

**GUEST
OPINION**

**Wise tips
for new
car hunter**

By ROY COOPER

Yearning for a new car? Don't race over to the dealership before you do some research. A new car is an important and expensive purchase.

My office receives hundreds of complaints each year from consumers concerning their new car purchase. Some consumers are unhappy because their cars turn out to be lemons. Others simply got stuck with bad deals or cars loaded with expensive options.



To make sure you get the car you want at a reasonable price, consider these tips:

■ **Do your homework.** To become a savvy shopper, spend some time researching the makes and models you might buy. Check

www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars to see if the vehicle has had problems reported to the National Highway Safety Administration. Find out the invoice prices and option costs by checking Internet sites such as www.nadaguides.com and www.edmunds.com.

■ **Stick to your budget.** Before you head to the dealership, determine how much you can afford to spend. If you plan to finance your new car, compare rates from several lenders and make sure the monthly payment fits your budget. Don't get pressured into payments you can't afford.

■ **Scrutinize ads.** The great price listed in the ad may not include major costs like freight, additional dealer markup or the options you want, and advertised prices usually don't factor in taxes, license and title fees. Read the fine print.

■ **Road test it.** Don't just take it for a spin the parking lot. Test drive the car on different types of roads and for long enough to check the acceleration, braking, steering and stability.

■ **Learn the language.** Understanding the difference between car pricing terms such as "base invoice price," "manufacturers suggested retail price" and "dealer sticker price" can help when it comes time to negotiate what you'll pay.

■ **Pick your options.** Adding options will increase your total cost, so pick wisely. If the dealer tries to sell you on a package of options, study it carefully so you don't wind up paying too much for options

See Cooper, 5A

OPINION

The Kings Mountain Herald

PICKIN AND GRINNIN



ALAN HODGE / HERALD

William Berry, 12, of Kings Mountain is pictured playing his banjo recently at the Crouse Mini-Mart. Berry is one of numerous area musicians that play each weekend at the store.

**Going back to
class after years
is a challenge**



Andie Brymer
Staff Writer

Last week I acquired some new heroes. This happened while attending the first portion of an adult basic education class at East Elementary.

Just over 10 students were seated at tables in the school library. They had workbooks and paper out, completing lessons on math and reading.

The students were all different. They were male and female. Ages appeared to range from early 20s to 50s. Faces were black and white. What they had in common was courage and determination.

The program requires they attend three-hour classes three nights a week for four months. This comes after an assessment test indicates the student needs preparation before attending GED or adult high school classes.

Some of the students recently dropped out of high school only to discover how hard it is to make a living without a diploma or GED. Others left school years ago to work in textiles. That industry has dried up and now they face the job hunt again.

Going back to the classroom after 20 or 30 years cannot be easy. I'm sure many of the older students worried and wondered if they could once again do the book work. None of them let that fear get in the way. They faced the doubt head on and came to class anyway.

Teacher Marie Ballard introduced me to the students and told them they didn't have to be interviewed. Interestingly, it was the older students who didn't want to talk. Not wanting to be pushy, I didn't ask them why.

I'll have to work on assumptions to get my answers and I admit that is shaky ground. My guess is that the students are embarrassed to be back in the classroom. Being there means admitting they didn't finish school and now need help with the material.

There is no shame in that. Decades ago school was a much different place. There weren't as many programs in place to help struggling students.

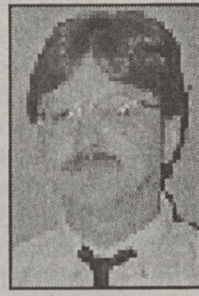
Academic problems may not have been to blame though. Many of the returning students may have done well in the classroom. Economics could have been the reason they left school.

Their families may have struggled to put food on the table. The choice would have been between helping feed younger siblings or going to school.

Or maybe the lure of a weekly paycheck from the nearby textile plant was too strong to resist. That's okay too. Who hasn't been young and eager to earn money, to buy

See Andie, 5A

**There's nothing
quite as good
as ice cream**



Alan Hodge
Guest Column

Eye scream, you scream, we all scream for eyes cream.

Of all the tasty things in this world, there are few as wonderful as ice cream. Yes ice cream is yummy when it goes in yer tummy without it you feel bummy.

Well, that I've gotten that out of my system, here's some sobering thoughts on the intoxicating goodness and lore of ice cream.

Ice cream goes back a long way, even in colonial times rich folks had ice cream. Thomas Jefferson and George Washington ate lots of it. Jefferson liked chocolate and Washington was partial to cherry. Poor folks could sometimes get ice cream but they had to settle for less exotic flavors such as possum or raw hide.

Ice cream is a food that bring back a lot of good memories. Once there was a gas station in Belmont run by a guy named Pete Sellers. My grandfather Sinclair Smith used to take my sister Beth and I to the station and buy us a type of ice cream called a Brown Mule. This was a treat made of vanilla ice cream covered in chocolate with a stick in the middle. After you ate the ice cream, you could gnaw on the stick like a beaver for quite a while.

Another ice cream memory that many folks hold dear revolves around the old hand crank machinery so often found at family reunions. Though some of these ice cream makers have electric motors to revolve the drum, the more venerable ones used good old elbow grease.

Now, here's where adults often use their wiles to trick the kids into working. The ruse is to make it look like fun to turn the crank, and to tell the kids they can lick the dasher in exchange for the monotonous labor of cranking. As those of you who have been had in such a manner know, the cranking starts out easy enough, but after awhile it is like trying to churn concrete and the youthful arm begins to tremble and burn like fire and the reward of ice cream drives you on through the pain and all the while the grownups are sitting around smirking over your sweating brow and tongue hanging out several inches because they know they are going to consume the lion's share of the ice creamy goodness.

The other day I stopped by an ice cream place and as I gave my cone a fit I observed others doing the same. As in many things, everyone seems to have their own style when it comes to making a cone disappear. Based upon keen observation, some prefer to project their tongue out and wrap it around the ice cream as does the giraffe as it

See Hodge, 5A

**SIDEWALK
SURVEY**

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
THE HERALD

**When should
the government
bring the U.S.
troops home
from Iraq?**



"By the end of the year."

Roy Rogers
Kings Mountain



"When we feel safe. When President Bush decides we've met that. Until we have accomplished what we went for."

Shirley Payne
Kings Mountain



"They should bring the soldiers that were first to go home now."

Tracie Deaton
Kings Mountain



"If we bring them back too soon, it's going to become a hot terrorism spot. Of course, I would love to see them come back. For the good of the world they need to stick around and give some order."

Patricia Pearson
Kings Mountain



"Now. Right now."

Shaquija Jimson
Kings Mountain

LOOK BACK

**Area was going
through drought
in September '88**

From the September 7, 1988 edition of the Herald:

Gary Stewart has been named editor of the Kings Mountain Herald, Publisher Gary Greene announced today. Stewart has served the past several years as managing editor.

Grover residents living within the city limits who are not connected to the town's sewer system will receive a notice this week reminding them that they must connect by October 1.

Kings Mountain United Fund will kick off the 1989 appeal for the largest campaign goal ever - \$115,500 - at a luncheon for volunteer workers Friday at noon at Holiday Inn.

Enrollment figures are in for the number of students attending Kings Mountain Schools this year. Total enrollment to date is 3,881, up about 23 from last year.

Things didn't go well for the Mountaineers early, but they "hung in there" to shut out Bessemer City 25-0 in their season opening football game. Quarterback Ryan Hollifield hit 8 of 11 passes for 144 yards and one touchdown as the Mountaineers rolled up 350 yards of total offense.

John Gamble defeated Phil Robbins on the first hole of sudden death to win the Club Championship at Kings Mountain Country Club.

Flu vaccinations will be given Monday at the Kings Mountain Depot. The cost is \$3.

Kings Mountain area citizens got some much-needed relief from the summer's drought over this week as lower temperatures prevailed and Mother Nature dropped two to four inches of rain.

Kings Mountain City Council will receive bids for 1,200 replacement water meters at Tuesday night's regular meeting at the Governmental Services Facilities Center. Faulty meters in almost every area of town have caused the city to lose revenue over the past several years, a recent study revealed.

Golf legend Chi Chi Rodriguez will serve as special guest for the fifth annual Toyota Golf Classic to benefit the March of Dimes September 29 at Woodbridge Golf Links.

Bethware Fair opened Tuesday for the 41st year in a row.

The Information Center, a substance abuse counseling service, will open Saturday in Kings Mountain.