

One-Minute Editorial



WHAT DO YOU THINK of those people down in Kannapolis?

With the closing of Pillowtex, their community has been hit with staggering unemployment, probably the highest in the country. There's no way to solve their problems but their leaders are taking some important first steps.

Officials there recognized the backbone of our country is small business. Knowing big corporations may never return they've started to market Kannapolis as the most small-business friendly place in the area.

Now, small business can be either retail or manufacturing with up to about 10 employees.

To reach this goal, they're setting up a small business center, improving the city's infrastructure while making the business section more attractive.

On top of this, old and new businesses will get a helping hand with incentives. In times past, these have been reserved to help million-dollar corporations. Now, they say, it will help all their small businesses become strong and profitable members of the community.

What officials there are doing is nothing more than providing a common sense approach other cities may like to imitate.

With the economy like it is, starting a small business, or running an existing one, is a labor of love, not a road to fame and fortune. It's expensive, risky and time-consuming. Cities who understand the value of such businesses may want to consider the Kannapolis plan.

At least policies should be in place, and all city and country officials should understand, it's in everyone's best interests to encourage both established businesses, and those who will be coming in, to become profitable, long-term owners.

What they don't need, and it should not be tolerated, is harassment by city officials for minor infractions of "the regulations."

In such a climate businesses will not grow and cannot be expected to prosper.

Remember the story in the Good Book about the fool planting his seeds on rock and the wise man planting in fertile soil?

*Nuf said



THE PASSING PARADE The Week in Review

Michigan and Oregon—with 7.6 percent unemployed, lead the nation that now has six percent of all workers jobless.

An 18-foot Christmas tree—from Wisconsin will be in the White House Blue Room for the holiday.

DNA samples—will be taken from all convicted N.C. felons. Using a new law, the state's database is expected to be about 80,000 in 2004.

Two mummies—and more than 200 ancient artifacts, discovered in a Swiss warehouse, have been returned to Egypt.

Boeing's multibillion-dollar—deal to lease 100 air-refueling tanker planes to the Defense Department, was put on hold after the company's dismissal of two top executives.

Photographers—who photographed Princess Diana, after the deadly auto crash in Paris, were acquitted of invading her privacy.

Tropicana—will launch a light and healthy orange juice with about a third less calories and sugar.

Unexploded mines and munitions—must be cleaned up in lands controlled by countries after a war, according to a treaty signed by 92 nations.

South Carolina agribusiness—may sponsor an economic development trip to Cuba.

A political caucus—looking into the threats to the American furniture industry hasn't stopped the industry's job loss.

China's first Volkswagen—an upscale car for Western drivers, rolled off the assembly line. The premium-priced Polo will compete in the Australian market.

Japanese transport aircraft—and ships may be sent to help out in Iraq. Japan still has not sent ground troops.

Computer king, Dell—after hundreds of customer complaints, has stopped sending their tech support calls to India.

The \$60 billion aviation bill—gives billions to airports, pays traffic controller salaries, installs bomb-detection machines in airports, gives flight attendants self-defense training and provides funds for air service to isolated communities.

The \$401.3 billion defense bill—critics say, will buy unneeded ships, tanks, planes and other weapons while fighting global terrorism. Sen. John McCain said it is a taxpayer rip-off.

Commuter train service—halted since the Sept. 11 attack on New York's Twin Towers, has started again.

Taiwan's recent carefully worded—bill makes it difficult to call a vote on the island's independence from China.

Boston—cancelled the visit by tall ships so they would have enough city services for the Democratic Convention in July.

Virtual colonoscopy—using a C.T. scanner, takes about 15 minutes and does not require patients be sedated. Patients must still clear their colons of fecal material before the test.

Guidelines for lowering—cholesterol may not be strict enough, researchers say. Even lower guideline levels may be better, they say.

N.C. Rep. Cass Ballenger—is retiring from Congress. He supported the government's free-trade policies for years while watching Carolina textile workers, by the thousands, lose their jobs.

Nuclear research—has been shut down in Iraq since the Gulf War. Iraqi scientists claim, despite the fact the Bush administration still says Iraq had "robust plans."

The U.S.—is asking NATO to take over the military mission in Afghanistan.

San Jose, Calif.—proudly says they had only five homicides over the Thanksgiving weekend. The city has a population of over 250,000.

With police at the door—the Supreme Court has ruled you have 20 seconds to open it before lawmen break it down.

Indian airlines—are now allowed to fly in Pakistan airspace. This is the first time such flights are being allowed since last year.

Up Coming

Saturday, Dec. 13
Chickenbone will be in concert at Perry Bluegrass Barn on Sharon Road at 7 p.m. for the annual holiday Christmas Party and Customer Appreciation Night. Doors open at 6 p.m. Call 704-871-8353 for reservations for large parties.

Friday-Saturday Dec. 13-14
The Humane Society of Iredell County is sponsoring a pet-Santa photo shoot 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Petsmart located in the Brwley Commons Shopping Plaza in Mooresville. Half of all proceeds goes to the Humane Society and its Save-a-Pet adoption program. No appointment necessary.

Saturday, Jan. 24
The Mooresville-South Iredell Chamber of Commerce announces a Wedding Expo 2004! The event will be held 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Charles Mack Citizens Center, 215 N. Main Street in Mooresville. A total of 45 booths will be sold and there will be a bridal fashion show, door prizes and special happenings all day. DJ Fast Freddie who has been featured on the Jenny Jones show will be the MC. For more information please call MSI Chamber Office 704-664-3898.

Regarding the Adoption Story in Nov. 27 Issue

Following our adoption stories of a couple of weeks ago, we received this story by fax machine from Chrystal Pass, an assistant teacher at Mulberry School.

I was six weeks old when I was adopted. One thing that I know about my birth mother is that she loved me. She wanted me to be taken care of, the people she chose were the best. Rev. and Mrs. Wilson Lee, who were loving and kind people. All who knew them would say the same. I have two sisters and five brothers. I am the third child of eight. My parents, the Lee's, loved each of them like they were their own. We all grew up together in different households and became very close.

Now, I am 40 years old. I have one son and one daughter, also a foster child who I will be adopting soon. In my home, love comes natural because my parents always showed me much love. My birth mom taught me love in a different way by her actions. She always had an open ear and heart for me.

There are a lot of children that need a chance at life, a chance to be loved and I thank not only my birth mother but my adopted parents as well for giving me that chance. I am proud of my families, the Lee's, Shuford's, and the Gray's.

Thanks for the Love,
Chrystal "Lee" Pass

Turkey Shoot Set

The public is invited to the Turkey/Food Shoot at the VFW Post 2031 on Jordan Road south of Statesville. The shoots will be held Saturdays through the end of January. There will be no shoot Saturday, Dec. 27, however.

The shoots begin at 1 p.m. and go until prizes are gone. Prizes include turkeys, hams and other food and miscellaneous items. For additional information call for directions call the VFW Post at 704-873-9126 or Cathy Williams at 704-664-1484.

Published weekly by the Iredell Citizen, Inc.
102-B South Center Street • Statesville, NC 28677
704-872-1200 • 704-872-1280 • Fax: 704-872-1281
editor@iredellcitizen.com • circ@iredellcitizen.com • ads@iredellcitizen.com

<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">CITIZEN</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Iredell</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">(USPS 017-606)</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0 0 0;">Award-Winning Member of the North Carolina Press Association</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Robert Plyler</td> <td>Editor/Publisher</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neil Furr</td> <td>Managing Editor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nan Neal</td> <td>Advertising/Sales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mary Ann Minnsh</td> <td>Advertising/Sales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roany Thomas</td> <td>Advertising/Sales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Linda Wilson</td> <td>Advertising/Reporter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maggie Shoobridge</td> <td>Reporter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kim McKinney</td> <td>Reporter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan Clanton</td> <td>Typist</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Michele Mitchell</td> <td>Graphics</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teresa Jordan</td> <td>Graphics</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lisa Hager</td> <td>Receptionist/Circulation Sales</td> </tr> </table>	Robert Plyler	Editor/Publisher	Neil Furr	Managing Editor	Nan Neal	Advertising/Sales	Mary Ann Minnsh	Advertising/Sales	Roany Thomas	Advertising/Sales	Linda Wilson	Advertising/Reporter	Maggie Shoobridge	Reporter	Kim McKinney	Reporter	Jan Clanton	Typist	Michele Mitchell	Graphics	Teresa Jordan	Graphics	Lisa Hager	Receptionist/Circulation Sales
Robert Plyler	Editor/Publisher																								
Neil Furr	Managing Editor																								
Nan Neal	Advertising/Sales																								
Mary Ann Minnsh	Advertising/Sales																								
Roany Thomas	Advertising/Sales																								
Linda Wilson	Advertising/Reporter																								
Maggie Shoobridge	Reporter																								
Kim McKinney	Reporter																								
Jan Clanton	Typist																								
Michele Mitchell	Graphics																								
Teresa Jordan	Graphics																								
Lisa Hager	Receptionist/Circulation Sales																								

Subscription Rates

Single Copy, 50 Cents

\$28 per year in North Carolina

\$30 per year outside North Carolina

POSTMASTER

Send Address Changes to:

Iredell Citizen

P.O. Box 1221

Statesville, NC 28687-1221

Periodicals Postage Paid at Statesville, NC 28677