

GUEST OPINION

OPINION

The Kings Mountain Herald

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Editor: Gary Stewart • 739-7496

Do homework before enrolling in trade school

By ROY COOPER

In these uncertain economic times, many North Carolinians are heading back to school in search of new career opportunities. Your local community college is



always a good place to start. There are also reputable career and trade schools that can help students learn the skills they need to find work as an automotive technician, court reporter, medical assistant, hair stylist, computer programmer, paralegal or other skilled worker.

Unfortunately, some trade schools are more interested in increasing their profits than living up to their promises. Unscrupulous schools may try to take advantage of people who suddenly find themselves out of work due to plant closings and lay offs. To boost enrollment and the bottom line, some schools mislead prospective students about salary potential or job availability in certain fields. They may also overstate the caliber of their training programs, the qualifications of their teachers, the quality of their facilities and equipment, and their connections with business and industry.

Before you head back to school, do your homework. Follow these tips to select a sound career or trade school:

- Ask about the instructors' qualifications and the size of the classes. Sit in on a few classes. Does the school have adequate space, equipment, instructional material, and personnel to provide training of good quality?

- Talk to students about their experiences with the school. How long have they attended? How do they rate the quality of instruction? Were they surprised by any of the fees? What is the dropout rate? Has the school delivered on its promises?

- Ask for the course outline, schedule of tuition, fees, books and other charges, absenteeism rules, grading policy and rules of conduct. All schools operating in North Carolina are required by law to provide this information in writing.

- Review the materials the school gives you carefully, including the contract, before you sign up. If the school refuses to give you information in writing or tells you that you must first sign a contract, take your business to another school.

See Cooper, 5A

MAKING PLANS



Kings Mountain City Council held a lengthy work session Monday night at the Patrick Center to discuss projects for the fiscal year. Left to right are Gene White, Clavon Kelly, Rick Moore, Jim Guyton and Howard Shipp.

ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD

Thank goodness, Isabel and her 'hot air' bypassed us



Andie Brymer
Staff Writer

With Hurricane Isabel dominating the news last week, I was left with no burning issues to survey folks for the weekly opinion piece.

I thought it would be interesting to see if we have any budding meteorologist in our midst so I posed the question about the effects of Isabel.

One respondent hit it right, sort of. He predicted the coast would be pounded. While the coast did receive the brunt of the storm, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio got heavy rain.

Another person told me the hurricane would have absolutely no effect. Again, that was sort of right for this area. Winds and rain did no damage but we all spent lots of energy preparing.

I assumed Isabel wouldn't effect us but my every practical husband took a few precautions. Flashlight received fresh batteries.

Additional storm preparations included bringing in what I call yard art. If you ask my neighbors they can probably come up with some other names.

I'll let you be the judge of that. I have a nice, white bird cage on the porch. A metal bird is attached to the top. Nearby sit statues of a cardinal and a bluebird. The concrete birds are about one and one half times the size the birds appear in nature.

Inverted green glass candle sticks are wedged into a flower bed. I routinely fill them with water. The refreshment is for the butterflies. The birds, real ones not concrete, can drink from the larger stone mortar sitting beside the parsley plants.

A three-tier, wire green shelf - the type most people put in the bathroom to hold towels - sits in another bed. A winning plant with bright red flowers clings to it. Perched on one shelf is a small pot of chives. I often have to unwind the viny tendrils from the plant.

A primitive appearing, stone fertility statue is attached to a stick with copper wire. Being a conversation piece, she normally rest in the front yard.

Needless to say, I woke up Friday morning relieved that the electricity was still on. Peeping out the window gave me another wave of relief, no pine trees had crashed across the top of my car.

It was evident Izzy had heeded my message. On the front of my glider swing I had hastily painted "Isabel Don't Visit" in yellow. The color matched the flowers that decorate the back of the swing.

See Andie, 5A

Cherry Smash on dash & other old car goodies



Alan Hodge
Guest Column

My oh my how the automobile has changed - and with it the way kids ride along.

Once upon a time cars had what were called bench seats and no air conditioning. These vehicles are now highly coveted collector items, but back in the 1950s and 60s they were just modes of transportation. And how they transported and what memories were made on those bench seats from front and back and in those sweltering interiors.

Nowadays it's hard to imagine a car without air conditioning. But since the old cars lacked this luxury, many folks planned their trips to take advantage of the cooler night or early morning air. This was often the case when I was just past the squab stage but had not yet reached pooberty and we would go to the beach. To this day I still have recollections of getting up before daylight and stumbling out to where the already loaded car sat in the damp and dark of predawn and climbing in the backseat to return to the land of Nod while the grownups moved around quietly yet efficiently in the darkness and then got in the car and with the smell of cigarette smoke and strong black coffee in the air, departed for the shore before the blazing sun came up and turned the car into a sweat box.

Here's another memory from yesteryear: There used to be a type of car that lacked that piece of body work which connected the roof to the lower part and the middles of the side and also acted as a guide for the roll up windows. That's a complicated way to describe the coupe. Well, when I was in the fifth grade I had a friend named Lewis Wilson whose daddy had such a car.

Now, Lewis and I often got the daddy-o to take us to an establishment on Independence Blvd. in Charlotte known as Gottlieb's Army-Navy Store. Gottlieb's had all kinds of military surplus stuff. Some things they had such as hand grenades with the powder out but otherwise intact are frowned upon these days but back then were readily available to anyone, kids included, who had five bucks. I had a bunch of grenades but can't recall what became of them.

Anyway, one day Lewis and I went to Gottlieb's and bought parachutes like they used to drop supplies with. The chutes were about eight feet in diameter and the strings came to a loop on the end. We were in the backseat of Mr. Wilson's coupe going about 45 mph down Matheson Avenue and only God knows why but Lewis

See Alan, 5A

LOOK BACK

KM invited President Ford to '76 events

From the September 23, 1976 edition of the Kings Mountain Mirror-Herald:

At press time this week there was still no word from the White House on President Ford's plans to accept or decline an invitation to join in the October 7, 8 and 9 celebration in Kings Mountain.

Dean Westmoreland has been appointed to the Grover Town Council to fill the unexpired term of R.E. Hambright. Hambright resigned recently to serve on the Cleveland County Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority.

Roy Pearson, Kings Mountain Recreation Director, received the Distinguished Service Award presented by KM Jaycees.

The city has approved new minimum standards for fire department, water and waste treatment plant applications.

Kings Mountain Police Department will host its first 168-hour Basic School in Police Science with the first class on Oct. 11 and continuing five days a week until the course of instruction is completed. Seventeen officers have signed up for the course.

John Houze is gunning for his sixth straight championship in the Kings Mountain Country Club golf championship.

William Thompson ran the opening kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown and Kinds Mountain's Mountaineers went on to get their third straight victory, 28-0 over punchless North Gaston. The victory, coupled with Chase's 18-15 upset of East Rutherford, left the Mountaineers as the only undefeated team in the Southwestern Conference.

Kenneth Stoll, son of Mr. and Mrs. James M. Stoll Jr., left Kings Mountain the last week of August to enroll at N.C. State University in Raleigh for his freshman year.

David Fletcher Hord of Kings Mountain, son of Dr. and Mrs. D.F. Hord, is among 26 Lenoir-Rhyne College students working at the NC School for the Deaf this year to complete requirements for degrees in education of the hearing impaired.

Sen. W.K. "Billy" Mauney Jr. has been named southwestern district capital funds campaign chairman by Lenoir-Rhyne College.

SIDEWALK SURVEY

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
THE HERALD

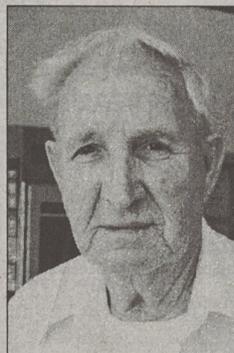
What will be the effects of Hurricane Isabel?



"I hope it doesn't cause the same flooding in eastern North Carolina that it did two years ago."
Mark Cheplen
Charlotte



"It will be like Hugo but milder. It will hit more in Charlotte than here."
Jennifer VanPelt
Kings Mountain



"It's going to be devastating to the coast and probably inland. My heart goes out to those folks."
James Raymond
Kings Mountain



"I don't know for around here. It will probably hit around Statesville and towards Raleigh. We'll just get light rain, wind."
Jack Huffstetler
Kings Mountain



"Nothing. Absolutely nothing."
Cletis Pinkerton
Kings Mountain