

Herald to publish
Wednesday next week

Dedication Sunday
at Central School

14-A

Holiday Inn
to feed senior citizens
on Thanksgiving

3-A

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Parsons to mayor: Get off my back

City Finance Director Maxine Parsons is sending a message through an attorney to Mayor Scott Neisler to "get off my back."

The mayor called for Parsons' resignation as Interim City Manager in open session several months ago. Since then Parsons said she has been blamed for errors found in electrical utility billings that go back to 1992 when she was not Finance Director and she is tired of hearing innuendoes implying incompetence or criminal misconduct.

"I have no qualms with City Council," she said. Five of seven City Council members contacted by The Herald had little comment.

The mayor said he had no comment on the advice of City Attorney Mickey Corry.

"I just read the letter and I don't care to comment," said Councilman Phil Hager. "I would like to see the city return to smooth sailing. If

mistakes were made, let's do a root canal and cap it. We're all human."

Councilman Ralph Grindstaff said "I don't have a problem with Maxine retaining a lawyer. She has the same rights you and I have to protect our names."

Councilwoman Norma Bridges said, "I am surprised that Maxine didn't go to the City Manager first before she contacted a lawyer. I don't know of anyone who is trying to slander her. I hope the matter will be resolved soon."

Councilman Dean Spears had no comment nor did Councilman Jim Guyton. "This really does not concern me," said Guyton.

Councilman Rick Murphy was in Nassau. The Herald was unable to contact Councilman Jerry White.

In a response to Gary L. Murphy of Dozer, Miller, Poland & Murphy, City Manager Chuck

Nance wrote on November 10, "I have worked with Maxine for two months and I have talked with the city auditor Darrell Keller. Neither he nor I have noted any criminal conduct nor incompetence on Maxine's part."

The letter from Murphy under date of November 4 was sent to Neisler, the city attorney and the seven members of City Council.

"If local government officials want to point fingers and affix blame, they need to blame the correct people. We welcome an outside audit and if there has been wrongdoing we demand an SBI investigation. Maxine has done nothing wrong and any independent nonpolitical investigation will so indicate. She will not continue to have her credibility and character impugned," Murphy said in the letter.

Murphy said his firm has been retained by Parsons to assist her in "stopping the attacks that

have been made against her personal and professional integrity."

Murphy said in the letter to the Mayor and Council he has reviewed the correspondence between the Local Government Commission and Mayor Neisler.

Murphy said in the letter, "The Local Government Commission analyzes your audited financial statements each year and admonishes your mayor to take corrective measures. Each year under Neisler and City Manager George Wood those recommendations were totally ignored and your city's financial condition worsened. Finally, you have someone who is accurately reporting the city's dire financial straits and essential corrective measures and you want to shoot the messenger."

Veteran's Day observed here

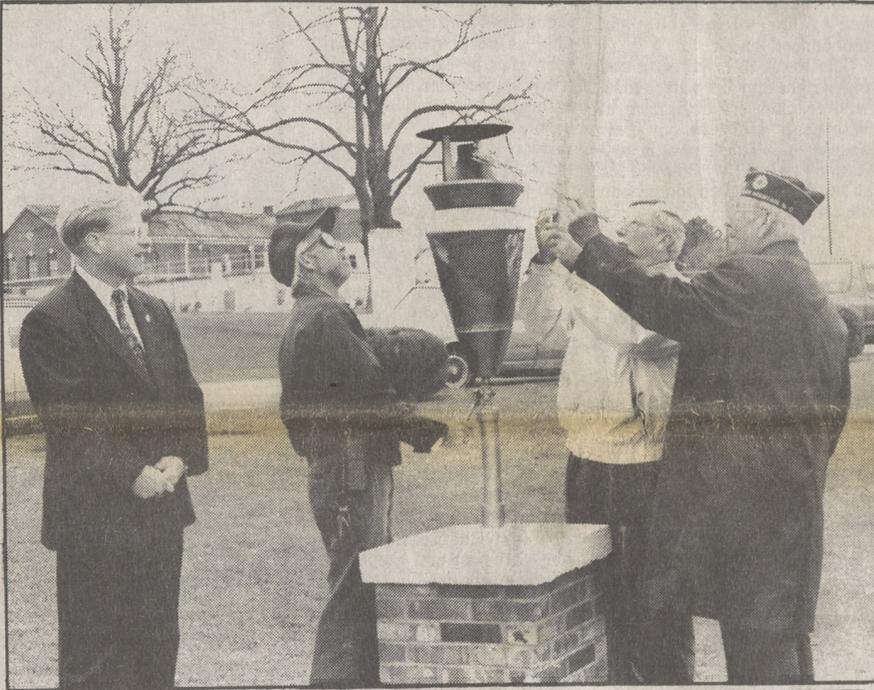
The 750 flags on graves in Veterans Park of Mountain Rest Cemetery and the lighting of an Eternal Flame added to the solemnness of Veterans Day 1994 Friday.

"The New Testament writer tells us that the greatest love is to give life for a friend," said Mayor Scott Neisler who read scripture and presented Kings Mountain Senator J. Ollie Harris, who gave a brief address. Cindi Alexander Wood led the singing of "The National Anthem."

Harris, a decorated World War II veteran, pointed out the flag-decorated graves at either end of the big cross and around the flag pole where the dead of World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam are laid to rest. He said the Veterans Park was dedicated in the city-owned cemetery about 10 years ago.

The mayor read the names of the deceased servicemen from all wars and Paul Fulton played "Taps" to end the ceremonies.

Harris, who fought in the



Mayor Scott Neisler, city employees Ricky Putnam and John Clemmer and Senator J. Ollie Harris, left to right, light the eternal flame at Veterans Park of Mountain Rest Cemetery during Veterans Day services Friday.

New KM school employees may face criminal checks

New employees in the Kings Mountain District Schools will soon be required to undergo a criminal records check, which includes fingerprinting, in a new policy under discussion by the Board of Education.

Assistant Supt. of Personnel Ronnie Wilson recommended Monday that the board work with the SBI to conduct the check and go with fingerprinting by local police, instead of just a name check, at cost of \$14 per 50-60 new employees which would run about \$1,000 a year.

"A name check would not be sufficient," said Wilson, who recommended that the policy go into effect January 1 as a condition of a person's final employment with the system.

The board is expected to approve the new policy in December.

"We've never had an employee with this problem," said McRae who agreed that the step is a small price to pay to be absolutely certain that this kind of problem would not occur.

"There have been horror stories coming out of some school systems and we don't want that to happen in Kings Mountain," he said.

Another policy the board will take action on next month is one requiring drug testing.

Kings Mountain Schools started drug testing two years ago of any employee operating a vehicle on behalf of the school. Wilson said the test is mandatory for a school system of 50 or more employees and is

Elementary test scores up

Gains were made by Kings Mountain elementary students on end of grade and end of course tests but comparison in state percentiles with Kings Mountain in several high school courses showed a drop from 1992-93.

End of grade and end of course test results for 1994 were compared with state results by Director of Student Support Services Jean Thrift Monday night to the Kings Mountain Board of Education.

In 1992-93, U. S. History students in Kings Mountain students were 22.3 percentile points ahead of the state and this year students were 10 points below the state. Physics students had a strong showing of 63.6 compared with 55.0 statewide. Algebrae II students' a 61.0 percentile compared with 57.4 statewide. In 1993-94 U.S. History students were at 37.9 compared with 48.2. Physics students were at 65.2 compared with 55.6 in the state. Physical Science students were at 49.8 compared with 48.6. Geometry students were 44.4 compared with 54.1. English I students were 47.6 compared with 50.6; Chemistry students placed 45.0 compared with 56.4. Biology students had a strong showing of 62.2 compared with 55.6; Algebrae II students also showed a plus of 2.1 but Algebra I students showed a mi-

See Tests, 16-A

Minority commissioners recommended

The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners Tuesday appointed its first two black commissioners, the final step in settling a lawsuit with the NAACP.

The nominations of Willie McIntosh, a 13-year Shelby city police lieutenant, and Bobby Malloy, a Hoechst-Celanese employee, must now be approved by the NAACP or the case could wind up before a federal judge for resolution, said Attorney Julian Wray.

The board bypassed the en-

dorsement of Kings Mountain Commissioner Phil Hager and Larry Corry, former county school board member, finalists by the NAACP among 15 of 22 people who had indicated interest in the two seats.

The appointments expand the county board to seven members. The two minority members are to take office with the two recently elected commissioners Jim Crawley and Ralph Gilbert in December.

McIntosh, who was greeted by well-wishers after the meeting, said it didn't bother him that he didn't make the final list picked by the NAACP.

"The ultimate decision was the board's and we'll just have to wait and see if the NAACP goes along with the choices," said Commission chairman Cecil Dickson.

The NAACP had been pushing for minority representation since 1989, when it approached the

county asking for a change in voting methods. The county proposed five districts, with two at large seats, and the NAACP approved.

The county didn't get the plan to the U. S. Justice Department in time for the 1994 elections and the NAACP responded by filing a lawsuit signed by Rev. M. L. Campbell of Kings Mountain. A federal judge then appointed a mediator to bring the two sides together.

See Cashion, 16-A

Life special for Louise Blanton

By ELIZABETH STEWART
of The Herald Staff

Quiet moments with her five-year-old granddaughter are precious for Louise Blanton, 64, who is fighting cancer.

Jennifer Nicole Griffin, daughter of Teresa and Donnie Griffin, climbs into Grandma's bed often in the late hours of the night and puts her arms around her.

The closeness that Blanton has with her family and the relationship that she has built with cheerful Hospice volunteer Sherri Goforth, wife of Kings Mountain Police Chief Warren Goforth, are especially meaningful to her, she said this week.

On a recent evening Blanton went Halloween trick or treating with her granddaughter at a church party and stopped at the home of friends.

She especially enjoys Hospice friends.

"I didn't know there could be such caring people," she said. "I really appreciate what Hospice

has done for me over the past year."

Little things like a guard rail for her bath tub from Hospice are appreciated. Blanton hasn't taken advantage of an offered walker or wheelchair but she says she will wait until she absolutely has to have that equipment.

"It's hard for me to stand and I lose my balance sometime but I want to walk myself as long as I can," she said.

And Blanton still styles her own short hair the way she likes to wear it, even though she said it's tough to raise her arms to cut it.

"Never give up" is her philosophy.

"Good attitude means everything."

Blanton was first diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 1991 and completed six months of treatments. Recently she moved into her daughter's home and Teresa quit her job at Cable Link to be with her mother.

"We consider Hospice our ex-

tended family and Mother loves them," said Teresa of the Hospice workers who are regular visitors.

Melissa Burroughs, Blanton's Hospice nurse, has been a regular visitor for a year and she and her patient laugh and talk as Burroughs tends to health needs. Lucy Pasquier, the social worker, and Patty McMurry, Director of Patient/Family Services, call regularly at the Blanton home and on Tuesday they all said they feel an affection for all their patients.

"Louise is just a special lady," said Patty.

"Just look at her in that jogging suit and trim figure," said Burroughs who teases Blanton and gains a big smile from Grandma and granddaughter who wants to listens to her heart beat through the stethoscope and watches the nurse take blood pressure.

Blanton retired in July 1991 from area textile mills and recalled that some of her happiest



Hospice social worker Lucy Pasquier, left, five-year-old Jennifer Nicole Griffin and her grandmother, Louise Blanton, and Hospice nurse Melissa Burroughs enjoy pleasant conversation during a recent visit at the Blanton home in the Oak Grove Community.

See Hospice, 16-A