

## OPINIONS

From 4A

In my opinion the pressure will be as great or greater for him to be successful as it was for him with the baseball program.

In making this decision could the athletic director and principal just be moving these problems from the baseball program to the basketball program? Was the decision made because it was just the basketball program or for Mr. Leigh to keep his coaching supplement?

I believe there needs to be some explanations made to players, parents and the public for promoting someone a few months after they resigned a coaching position saying they were burned out. In my opinion it shows that the kids or the programs do not always come first.

To me it looks as if very little thought has gone into making this and other decisions of filling some coaching positions for the last few years, especially in football. I would hope the School Board would be concerned enough to not let something like this happen again.

I wasn't going to comment on our football program at this time until I saw some of our players wearing a shirt over the weekend that said "KM Football 3AA Playoffs 2002." I am not against the kids being rewarded for winning some type of championship, but I just don't see the reasoning for this type of shirt. I believe the money spent to buy 50 or 60 shirts could have been put to better use. This 2002 team finished the season 4-8. The four teams KM beat had a combined record of 6 wins and 38 losses. We finished 4th in the conference and went into the playoffs as a 13th seed.

Mr. Farquharson said the playoffs are all about atmosphere. Well, I went to the playoff game at Kernersville and I sure did not see this atmosphere. I don't believe KM had more than 150 to 200 fans and I'd say most of these were the parents or relatives of the players.

I believe if KM is going to get back to having a proud football program and the atmosphere that Mr. Farquharson is talking about, it has got to have the support of the whole community, not just from the parents and relatives of the football players.

Since the football season is over I think the time has come for the football program to be seriously evaluated from top to bottom and go ahead and make the changes that are necessary.

Last year KM's basketball team shared the conference championship and went three rounds in the State playoffs and I don't remember seeing any of the basketball players wearing a shirt that said "KM Basketball 3AA Playoffs 2002."

This seems just a little bit odd.

William Martin  
Kings Mountain

## ABIGAIL

From 4A

praying we weren't holding up the show too long. The parking lot was teeming with people and cars. Apparently, my aunts had arrived just in time to miss the throng of "serious" shoppers that would have held them up. They came dashing out of the store with two shopping carts apiece, threw open the trunk and began to arrange their purchases. They had bought large plastic bins to store their purchases in for the day, they informed us, cracking open the first one. Buy one, get two free. Who can resist?

In the course of the few hours before the sun had officially risen, we hit fifteen different stores, with my sister and I actually becoming fully enough awake to participate in the craziness. Despite my aunts' obsession with sales, they actually were very polite shoppers, never ripping items from other peoples' hands or cutting in front of others in line. I could not say the same for other shoppers, however.

With the effort to outdo others in sales hit, some of us forget that Christmas is supposed to be a season of love and charity, not selfishness and greed. Even if we do hit the sales at pre-rooster hours on the day after Thanksgiving, we need to remember that others are also human beings who simply want to save a little money as well. We need to play nice.

## JIM

From 4A

weak battery with snow.

"I remembered when I was a boy, I put batteries in the freezer to rejuvenate them," Diaz said. The snow-covered batteries gained new strength after just 30 minutes.

Now that's what I call a good use for a cell phone.

I have never had the slightest inkling to own a cell phone, and I don't think I ever will. I don't even like to answer the phone at the office or at home.

I certainly wouldn't have one in my car, and I cannot think of one good reason why anyone else should either.

Oh, I know people say they don't see how they ever got along without their cell phones. I suspect that if they'd never been invented all those who use them would still be getting along.

The next time you're driving and feel the urge to talk on your cell phone, pull off the road. The life you save may be mine.

## MURAL

From 1A

The extra visitors to the city each year would help strengthen the already strong economy in Kings Mountain as well. Plus the citizens of Kings Mountain will be able to enjoy looking at their heritage each time they drive downtown, bringing them a sense of community pride in their city's heritage.

"As a historical city, we need to have sites for people to observe," said Murphrey.

The murals will also serve as part of the revitalization effort in the downtown area, said Murphrey.

"It will assist in the revitalization of the downtown area. We look forward to bringing more murals into Kings Mountain," said Murphrey.

These two murals are not the end of the revitalization effort, said Murphrey. Future murals and renovations will also celebrate and honor the heritage of Kings Mountain and its citizens.

"We'll continue to work on having different sites of interest so that we can bring people into town in an effort to revitalize the downtown area," said Murphrey. "It's a slow process, but I think we'll just continue to work to bring more activities to the downtown area."

The lights will be above the mural on the side of the Minit Grill and below the mural on Plonk's Department Store. They will have sensors so that they come on at night, said Murphrey.

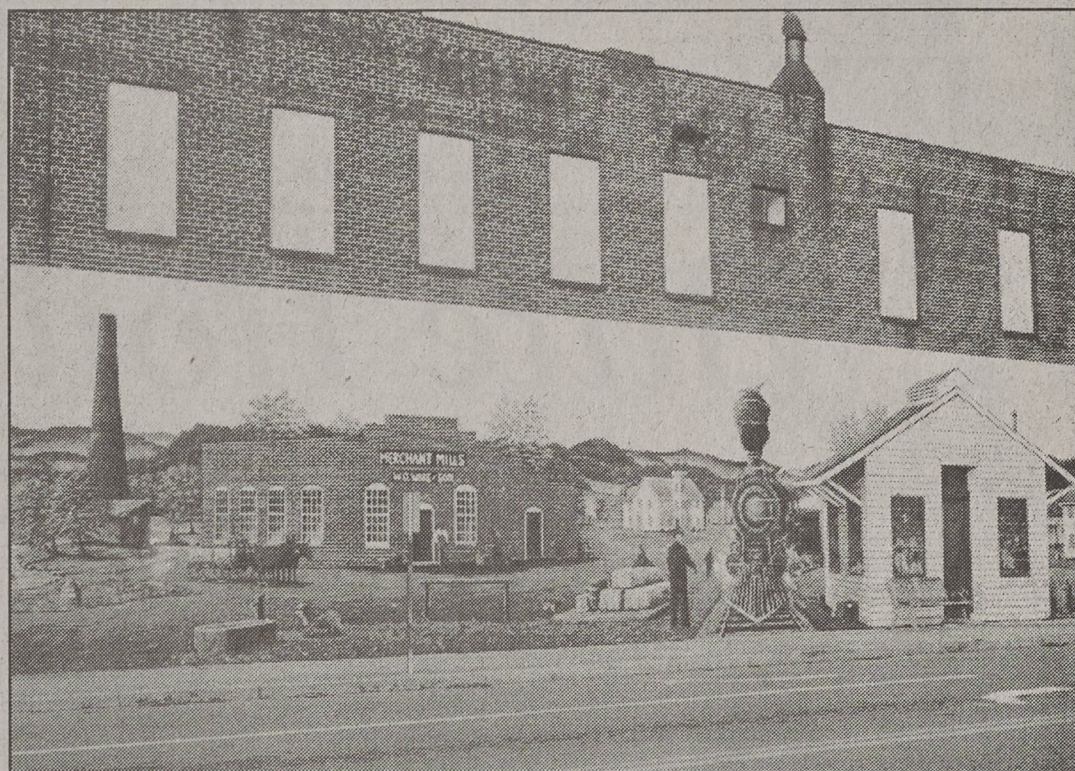
At the lighting ceremony, the First Baptist Church choir will sing, and Mayor Murphrey will recognize those that served on the Kings Mountain Mural Commission. Refreshments will be served.

The mural artist, Clive Haynes, from England, also did a mural in Rutherfordton. The Mural Commission went to look at the other murals that he did before they hired him, said Murphrey. Haynes also did the paintings representing the different wars on the Veteran's Memorial, said Murphrey.

Margaret Ledford, a member of the Mural Commission, did the research for the historical significance of each of the buildings portrayed in the "Discovering Gold" mural.

The "Discovering Gold" mural, located on the side of the Minit Grill restaurant on Gold Street, depicts many of the original buildings in Kings Mountain in the 1800s. Among the scenes in the many scenes in the mural, the title scene is taken from the time when Mrs. Ben Briggs, a farmer's wife, discovered gold in a spring near her house. The Kings Mountain Gold Mine was built and ran continuously until 1895. Most of the gold from the mine was sold to the U.S. Mint in Charlotte.

The buildings depicted in the mural include: Briggs Tavern, which was the first house built in Kings Mountain; the first hotel in Kings Mountain, which



ABIGAIL WOLFORD / HERALD

A lighting ceremony will be held across the street from the "Discovering Gold" mural on the corner of Battleground and Gold Streets on Thursday, Dec. 5, at 6 p.m. The "Revolutionary War Era" mural on the side of Plonk's Department Store will also be lit. Refreshments will be served.

accommodated people on the railroad; W.T.R. Bell Military Academy, which served as the town's public school system until 1886; Ware's Mill, a grist and saw mill which was the first industry in Kings Mountain; freight station; and First Baptist Church, which was built in 1890.

The railroad is also depicted because it played an important part in the founding of Kings Mountain because it brought people to the city. Presidents Herbert Hoover and George Bush have even traveled through Kings Mountain on the train. One train carried Franklin Roosevelt's body through Kings Mountain on the way to Washington, D.C. in 1945.

This mural was funded through private donations, said Shirley Brutko, the chairman of the Mural Commission. The donors are giving the mural to the city as a Christmas gift, she said.

The "Revolutionary War

Era" mural depicts sites that existed in Kings Mountain at the time of the pivotal Revolutionary War battle that was fought to the south of Kings Mountain.

Depicted sites include: Revolutionary War patriot leader Col. Frederick Hambright's home; Revolutionary War soldier John Wells' home; Long Creek Presbyterian Church; Washington Iron Furnace, or

Ormand Furnace, which was used to make house tools, farm equipment, and cannon balls for the war; and Kings Creek and Beason Creek, which both start in Kings Mountain.

John O. Plonk, Jr. donated the wall for this mural, and the City of Kings Mountain sponsored the painting of the mural, said Murphrey.

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