

# Opinion

## Area law enforcement officers to come to the aid of one of their own in benefit golf tournament

Area law enforcement officers will be asked to help one of their own in a benefit golf tournament Saturday, September 27 at 2 p.m. at Woodbridge Golf Links.

Funds generated from the one-day, 18-hole Captain's Choice event will go toward the medical and burial expenses of 14-year-old Jerry Tessner II, son of Kings Mountain policeman Jerry Tessner, who died unexpectedly April 26 just 16 days after undergoing surgery to repair a defective heart valve.

Officers from all over are invited to enter the tournament. The entry fee of \$75 includes golf and cart fees, prizes and refreshments, a donation to the Tessner fund, and admission to a barbecue dinner to be served at the conclusion of the event.

Because the tournament is a Captain's Choice format, Tournament Director Carl Champion said the skill level of the golfer is not important. Golfers are grouped in teams of four, and the team captain determines who has hit the best shot and all four members of the team hit each ensuing shot from that point.

Spouses of police officers are encouraged to participate in a wives' auction at the site of the tournament, as well as the barbecue. Special entertainment is also planned during the afternoon and dinner. Special prizes will be offered to winners of the golf tournament and to golfers who are closest to the hole on par three holes.

Young Tessner was a typical 14-year-old, apparently in good health, and was playing football at Cherryville Junior High when it was discovered that he had an Arterial Septum Defect (defective heart valve).

His father explained the disease.

"Basically, when you're in the womb you don't have oxygen going to the lungs, so there was no need for blood to go to the lungs," he said. "It is



**GARY STEWART**  
News Editor

supposed to close within a year after you are born, but it didn't close. So it was taking blood from the heart to the lungs and right back to the heart again. It wears your heart out because it's working all the time."

Young Tessner entered Carolinas Medical Center for the surgery on April 16, came through the operation fine, and returned home on Friday, April 18.

Everything seemed fine. He was walking a mile a day and had a goal of increasing to three miles a day. But on Friday, April 25, his father said he woke up early in the morning with flu symptoms and the family was told to keep a close watch on him.

About 3:45 Saturday morning, he awakened again with chest pains. Fluid was building up around his heart, and by the time EMS could get him to the hospital he was dead.

Of course, his sudden death devastated the family and the pain of losing a child is something a parent never recovers from. But looking back, Officer Tessner said the Lord used the sickness to get he and his son closer together, and used his death to get family members closer together.

Tessner and Jerry II's mother, Carolyn, are divorced and Tessner normally had Jerry II on weekends. Jerry II was staying with his father when he died.

"We really got close that last week," he said. "I

honestly believe the Lord gave me that extra week so we could get closer together.

"It also got me closer to the Lord," he continued. "My pastor, Freddie Helms, who is also my brother-in-law, has been a rock for me. All the police officers, and the whole community, have really just lifted my spirits. I really didn't know how many good people there were in the world, because in my job a lot of times I'm dealing with the negative side of society. But there are a lot of good people out there."

Tessner, who is Kings Mountain's COP (Community Oriented Policing) officer, said the situation with his son has made him look at his beat in a different manner, also. He works a walking beat in a low-income public housing area of the city and has grown particularly close to children who live in tough situations.

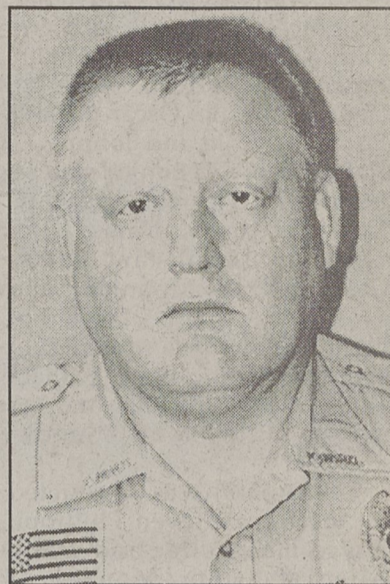
"I really love getting out with the kids," he said. "I just talk to them, and part of my job is watching the crossing near North School. It's always a highlight of my day. They are really good children, and some of them their mothers and fathers just can't do better or won't do any better. They are a product of the environment, but the children are very special."

Police officers, too, like the ones who will be playing in the golf tournament, have made Tessner proud to be living and working in a small town.

"I would really like to thank everybody in the community for their support," he said. "They have really rallied around me. The pay in a small town police department is not the best in the world, but this whole community is like a family, especially in the police department. We've got so many good people up there, from Chief (Bob) Hayes right on down to the newest hired person. They are great people."



JERRY TESSNER II



JERRY TESSNER

## Your Right To Say It

### A new approach to lake fees

To the editor:

As a citizen of Kings Mountain and a major property owner at Moss Lake, I have watched the wrenching conflict over lake fees the past month. Name calling, unwarranted accusations, misquotes, threats, and potential lawsuits are ricocheting around Cleveland County like bullets. It hurts. Folks, we are all neighbors and surprisingly, probably friends. Let's step back for a moment, take a deep breath, and see where we have common interests.

Just so you know: 1) I plan to pay my lease fee. 2) The city owns and controls the lake and its shoreline. (Under legal advice, Faunce Realty has in the past resurveyed property along the shoreline to insure the title is not clouded by the eight foot vertical). 3) The city's communication with property owners has been abysmal, and, conversely the property owners have cruised along in ignorant bliss for years. 4) If the city is sued and has legal expenses, as a citizen of Kings Mountain I will demand that the property owners foot the bill (which ironically includes me).

Property owners, the lake budget is out there now in greater detail. Check it out. The city fathers are not out to get anyone. They are attempting to grapple with difficult budgetary problems that we all have a vested interest in as well as respond to their citizens' requirements. Citizens of Kings Mountain, not everyone at the lake is rich. Many property owners have saved and scrapped by over the years to own a parcel on the water. Just like everyone else, they have wrestled with tough monetary problems and some continue to struggle financially.

What about this idea? After again reviewing, questioning and critiquing the budget that the city fathers have crafted, we pay the fees this year. Property owners and representatives are shown either quarterly or annual statements of actual revenues and expenditures. Finally, if either the revenues come in way over budget or actual expenditures are way under budget, proper-

ty owners are given some kind of credit towards next year's lease fees.

We all want to maintain Moss Lake as a valuable resource that provides both water to Kings Mountain and Cleveland County and recreational use for all of Kings Mountain and Cleveland County citizens.

Let's talk and find the common ground.

David B. Faunce

### Leaders ignoring Constitution

To the editor:

When the founders of this nation produced the U.S. Constitution, their clear purpose was to create a federal government with strictly limited powers. Their shared attitude was best expressed by Thomas Jefferson who stated, "In questions of power, then, let no more be said of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution."

But the Constitutions chains have been broken. After reading the document, I find that our leaders are ignoring it as if it didn't exist. For example:

1. The first sentence, immediately following the preamble, states that all legislative powers reside in Congress alone. Therefore, a Supreme Court decision can never be "the law of the land," it's the law of the case. Also, executive orders issued by the President cannot take on the force of law. But Congress regularly allows both abuses to happen.

2. Congress is granted sole power "to declare war." There was no declaration of war in Korea, Vietnam, or the Persian Gulf.

3. Congress is granted sole power to "make rules for the government and regulation" of the military. But President Clinton, acting alone, changed the military's position regarding homosexuals in the service.

4. Congress has the sole power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations." But nowhere

was Congress given authority to delegate its power to NAFTA or to the GATT/World Trade Organization. Delegation of authority is unconstitutional.

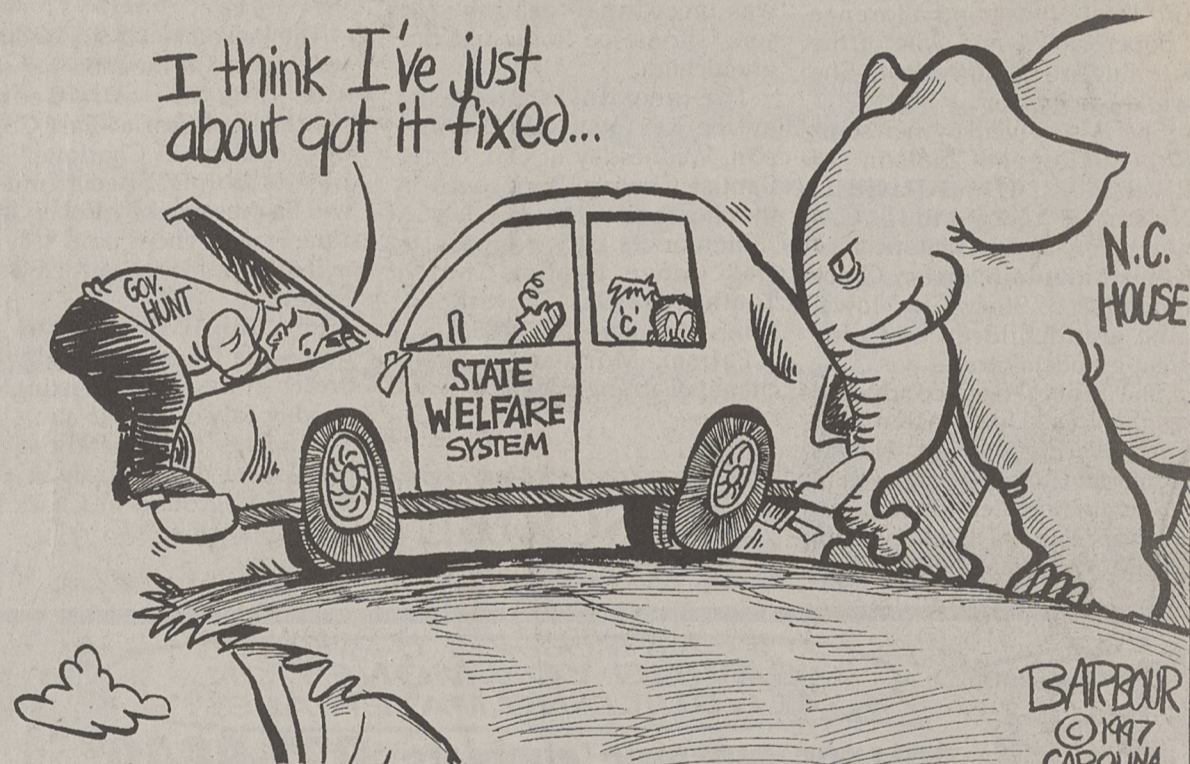
5. Overall, Congress is limited to making laws only where power to do so is "herein granted" within the Constitution (Art. , Sec. 8). I searched the document from top to bottom and I found no power "herein granted" for the federal government to make laws about education, agriculture, housing, energy, medicine, firearms ownership, and a whole host of other areas where federal laws have been made. Those areas were reserved for the states. Also, nowhere does our Constitution give our Federal Government the authority for foreign aid.

James Madison, known as "The Father of the Constitution," stated, "The powers delegated by

the proposed Constitution to the federal government are few and defined." He would be stunned to find that the "few" have become all-encompassing and undefined.

Enormous power is being accumulated at the federal level. The increased taxation, oppressive controls, huge bureaucracy, and Big Brother government that have resulted are almost completely unconstitutional. Yet, all federal officials have sworn an oath to adhere to the document. Oaths don't seem to mean much anymore. Americans who want to remain free, or who want their children to be free, had better get involved in re-forging the constitutions chains on the Federal Government.

L. Clayton Bolton



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**Sidewalk Survey** • By Lib Stewart

**What do you like best about Vacation Bible School?**

<b>BRIAN HENSON</b> age 9	<b>CHRIS MEDFORD</b> age 10	<b>ABBIE LYNCH</b> age 4	<b>KALIE DEATON</b> age 3	<b>ELIZABETH BAKER</b> age 3
"I like to do crafts. It's fun."	"I like puppets and music."	"I learn about Jesus."	"I like to color."	"Jesus stories."