

## YOUR OPINION

# Don't be a quitter, be a TRUE hitter

Letter to the editor:

Over the past year I have had the pleasure of watching some very talented baseball players. I have seen Kings Mountain make it to the third round of the state play-offs and even earn a home game in the second round. During this run several of the varsity players gained well deserved notoriety in the local press.

This is indeed a very special year in local Baseball history - American Legion Baseball that is. For the first time ever the North Carolina American Legion Baseball State tournament (Gastonia), and a national, regional and the American Legion World Series (Shelby) will be held within 20 miles of Kings Mountain. And with Kings Mountain's recent success it would seem that Kings Mountain would be set to make a run at the American Legion Baseball titles. However in today's baseball it seems to all be about the individuals and what kind of exposure they can get or should I say buy.

I would like to state that I love the game of baseball, but I do not like the business exposure, a.k.a. "showcase baseball." Both of my sons have played travel baseball for many years, and I would not trade any of those experiences for anything. But we have never left Kings Mountain behind. One of my older son's most prized awards is a Dixie youth North Carolina State Championship under Coach Ray Robinson that led to a World Series appearance in Bedford, Va., for Kings Mountain.

If exposure is the real goal, what better exposure could you find than in the national spotlight of the best talent collegiate and high school in American Legion Baseball's biggest stage? And guess what, it would not cost the parents or players a dime. In looking at this season Kings Mountain post 155 should have had a super roster.

Instead we have scraped together ball players any way we could just to have enough to play.

We're barely getting nine players to the field to play on a day-to-day basis and I for one find this very sad. What happened to the TEAM concept? I have heard it all this year, from "if I am not playing I am not staying" or "me before team." Times have changed so much! Now it is, "if I am not happy I will just quit" or "the coach will not let me start so I am going to quit." I look at the seniors that quit this year, who will without a doubt regret their decision next year when they are not allowed to play. These are the guys that should have showed up and set the example for the younger players.

I had so many great younger ballplayers tell me they were not coming out because they would (not) have a chance to play. Well my answer to that is, you must make an investment in the game to receive a benefit. Anyone off of last year's junior team could have been a starter on this year's team, because I know how hard they work to earn their spot on a daily basis, trying to build something they could all be proud of and, in turn, invest in next year's baseball team at Kings Mountain High School.

**KM Baseball Fan**  
**Tim D. Ross**  
Kings Mountain, N.C.

## BUSINESS

# CCC announces promotions

Cleveland Community College recently announced the following new and promoted faculty and staff:

**Laura Bowen** has been promoted to Coordinator, Financial Aid. She was previously the Accountant, Accounts Payable. A native of Cleveland County, she graduated from Blacksburg High School. She earned an Associate in Arts Degree from Cleveland Community College and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from GWU. She will begin work on a Master's degree at Appalachian State in August. Mrs. Bowen is a member of the Association of Community College Business Officials and Carolina Scribes, a local writer's group who recently

published Hearts and Minds of Cleveland County. She and her husband, Jeff, reside in Grover.

**Kimberly Johnson** has joined CCC as an Education Benefits Data Technician. Mrs. Johnson is a native of Grover and a graduate of Crest High. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Child Development: Birth to Kindergarten Education from Appalachian State University. She has a North Carolina Birth-Kindergarten Teaching License. Mrs. Johnson has been employed at CCC part-time as an Education Benefits Assistant. She resides in Grover with her husband David and daughter Makenzie.

**Emily Arey**, of Shelby, has been promoted to Career Education Counselor. She was formerly Secretary of Student

Services.

**Pam Boling**, Cleveland County native, has joined the CCC staff as Accountant, General Ledger.

**La Costa Edwards**, native of Rutherford County, has joined CCC as Secretary, Student Services.

**David Estridge** is the Program Coordinator, Industrial Management Technology. Estridge is a member of Elizabeth Baptist Church where he is a deacon and the Disaster Relief Chairman. He is also the Den Leader of Cub Scout Pack 92. Estridge is married to Cindy and they have two children, Andrew and Kaleb.

**Stacy M. Thomas**, of Boiling Springs, has been named Accountant, Accounts Payable.

# Eaton honors Carl Fortenberry for outstanding community service

Diversified industrial manufacturer Eaton Corporation recently announced that Carl Fortenberry has been chosen as a recipient of the company's 2008 Stover Volunteerism Award for community service.

The annual award recognizes Eaton employees who have demonstrated leadership or exemplary service in community activities and have volunteered for at least one year in health, human care, educational, arts, cultural or civic organizations. The award is named in

honor of James R. Stover, former Eaton chairman.

Fortenberry works at Eaton's Kings Mountain manufacturing plant, and has been an Eaton employee for 31 years. He has been involved with the Special Olympics in Cleveland County for 10 years, raising more than \$8,000. He has also played an instrumental role in establishing an annual trip for North Shelby School, a special purpose public school serving children with developmental disabilities. In addition, he coordi-

nates a motorcycle ride at Christmas that benefits children in foster care and the Children's Home of Cleveland County, raising more than \$300,000 since 1991.

Each year, Eaton employees are nominated for the award and then evaluated by a diverse selection committee. Honored employees receive a commemorative award and a \$2,500 contribution to a non-profit community organization of their choice.

## Opinion Page Policy

The Herald welcomes your letters to the editor for publication in each Thursday's paper. All letters must be signed, and for verification purposes include the address and phone number. Letters should be limited to 500 words.

Mail your letter to Editor, The Herald, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086; fax to (704) 739-0611; or e-mail to [KMH.Letters@kingsmountainherald.com](mailto:KMH.Letters@kingsmountainherald.com). Letters sent by fax and e-mail must also include name, mailing address and

phone number for verification purposes.

Letters may be edited.

Letters to the editor and columnists who appear on the editorial page do not necessarily represent the views of the Kings Mountain Herald.

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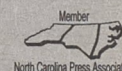
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