministerial Association, to be the sponsor.

The project will be a special Christmas division of the Ministerial Association and will not conflict with other fund-raising activities in that organization, such as the Helping Hand Fund. The bulk of the money raised through the Empty Stocking Fund will go to provide Christmas for children, however, in special cases the funds may also go to other needs such as buying food or other items for the needy.

Each week between now and Christmas, a running total of donations received will be published on the front page of the Kings Mountain Herald. Donations may be made in honor and/or memory of someone and may also be made anonymously if the donor does not want his name published in the paper.

