

The Herald

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to make playoffs
 after loss to Burns

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Thursday, November 10, 2005 Vol. 117 No. 45 Since 1889 50 Cents



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD
 Houston Corn, left, top vote-getter in the At-Large race, and Rick Murphrey, who held off a challenge from former mayor Kyle Smith, congratulate each other Tuesday night at City Hall.

Murphrey reelected Kings Mountain mayor

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Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey kept his seat by eight percentage points. Murphrey got 52 percent of the vote while candidate Kyle Smith took 44 percent. Gilbert "Pee Wee" Hamrick received four percent.

Tuesday night Murphrey thanked his family and other supporters.

"Families have to go through it too," he said.

Murphrey also had good words for the council he'll be working with.

"I think we have an excellent council coming on," he said. "I think we'll have a good team."

Smith said Wednesday morning that he was glad the election was over.

"I worked harder this time than when I won," he said, referring to his past term as mayor.

Smith attributed his loss to voter turnout. "I expected people to turn out that didn't. I'm disappointed, not mad," he said.

Smith said he doesn't plan to run again. "I think this is about it," he said. "I'm 77." Murphrey has served as mayor for six years and as a councilman six years prior to that.

In the historic first race for the merged Cleveland County Schools board, Kings Mountain resident Terry McClain kept his seat in a challenge from Tammy Camp Trammel.

McClain was appointed to that seat when the county's three boards merged filling a spot left open by Larry Allen who accepted a job with the former Kings Mountain District Schools. McClain got 63 percent of the vote and Trammel, 37 percent.

Incumbents George Litton and Mary Ramseur Evans also kept their seats. Newcomer Philip Glover won a seat. Litton got 22 percent of the vote; Glover, 23 percent; and Evans, 17 percent.

Other members of that board include Jack Hamrick, Tommy Greene, Jo Boggs, Shearra Miller and Richard Hooker. Miller lives in Kings Mountain.

See Mayor, 4A

ELECTION RESULTS

Unofficial results of Tuesday's elections in Kings Mountain and Cleveland County:

City of Kings Mountain

Mayor
 ✓ Rick Murphrey 974
 Kyle Smith 820
 Gilbert "Pee-wee" Hamrick 71

Ward 1
 ✓ Howard Shipp 177

Ward 2
 Brenda Ross 125
 ✓ Mike Butler 168

Ward 3
 ✓ Jerry Mullinax 215
 Tommy Hawkins 125

Ward 4
 ✓ Rodney Gordon 276
 Kay Hambright 198

Ward 5
 Clarence "Buddy" Smith 152
 ✓ Keith Miller 167
 Lou Ballew (write-in) 118

At-Large
 Roy "Butch" Pearson Jr. 572
 ✓ Dean Spears 781
 Garland Wayne Edwards 99
 ✓ Houston Corn 921
 Rick Moore 751
 Lamar Fletcher 149

Town of Grover

Council
 Bill Willis 57
 ✓ Calvin Huffman Sr. 96
 John Harry 68
 ✓ Adam Green 106
 Max Rollins 45
 ✓ Brent White 104

Cleveland County Board of Education

4-year terms:
 Bobby Steen 2,802
 Joanne Holowecky 740
 ✓ Phillip Glover 3,933
 ✓ George Litton 3,747
 ✓ Mary Evans 2,926
 Barbara Minder 1,952
 Wilburn Wellmon 1,253

2-year term:
 Tammy Trammel 2,234
 ✓ Terry McClain 3,855

Cleveland County Sanitary District

4-year terms:
 ✓ Don Melton 1,902
 ✓ Alan Norman 2,697
 ✓ Timothy B. Brooks 1,218
 Johnny Lawrence 778
 Gene Graham 546

2-year unexpired term:
 ✓ C.J. "Pete" Pedersen 1,415
 Vallery D. McCoy 991
 D. Farrell Wease 784

3 new faces on KM Council

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Three newcomers won seats to the Kings Mountain City Council on Tuesday - Mike Butler, Rodney Gordon and Keith Miller. Veteran council member Dean Spears is back after a two-year hiatus and incumbents Houston Corn and Jerry Mullinax kept their seats. Ward One representative Howard Shipp faced no opposition.

Ward Three Councilman and radio show host Mullinax was beaming as he entered city hall where crowds gathered to view election results.

"I'm back to work. I'm on my way to the station," he said.

Radio station WKMT temporarily suspended Mullinax's gospel music program after opponent Tommy Hawkins asked WKMT to give him equal air time.

Rodney Gordon, the Ward Four winner, was surrounded by family and friends, many wearing "vote for Gordon" tee shirts.

"I'm glad it's over," he said. "We worked hard, knocked on a lot of doors."

As a new councilman, Gordon is putting learning first on his agenda.

The newcomer said he has long wanted to run but starting a business and a family illness put it on hold until now.

"I had a clear path [this time]," he said. Gordon ran against Kay Hambright.

Ward Two winner Mike Butler was almost speechless as friends and family congratulat-

ed him. He did manage to say he was "happy" and thanked his wife, sisters and other supporters.

He also praised his opponent Brenda Ross for running a clean race.

Ward Five winner Keith Miller said he was "humbled" to win in the very close race.

"One hundred sixty-seven people put their trust in me. Everyone in the ward is counting on me to do a good job," he said.

Miller said he plans to listen to what all his constituents have to say and is looking forward to getting to know fellow council members. He complimented his opponents for a clean race.

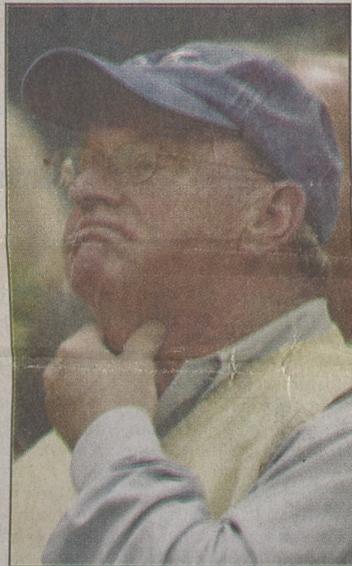
He faced a challenge from Clarence "Buddy" Smith and write-in candidate Lou Ballew. Smith said Tuesday night it had been a clean race. Incumbent Carl DeVane withdrew due to health issues.

At-large winner Dean Spears said he worked harder in this race than any other. Spears has served two two-year terms and a four year term. In 2003 he lost his Ward Four seat to Kay Hambright.

Spears said in the wake of rumors that Rick Moore was not going to run again, friends encouraged him to make a bid for an at-large seat.

"I'm glad they did," he said. Moore made an unexpected bid for the seat but lost it Tuesday. The other incumbent

See Council, 4A



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD
 Incumbent Rick Moore watches as vote totals are posted in Kings Mountain Council At-Large race. Moore's re-election bid fell just short as fellow incumbent Houston Corn and former Ward 4 Councilman Dean Spears led the ticket.



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD
 Tori Curry waves to passing motorists at First Baptist Church Tuesday as she supports re-electing Rick Murphrey in the Kings Mountain mayor's race.

Clean Sweep

Newcomers Green, White, Huffman elected in Grover

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GROVER - Voters chose three newcomers to Grover City Council on Tuesday.

Christopher Brent White and Adam Green both garnered 22 percent of the vote and Calvin Huffman took 20 percent defeating incumbents John Harry, Max Rollins and Bill Willis.

Huffman was the most visible candidate due to recent fights with city council over zoning. His request to put residential housing in an area around a lake which was zoned for industrial use were turned down.

"I'm just happy as hell," Huffman said Wednesday morning.

The newly elected man said his first priority was assessing Grover's municipal wells. Opening these up would mean Grover no longer has to buy its water from the City of Kings Mountain.

Bringing beer and wine sales to a vote is Huffman's second priority.

"I feel comfortable we'll have three votes," he said. Commissioner Jackie Bennett has supported it.

Huffman said he wanted to look at zoning.

"My first question is do we need zoning," he said. "All that is left is space for houses which can't encroach on each other."

Adam Green said the new council would be "interested in the whole town's agenda."

Green said he wanted to keep water and sewer rates from getting any higher and expand the town's police force. He wants to see if Grover's wells can supply the town's water.

"It's worth looking into," he said. On beer and wine sales Green said "in my heart I believe people

See Grover, 4A