

Recent snows inspire West students to write poetry

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Spectrum employees go back to school

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Gas expansion on go

Utilities Supt. Jimmy Maney got the green light from City Council Tuesday night to proceed with engineering plans and take bids for a major gas expansion in South Kings Mountain.

"We either move or some other gas system will," said Maney who said that Phase I of three could take in as many as 364 customers and the project when completed could ultimately target 1,000 customers.

Maney said that revenue bonds would be needed to complete Phase II targeted for the Oak Grove area where the city already has a trunk line.

City Council okays audit

The 1994-95 city audit was okayed Tuesday night by City Council by 4-3 vote.

Councilman Phil Hager's motion to postpone action until next month so the board could study the audit further failed after Councilman Rick Murphrey offered a substitute motion for approval and was joined by Councilmen Ralph Grindstaff, Jerry White and Dean Spears.

Voting against were Hager, Jerry Mullinax, who seconded Hager's motion, and Norma Bridges.

Earlier, former council member Jim Guyton questioned several items in the audit, including a writeoff of \$257,000 in the gas department, variations in landfill costs and late payment of retirement benefits and penalties on sales tax.

Reading from the audit, Guyton said that nine of 83 invoices could not be located and property sold at auction was untagged.

"We are hiring unqualified people and then sending them to school," he charged.

Finance Director Maxine Parsons said a personnel problem in her office resulted in late payments and lost invoices. She said that auditor Darrell Keller received a letter from an attorney from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission who advised the writeoffs in the gas department.

"That amount was never a consideration in the 1994-95 budget," she said.

Mayor Scott Neisler called it "incredible" that the city would



Quay Moss, Joe Smith, Mary Wade Smith and Postmaster Bob Howard, right, demonstrate new state-of-the-art mail processing equipment at Kings Mountain Post Office.

Post Office gets new processing equipment

Kings Mountain Post Office is the first area post office to install new state-of-the-art mail processing equipment.

Postmaster Bob Howard said that similar equipment is in use in Charlotte. Gastonia plans to put in a similar system in March.

Howard and his staff demonstrated the equipment for 40 members of the Kings Mountain Rotary Club Thursday.

Automated mail processing involves the optical scanning of a mailpiece's address block, the application of a corresponding barcode and high speed sorting of the mailpiece based on the information barcode and high speed.

"It only takes about an hour, from 5-6 a.m., and it

cuts down not only time but gets the mail man on his route quicker and the mail to the customer," said Quay Moss, veteran postal employee.

The equipment includes computers.

Howard explained that the CSCCS (Carrier Sequence Bar Code Sorter) takes the mail. The mail is run through the machine three times and on the third pass puts all the letters in delivery sequence.

It cuts out several operations. The clerk used to separate the mail for each carrier and then the carrier would case it up before he was ready to get going on his route. Now, the mail comes off the machine in record speed and it's ready for street delivery.

See Post Office, 2-A

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