

Now's the time to get your car ready for winter

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

Don't let Old Man Winter blow a chill wind up your tailpipe this driving season. With temperatures destined to drop over the next few weeks, the time is nigh to give your auto a good mechanical and cosmetic going over.

There are many things that a person of even limited mechanical ability can do to make sure their car is ready for winter. Top on the list is checking your battery. Probably more winter automotive woes are associated with dead or weak batteries than with any other part of a car. Checking your battery posts for cleanliness and battery case for correct fluid cell level will go a long way towards making sure Ol' Bessie fires up on frosty mornings.

Next on your automotive winter program is the antifreeze level and condition. Antifreeze is actually something of a misnomer, because this vital green liquid both protects the engine from heat as well as cold. Though a car owner can check the level of their coolant, further maintenance is best left to a garage.

"Besides level, the strength and lubricity of coolant needs to be taken into account concerning its condition," said Tim Holland, assistant manager of Lube N' Cruise in Kings Mountain. "Coolant also needs to be flushed and replaced every two years or so to maintain its highest lubricating and cooling qualities. While the cooling system is being flushed, it's also a good idea to check the condition of hoses and belts."

If your car has seen a lot of

miles since its last tune-up, now is the time to get that job done. The important thing to remember is that years ago, a person could tune their own car. Now, computer chips and electronic fuel injection make that next to impossible.

"Replacing items such as PCV valves and checking the condition of air filters and fuel filters is an important part of winterizing," Holland said. "An oil change and complete lubrication is also a good idea before cold weather arrives."

With the mechanical side of your car's needs satisfied, it's good to turn some attention to the body. Though most new cars have superior rust protection and paint jobs designed to shine for years with little or no trouble, it's still wise to put a coat of polymer based protectant on external surfaces.

Weekly washing with a cleaning liquid designed specifically for cars is also good. The use of plain dish detergent to wash your car should be avoided as that type of soap will quickly strip off protectants and lessen rather than lengthen the life of your car's paint.

As long as you have the hose out washing the body of your vehicle, take a few minutes to thoroughly flush the underside and wheel wells. Doing this will get rid of accumulated mud and salt that leads to underbody rust.

Final tips to make your car safe and reliable for the winter months include checking the windshield wiper blades for flexibility and overall condition, keeping the fuel tank at least half full to prevent internal rusting, and checking tire inflation pressure and tread depth.

Have a safe pet Halloween

Though most people think of Halloween in terms of kids dressing up and going out trick or treating, pet owners need to know that their canine and feline friends are also aware something strange is in the air. With all the focus on safety for kids, Fido or JoJo sometimes get left out of the Halloween safety equation.

Dressing pets up in Halloween costumes seems like a cute idea to some pet owners, but several things need to be kept in mind to prevent Halloween from becoming

scariest than planned. Before costuming your pet, take their individual personalities into consideration. Some dogs and cats are compliant and seem to really enjoy wearing an outfit. Anyone who has seen the "Wishbone" TV series knows just how much that pooch likes his wardrobe. Other pets are not too sure about being clad in a Halloween costume and become skittish or irritable.

Once you get the costume issue settled with your pet, consider where you want to take

them and how they might react to people dressed in odd outfits. Even if you decide to let your pet go costumeless and stay at home, be aware of how they will treat trick or treaters at your door. If you know your dog is very territorial and protective of your household, you might consider restraining it or keeping it out of the living room where it could bite someone.

What goes into your pet's stomach is another Halloween pet safety factor to figure. Although candy might not be

bad for a pet owner, the effect it has on animals can be quite different. Chocolate is especially dangerous and can lead to sickness and even death in animals. Hard candy can also become lodged in a pet's throat as can candy wrappers.

Using common sense, knowing your pet's disposition, and remembering that pets are dependent upon their owner's judgment in many areas can ensure a safe and happy Halloween.

KM folks recall favorite Halloween

BY HEATHER BARR

Looking back on past Halloweens a person can recall many tales of tricks, treats and dressing up.

It is interesting and personal to find out what other people dressed up as or did on Halloween.

Some famous athletes told Sports Illustrated Kids magazine what they were. Troy Aikman, football player for the Dallas Cowboys, was Dracula when he was 10 years old. Dominique Dawes, US Olympic gymnast, was a clown ages 6 to 10. Chris Zorich, football player for the Chicago Bears, was the Hunchback of Notre Dame

once.

Local "celebrities" also recall their favorite Halloween costumes and pranks.

"I remember when I was in third or fourth grade we would go to the principal's house, knock on the door and hide. Once I even hid under a car. The only costume I remember is wearing a mask," said Wade Tyner of Wade Ford.

"I remember the school carnivals on Halloween," said John McGinnis of McGinnis Department Store.

"I just remember trick or treating in my hometown of Peachland and getting homemade stuff. It was fun because everyone knew everyone and it

was really safe," said Bob McRae, Superintendent of Kings Mountain Schools.

"We didn't celebrate Halloween in the South of New Orleans. All Saints Day on November 1 was celebrated and everything closed down. People decorated graves and everything. I never heard of trick or treating until we moved into town when I was 12 and by then I was too old," said Rose Turner, Librarian at Mauney Memorial Library.

"I remember dressing up as Uncle Sam for this bicycle parade we had every year in my hometown of Glen Burnie, Maryland. My mom made the costume with a big top hat and

we decorated my bicycle in crepe paper," said Jay Rhodes of the Chamber of Commerce.

"I dressed up as an Indian all the time because my father and I were in the YMCA Indian Guides. I also remember when we had a foreign exchange student when I was in high school. It was funny because he had never seen Halloween celebrated before, so that year he dressed up in a mask and tried to scare people," said Tripp Hord, director of Parks and Recreation.

"One year I was a ghost and they put white shoe polish on my face. It took a long time to get off," said Mayor Scott Neisler.

Deuces Wild increase lead in duckpin bowling

Deuces Wild (40-16) swept Thursday's Heroes (30-26) 8-0 Thursday night to increase its lead to 10 games in Mixed Duckpin Bowling League action.

Greg Evans led the winners with a 139 line and 377 set, and Sue Abernathy had a 129-334. Ed Philbeck had a 132 line and 347 set and Allen Myers had a 107-305 for the Heroes.

In another match Barrett's Bombers (24-32) and Zeke's Zingers (18-38) split 4-4. Tommy Barrett led the Bombers with a 129 line and 363 set. Zeke Rybczyk had a 119-327 and Greg Mocanu a 120-311 for

the Zingers.

In Tuesday night action, the first place Duck Heads (40-16) defeated Tyrene's Ducks (24-32) 6-2, and the Old Timers (26-30) swept Ducks Unlimited (22-34) 8-0.

Mark Midgett led the Duck Heads with a 147 line and 379 set and Zeke Rybczyk added a 140-356. Ed Philbeck led Tyrene's Ducks with a 116-322. Chuck Ruley had a 119-334, Colleen Philbeck 121-320 and John Dilling 107-310 to lead the Old Timers. Robbie Hullender led Ducks Unlimited with a 127-355.



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD
Kings Mountain Women's Club members Nancy Ross (left) and Linda Dixon took a moment from cooking the good food served at the Fall Festival last Wednesday to enjoy one of the flower exhibits. Over 800 diners feasted on the lunch and dinner the Women's Club provided.

OPINION

LETTERS

Kids Etc.! program off to good start

To the editor:

Another school year is here and the Kids Etc.! Program is off to a great start! We would like to tell you a little about our program.

Our program started in 1988 when a community need was recognized. The program started at West Elementary with 12 students as an "after school care program." It has now grown to serve approximately 225 students in all five elementary schools in the Kings Mountain District.

Kids Etc.! exceeds childcare standards set forth by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Each staff member is certified in CPR and first aid training. All employees have received their child care credentials. Our philosophy is that all school age children should be cared for in a safe, nurturing, environment with materials and activities that are age appropriate. The Kids Etc.! staff recognizes each child as an individual, and much of a child's self-image is developed during these early school years.

We provide homework time for all our children and our staff is always willing to help anyone who has a question about their homework.

We have a balance of self-directed and adult-guided activities. Material and activities are provided and are intended to stimulate the child's emotional, social, intellectual and physical development.

Kids Etc.! also has speciality instructors and resources from the community that visit each site. Financial assistance may be available for those that meet certain requirements. Kids Etc.! operates on teacher workdays from 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Patsy Walker

Thank God video poker is going out

To the editor:

God gets the glory and honor for the recent South Carolina Supreme Court ruling that bans video poker in the Palmetto State. Only a sovereign Lord who is in control could get five Supreme Court judges to agree that a moral issue is more important than America's idol, the "almighty dollar."

While non-believers scratch their heads and wonder what happened and what comes next, it's a "sure bet" that God already knows what the future holds and God will use this development for His good will and the saving of many souls.

Christians everywhere should be praising God for His divine intervention and praying for those affected by this change. This is another opportunity for Christians to reach out and show non-believers the love and compassion of Jesus and pray for God to soften hearts.

I pray that during the tumultuous days ahead these non-believers will come to know and trust Jesus, the only person who longs to make them "real winners" of eternal life and that's no "game of chance."

Mindy Acuna
Kings Mountain

Look inward for changes you expect

To the editor:

In response to Dr. McRae's "conversation" on attendance in our schools:

On behalf of many parents, we become frustrated through our attempts to communicate successfully with the faculty on our children's educational matters. Too often parents fail to

find the partnership in our district that is essential to the student's educational interest. When parents find themselves in this situation, they eventually lose hope in finding adequate help in maintaining a health perspective of school issues, for their children. Demands become unreasonable burdens not only to parents, even more so for the student.

Life doesn't operate on demand performance, and we don't get what we don't earn. This is no different than a poorly managed business having problems keeping customers. Stop pointing fingers and share the responsibility. Look inward for the desired changes you expect.

Sarah D. Parker

Farmville thanks KM for support

(Ed. Note: The following letter was written to the Kings Mountain Mayor and Board of Commissioners).

Dear Mayor and Board:

As Mayor of Farmville and on behalf of the flood victims in our community, I wish to express our appreciation to the good people of Kings Mountain for their generous contribution of food, clothing, and cleaning supplies that we received this past weekend.

Certainly, we are experiencing a situation like we thought could never happen here. However, through the spirit of people such as those in Kings Mountain, we are making progress and we will recover. Please share this with those responsible.

Give our regards to Commissioner Rick Murphrey, a native son of Farmville, and Robert L. Evans

Kyle Smith good choice for mayor

To the editor:

I want to recommend to the citizens of Kings Mountain Kyle Smith for mayor.

I have had several dealings with Mr. Smith in the past when he was mayor and I always was treated with dignity and respect.

One time I was involved in an accident with a city vehicle. Mr. Smith and Mr. Woods called me up to City Hall. We went in Mr. Smith's office and discussed the accident. I did not get the answer I wanted, but they did treat me like a human being.

I think this is the kind of mayor we need. One we can trust and one that is fair, and one who believes that everyone is created equal.

He owes nobody anything and I know that he cannot be pressured into changing his vote on any issue.

Let's elect Kyle Smith mayor on November 2.

Theresa Falls

Letter Policy

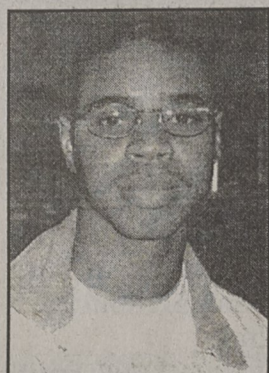
We appreciate your letters to the editor and encourage you to write. Because we receive so many letters, however, we must impose guidelines to ensure that as many readers as possible are able to share their views. We therefore limit the number of letters that any one person may have published to one a month. Also, we ask that you keep your letters short, no more than two pages double-spaced or one page single-spaced. Handwritten letters are accepted, but must be legible.

We will not publish letters from anonymous writers; names, addresses, and phone numbers must be included. We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar, punctuation, clarity, brevity and content. Letters must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Monday of the week they are to be published.

SIDEWALK SURVEY

By ALAN HODGE Herald/Times

Should Halloween trick or treating be held the traditional way or in a structured setting?



It's better if the children celebrate Halloween in a structured setting.

Cory Jolly



Both ways of celebrating Halloween can be used.

Cindi Randal
Weaverville



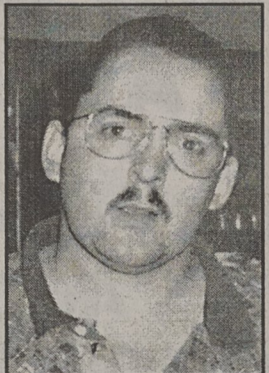
The children shouldn't be on the streets, but have a Halloween party at church.

Angelica Sanders
Shelby



I think it can be done in a manner to allow for the old tradition as well as an organized event.

Kim Kays
Fletcher



With crime the way it is, an organized Halloween party is better.

Everett Osborne
Shelby