

Letters to the Editor

We need Davis in NC Senate

To the editor:

I have known Dennis Davis for over eight years. In that time I have seen his commitment to Cleveland County and important issues such as education and tax reduction. Dennis, who is a teacher at Crest High School, is married with one daughter who is also a public school teacher.

Dennis' interest in politics comes after his family and church. Dennis served as our state Senator from 1995-1997, and during that time was ranked as one of the best members of the Senate by NCFREE. He was a respected member of the Senate and has received wide support for his re-election, including public endorsements from and visits to Cleveland County on his behalf by former Governor Jim Holshouser, Charlotte Mayor Richard Vinroot, Congressman Alex McMillan, Congressman Cass Ballenger, Congresswoman Sue Myrick, and many more.

Dennis Davis has an excellent record of achievement on a number of issues important to people of Cleveland County. As a conservative with an ability to understand how government functions and the ability to reach common solutions, Dennis Davis brings a solid ideological base with a talent for achieving successful results. This made him a key player in many of the difficult decisions that were made in the legislature in 1995, including the rare honor of being named as a conferee to the budget bill negotiations. With the anticipated Republican takeover of the Senate in 1998, Dennis Davis will be a leader on many of the important committees of the Senate.

As a neighbor, Dennis Davis' top local legislative priorities include improving roads and spurring economic development in Kings Mountain and overall in Cleveland County.

As a teacher, Senator Davis is concerned with improving the quality of public education and the personnel involved therein. In fact, while a member of the Senate, Dennis Davis supported the legislation that mandated school employee criminal record checks (S 223), legislation to expel dangerous students (S 26, S 51), and legislation authorizing alternative schools, to make our schools a safe place for learning. Dennis Davis will also continue to stress local control of the schools instead of a Raleigh bureaucracy. Dennis Davis also feels that the educational budget priorities should be aimed at improving the quality of education in the classroom.

As a concerned citizen, Dennis Davis knows that improvements to the criminal justice system are badly needed. During the 1996 session Dennis Davis supported legislation to repeal the prison camp (S 27), increase criminal penalties for certain crimes including drug trafficking, assault, burglary, and other violent crimes (S 28), require sex offender registration (S 53), and adding more prison space to keep criminals locked away (S 28), all of which serve to protect the citizens of

North Carolina.

As a fellow taxpayer, Dennis Davis is mindful of the economic constraints placed on the family budget by the heavy taxing hand of government. That's why Dennis Davis supported legislation creating an income tax cut for working families (H 2, S 10, S 11) and legislation repealing the intangibles tax (S 8), which were ratified and are now law; and supported legislation raising the homestead exemption (S 9). Dennis Davis also supported the unemployment insurance tax cut (S 13), which was adopted into law.

When re-elected, Dennis Davis will continue to fight for the issues that matter to the residents of Kings Mountain and Cleveland County. With a solid conservative philosophy and the ability to put that philosophy into practical legislative action, Dennis Davis provides excellent leadership and an unparalleled commitment to public service. Dennis Davis would once again represent the best interests of his constituents and be the voice of the people.

Timothy K. Moore
Kings Mountain

KM should re-elect Weatherly

To the editor:

I hope that all voters in Kings Mountain remember that John Weatherly stood up for Kings Mountain over the Moss Lake issue last year. If people in Kings Mountain do nothing else on election day, they should take the time to vote for John Weatherly for re-election to the House of Representatives.

James Falls

LETTER POLICY

We welcome your letters to the editor for publication in each week's paper. We ask that you use the following guidelines and deadlines.

Keep your letters brief and to the point. Letters in excess of 600 words will not be accepted.

All letters must be signed in ink and include the complete name, address and telephone number of the writer. Type and double space the letters if possible; if not, write legibly.

Letters may be edited for length, spelling, good taste or libelous statements; and letters may be rejected for any reason.

Mail letters to The Editor, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086; bring them by the offices of Republic Newspapers at 821-1 East King Street, Kings Mountain, or fax them to 739-0611.

Girl Scouts to recognize area women

The Pioneer Girl Scout Council will honor women who have made outstanding contributions to the community through its "Women of Distinction: Juliette and Daisy Awards" event October 29, 6:30 PM at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Shelby. Guest Speaker will be Suzanne Stevens of WSOC-TV.

Five finalists will each receive a "Juliette" award named for the founder of Girl Scouting, Juliette Gordon Low. The "Daisy" award, which reflects Juliette Low's nickname, will honor an outstanding young girl, age 14-21, for her contributions to the community. Of the five "Juliette" finalists, one will be selected as the overall winner, the "Woman of Distinction" for 1998. One "Daisy" winner will also be announced that evening.

The "Juliette" award winners for 1998 and finalists for the "Woman of Distinction Award" are:

Sharon Decker, Gaston County. Decker is president of the Lynwood Foundation in Charlotte, which renovated a National Historic site and established the William States Lee Leadership Institute.

Sylvia Holmes, Lincoln County. Holmes is the retired Executive Director of the Pioneer Girl Scout Council and is active in the East Lincoln Betterment Association and serves on the Board of Directors of the Lincoln United Way.

Dorris Hoyle, Lincoln County. Hoyle is an active volunteer with the Guardian-ad-Litem program and has served as a Girl Scout and Red Cross volunteer.

Dr. Ann Lane, Rutherford County. Lane is a pediatrician who developed an afterschool program for elementary children with special needs and helped establish a youth house for girls in troubled home environments.

Jane Talbert, Cleveland County. Talbert is the media specialist for North Elementary School in Kings Mountain. A Girl Scout leader and master trainer, she is an officer in the Girl Scout Pioneers.

"The Woman of Distinction, Juliette and Daisy awards recognize outstanding achievements by women and showcase these community leaders as role models for girls," said Janice Booth executive director of the Pioneer Girl Scout Council.

Nominees for the "Daisy Award" include: Laura Dameron, Gaston County; Kristine Denholm, Gaston County; Laura Gibson, Lincoln County; Lindsey Jones, Gaston County; Laura Beth Morrison, Cleveland County; Sarah Tench, Gaston County; and Liz Ward, Gaston County.

Tickets for the event are \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for youth and are available through the Pioneer Girl Scout Council's Marguerite Ring Torrence Service Center, Gastonia. For more information, contact 704/864-3245 or 1/800/627/6031.

The Pioneer Girl Scout Council serves over 4,300 girls and adult volunteers in Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, Polk, and Rutherford counties.



MELINDA RATCHFORD

Gaston teacher expert on sinking of The Titanic

By Alan Hodge

Over 250 Kings Mountain High School students were spellbound Tuesday morning as the Titanic seemed to come to their auditorium.

In a special hour-long presentation, Gaston County Schools Dr. Melinda Ratchford shared her 40 year fascination with the Titanic.

Using slides, video, audio, and dozens of pieces of Titanic memorabilia as props, Ratchford gave a moving and knowledgeable lecture on the ship that has been called the "largest moving object ever made by man."

Among the most interesting items Ratchford brought for the students to view was a Titanic-style life jacket that had been a movie prop, and an actual lump of coal from the great ship itself.

"I've been fascinated with the Titanic since I was a child and read Walter Lord's book *A Night to Remember*," said Ratchford. "It just captured my imagination."

The lengths that Ratchford has gone to in the pursuit of Titanic lore reached new heights in August, 1996, when she went on a cruise to the actual site where Titanic sank.

"We had a wreath-laying ceremony at sea," Ratchford recalled.

"The chaplain of the ship we were on read a list of those who died on the Titanic."

Another highlight of Ratchford's Titanic quest came when she actually met two survivors of the tragedy.

Eager to share her knowledge with others, Ratchford has given over 90 Titanic programs in the past two years.

Kings Mountain High cultural arts coordinator Susan Patterson was pleased that Ratchford had come.

"I read about Ratchford's work with the Titanic and decided to give her a call," said Patterson. "The students are fascinated by the story of the Titanic."

Among the students enjoying the program was Daniel Lattimore.

"I think people are interested in the Titanic because it was supposed to be unsinkable," Lattimore said. "This program will help us learn more about what happened."

Fellow student Tiese Roseboro recalled seeing the recent Titanic movie.

"I cried the whole time," Roseboro said. "It was so touching."

No matter if the Titanic lies at the bottom of the sea, its memory lives on in people like Melinda Ratchford.

PURSE

From 8A

Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse. "Many of the children we give shoe boxes to have never had a Christmas before. Their lives are filled with pain, war, poverty, death and disease. I wish everyone who packs a shoe box could see firsthand the joy that a simple gift can bring."

Graham emphasizes that the children are also reached with the good news of God's gift, Jesus Christ.

The YMCA is asking all of its members and the community, including churches and schools, to become a part of the project. "How fortunate we are," says Suzi Kennedy, YMCA project chairman. "We can't possibly imagine what it is like to have nothing and to be dying from cold and hunger. We have so many opportunities. Here is a

way to share our abundance. It's so easy even young children can do it. Acting as co-sponsor is the Children In Action group at First Baptist Church, Shelby.

Here are the steps:
How to Pack Your Shoe Box Gift:

1. Find an empty shoe box. (You can wrap it-lid separately-if you like, but wrapping is not required.)
2. Decide whether the gift will be for a boy or a girl and what age: 2-4 years; 5-9 years or 10-14 years. Label the box by sex and age.
3. Fill the box with a variety of gifts. (A suggested list follows.) You may enclose a photo of yourself or your family.
4. Enclose \$5 or more in an envelope and put it in the box. This will cover shipping costs. Checks are recommended, made out to Samaritan's Purse. Gifts are tax deductible. Place a rubber band around the box.

Suggested items for the shoe box:

Small toys: stuffed animals, dolls, balls, cars (No toy guns, knives, or other war-related items.)

School supplies: pens, pencils, sharpener, crayons, coloring books, writing pads/paper, solar calculator

Hygiene items: toothbrush, comb, toothpaste, soap, comb/brush

Other: T-shirt, socks, Bible story picture books, sealed hard candy



Mom & Dad 1998

"My parents' happiness, health and attitude have improved greatly over the past several months at EdenGardens."

The best advertising we have comes from the family members of our residents.

Letters that are received from residents' family members reinforce the fact that EdenGardens is not your typical assisted living community. Our unique holistic approach to assisted living maximizes the happiness, healthfulness and independence of EdenGardens' residents.

- Professional caregivers providing individually tailored assistance with bathing, dressing, etc...
- Full-time nurse on staff
- Medication management
- Consulting physician on staff
- Housekeeping services
- Stimulating activities, wellness and therapy programs
- Scheduled transportation
- Three meals daily served to your table
- Private or shared suites
- Beautiful homelike environment
- Emergency call system in all suites

Call us Today to Learn More About the EdenGardens Difference



EDEN GARDENS
AN EDEN CARE ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY

(704)-739-6772

1001 Phifer Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28068

Your Home For **DIAMOND VALUES!**

1/4 CARAT OF DIAMONDS

\$99 REG. \$225

Layaway NOW For Christmas

ARNOLD'S
Jewelry & Gift Gallery

226 S. Washington St., Shelby • 487-4521

BRIDGES HARDWARE AND HOME CENTER
100 S. Candler St. at East King St.
Mon. - Fri. 8-8 • Sat. 8-6
739-5461

YOUR KEY
Hardware Supplier
in Kings Mountain
Bring in this coupon
for **ONE FREE KEY**
Per Visit • Sales Tax Not Included