

The fabric of Bertie County since 1832

Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

High school football game review needed

To the Editor:

If only there was review in high school football, especially games that go into overtime. Bertie's football family was robbed of a potential victory at Currituck Friday night.

A side judge (referee) seemed predetermined to play a major role in the outcome of this crucial conference match up with tremendous playoff credentials. Possibly crossing the goal line on the third down the professional referee immediately deemed Bertie was short of paydirt, pointing to a spot.

I was standing within eight yards of the goal line.

But he did the same on a Bertie fourth down run when the Falcon player simultaneously stretched his arm and the football clearly across the scoring line as his knee scuffed the soil.

Currituck fans nearby conceded a score and I was hoping for the magical two-point conversion (because Bertie never kicks the point after.)

"No" the referee said and again pointed to the same previous point and hurriedly went to the ten-yard line pointing first down for the home knights.

Currituck got down to the inch line following an offside's penalty.

This same referee went across the field to his other side judge and told him to raise his arms up first and he would follow when Currituck scored on the fourth down.

It all came true. The Falcons were a part of the "home cooking" and nothing can be done. I was mad, sad and put out at the same time.

It became the worst overtime I have ever witnessed in many years of being an avid sports fan.

I usually respect officials but not anymore. Bertie's poor first half performance put them in a hole, but one side judge buried the Falcon spirit.

J.W. "Russ" Russell
Windsor

Fear over intersection...

To the Editor:

There is much concern, dissatisfaction and fear for those using the intersection-N.C. 11 and Hwy 308 (Governors Road) in Bertie County, Lewiston, North Carolina.

To those who are able to change the traffic pattern- hopefully you will intercede as soon as possible.

Suggestion: Put a red light (stoplight) or put it back to its original status.

Lauren Pierce
Williammsburg, Va.

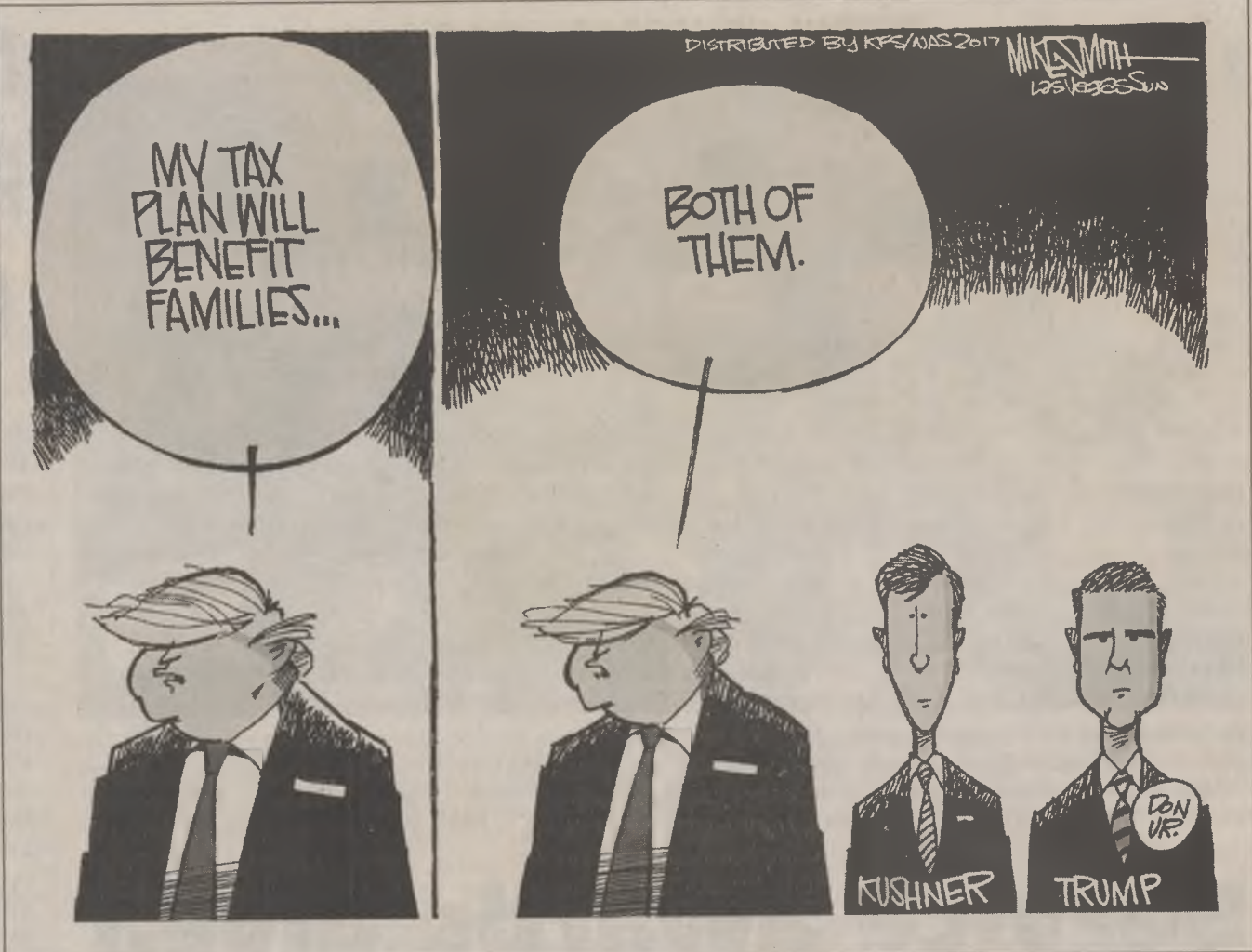
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Bertie Ledger-Advance encourages Letters to the Editor. Letters should be on topics of public interest to Bertie County, and writers must have a connection to our circulation area. Letters should have the writer's name and hometown as well as including a telephone number for verification purposes. Letters should not exceed 500 words. For a full list of criteria, please contact Editor Thadd White at twhite@ncweeklies.com.

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Naps should be for everyone...

There are some mysteries in life I will never understand.

For instance, toddlers and teenagers - neither have the desire to go to bed on time.

I would love for someone to tell me it's my bedtime.

"It's time to stop doing laundry and dishes - go to bed now," they would tell me in a perfect world.

Or how about putting toddlers down to take a nap?

I would give anything for someone in charge to make me "stop what you are doing, roll out your mat, put your head down and keep quiet."

Instead toddlers and teens both balk at the idea that rest is something they need.

(Just wait until they are adults and they are not allowed to nap or go to bed early. They will wish they had turned in early when

they had the chance.)

When you are old enough to finally appreciate a nap, it eludes you. For some weird reason, American society frowns upon adults napping on the job.

In Mexico, where it is perfectly acceptable to curl up and take a siesta right in the middle of your day. I personally think we need to be more like our South of the Border neighbors.

I imagine a world that shuts down for two hours for adult napping, only to be taken over by toddlers and teens.

Seinfeld, a sitcom that ran in the nineties, had one episode where the program's resident slacker builds a bed into his desk at work so he can nap undisturbed.

It is really not a bad idea. My desk is the perfect length for me to curl up underneath. No one would ever suspect I was under there - asleep - not that I have ever - at all - thought about it.

To this day, I cannot understand why a grumpy, sleepy toddler will not just give in to the tiredness.

Instead he (or she) kicks and cries and screams at the thought of being put to bed.

As a grumpy, tired adult, I kick and cry when I can't go to bed.

Maybe it's a sign of getting old, although I remember many days in college, getting back to the dorm with just enough time to nap before my next class.

There is nothing sweeter on a drowsy, rainy Sunday afternoon than a nap, accompanied by a football game with the volume turned down low.

Sleep for many, most especially my teenagers, is underrated. They have no idea that their grumpiness or lack of focus could be related to lack of sleep.

At least I attribute credit where credit is due. My lack of focus and general grumpiness comes from not being able to get my teenagers to bed on time.

Deborah Griffin is a Staff Writer for the Bertie Ledger-Advance. She can be reached via email at dgriffin@ncweeklies.com.

Election results say a lot about...

An unusually contentious season of municipal elections has come to an end, and 2018 races for legislature and Congress are already well under way in North Carolina.

Nationally, Election Day 2017 is being viewed as a huge victory for Democrats, particularly in states like Virginia and New Jersey where there were races for governor. But it's a bit harder to draw big conclusions from North Carolina's election results, where hundreds of local races were mostly nonpartisan - at least technically - and involved a long list of disparate issues.

What can we learn from the marquee mayoral battles and the lower-profile races across the state? Here are my takeaways:

Big city Republicans are nearly extinct: While the Republican Party remains as strong as ever in the legislature, rural counties and small-to-medium towns, changing demographics make it nearly impossible for the GOP to compete in Charlotte, Raleigh and other major cities. The NCGOP bet big on Charlotte mayoral candidate Kenny Smith and incumbent Fayetteville mayor Nat Robertson - spending heavily and using its voice to criticize the Democrats.

It didn't work. Smith's loss, by a much wider margin than many expected, indicates that Pat McCrory might be the last Republican to ever lead Charlotte. Fayetteville had been the largest city with a Republican mayor. But with Robertson's loss, that distinction will likely go to High Point, the state's ninth largest city, where Republican Jay Wagner had a narrow lead over his opponent.

In its election night news release, the NCGOP didn't even mention its Charlotte and Fayetteville candidates, instead focusing on Republican victories in Greenville and Andrews. You might not be familiar with Andrews - it's a town of 1,800 in the far western end of the state, and not exactly politically influential.

Sometimes party doesn't matter: In other big cities like Raleigh and Durham, voters had to choose between two liberals, with no Republicans on the ballot at all. Raleigh's race was particularly interesting this year because a registered Democrat, Charles Francis, challenged a well-liked mayor who is similarly liberal but is a registered independent.

Democratic Party loyalists faced a conundrum as the Wake County party endorsed Francis.

Many leading Democrats, including former Gov. Jim Hunt, stood by incumbent Nancy McFarlane, while Francis supporters cried foul. McFarlane won, showing that many voters won't always base decisions solely on party labels.

But race does matter: The N.C. Democratic Party's African-American Caucus said party leaders' failure to support Francis was an example of black Democrats being treated as "political sharecroppers."

That's a clear signal that party leaders will need to show they're committed to electing African-American candidates in 2018. If they don't, African-Americans might just sit out a crucial election for Democrats.

Every vote actually does count: Municipal elections are great for watching democracy in action on the smallest of scales - in North Carolina's tiniest towns. In Brookford, a town of 370 people near Hickory, an election for town alderman was determined by a single vote. Any of the 40 voters who picked Charles Bargsley could have kept him out of office had they picked his opponent.

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