

Thanks to all who helped with luminary display

I would like to commend the 70-plus volunteers that participated in this year's luminary lighting at Mountain Rest Cemetery. This kind act of reverence to our deceased loved ones and the unselfishness of these volunteers should be recognized.

I believe that this event in Kings Mountain is by far the best event that was and now is fully supported by volunteers. Jim and Brenda Belt both give unselfishly of themselves during the most high paced time in our life. I personally believe that this tribute to our loved ones and citizens is the most time consumed and generous act taking place in Kings Mountain.

When I rode through the cemetery on December 24, 2003 I saw many friends that were volunteering and I commend them. Several years ago they even stood in the rain to light the luminaries. It is truly a beautiful sight to behold.

Hats off to all the volunteers for making our Christmas 2003 one to remember.

J. Wayne King II
Kings Mountain

Luminary display was well-attended

I am extremely proud to have citizens such as Jim and Brenda Belt and the many volunteers that helped with the luminary lighting on Christmas Eve at Mountain Rest Cemetery. This is such a worthwhile event and I am always glad to see the work that the people put in to make this a success with never asking for financial support from our city, although I would be honored to support such a worthwhile cause.

Having spoken with many citizens, they believe as I do that this is by far the most attended event in our city. I understand that there were approximately 2,000 cars that passed through the cemetery on Christmas Eve. Not only does this take place on Christmas Eve, there is much preparation to make this a success.

As a City Council member I am grateful for people that go out of their way, to leave their family to give our families such a great tribute.

Thanks again to all the volunteers.

Jerry Mullinax
Ward 3 City Council
Member

✓ Deadline for letters is 12 noon Monday. Mail letters to Mike Blanton, Publisher, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086. All letters must be signed in ink and include name, address and phone number.

LOOKING BACK



GARY STEWART /FILE PHOTO
The weather may be unseasonably warm this week, but what will the next few weeks hold? Last January 21, Kings Mountain received a six and one-half inch snow which made life fun for the kids like the one above, but was a headache for local residents who had pipes to freeze during several straight days of sub-freezing temperature.

Concern for each other would make for great new year



Andie Brymer
Staff Writer

I was privileged to meet an incredible woman a few weeks ago. She won't let me tell you her name, but she agreed that I could write about her situation.

To make life easier for you as a reader and me as a writer, I'll call her Susan.

Susan does not have a job. She worked in textiles until she lost her job to the global economy we as a society have not yet figured out how to navigate.

Since becoming unemployed, Susan has lost her car. Now she is about to lose her home. At the top of her wish list for the new year is a job.

Despite her stressful situation, Susan isn't sitting at home wringing her hands. Instead, she volunteers with a local agency that serves the poor. Susan refuses to just accept help and go home. Instead, she is making sure others in her same situation get what they need.

The volunteer work also has a pay off for Susan. It gets her out of the house, keeps her from falling into self-pity. In Susan's words, "it keeps my mind straight."

She has applied at fast food restaurants but says they mostly prefer younger workers. Susan scans the classifieds but finds most job opportunities are in Shelby or Gastonia. Without a car, the jobs might as well be on the moon. Other jobs require heavy lifting, something she isn't able to do.

Since joining the ranks of the unemployed, Susan has acquired a few new skills. She is now an avid bargain hunter, using grocery sale advertisements as her road map through the aisles.

She also has a new outlook. Without the security of a job, she now leans on God more. She reads the Bible daily. The scriptures keep her from getting depressed and give her hope.

Today, Susan looks out for her neighbors. Now more than ever, she is concerned about their well being.

Instead of focusing on getting through yet another day, Susan has not let go of her long term dream - opening a day care center. Before losing her job, Susan was saving money for that goal. Since then she has had to spend her savings to survive.

Despite the setback, she continues to plan for the future. Her first goal is a job, then a car, then classes at Cleveland

See Andie, 5A

All kinds of advice on how to deal with the coward



Jim Heffner
Columnist

Now that the Butcher of Baghdad has been brought to heel, the publicity hounds can be seen all over the tube advising the U.S. government on how to handle him.

Mike Farrell, of course, is the world's foremost authority. He was on one of the talk shows the other night saying that Saddam Hussein should be treated humanely, as if this country would treat any POW any other way.

Farrell, as do most of the empty-headed liberals, thinks he should be tried in an international court. He continues to harp on getting the United Nations involved.

The United Nations is a joke. I would rather assign a task to a Ladies Aid group.

He went on to remind everyone that this country supported Hussein during the 1980s so we were partly responsible for his actions.

"The U.S. did nothing when Hussein was slaughtering people in the mid 80s," Farrell said.

Neither did your favorite choir group, the UN, Farrell. If they are the final word on everything, why didn't they step in and stop Hussein? I guess they were too busy assigning countries such as Lybia to handle human rights in the organization.

Then there are those who think showing Hussein getting checked out by a doctor on TV was outrageous. "He should be treated like a head of state," they yell.

I agree. He should be treated like any head of state who murders a million of his own people.

Unless Saddam was shown on TV, the Iraqis wouldn't believe he was in custody. Some of them still don't. I saw an Iraqi man interviewed on the tube last Sunday and he said Saddam's capture was a joke. "They can never take him in alive," the admirer said.

This guy had his head in the sand about as deeply as those who believe the UN is the answer to all the world's problems.

The fact is Hussein was caught in a hole in the ground, and he gave up without a fight. Some people find that hard to believe, but not I. He is simply a coward, and a coward is not going to take a chance on getting shot if he can help it.

The Bush haters are so predictable it's almost laughable.

See Heffner, 5A

SIDEWALK SURVEY

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
THE HERALD

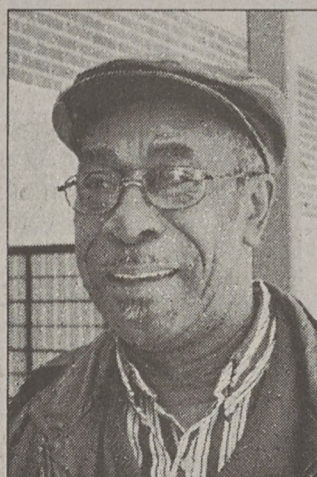
What is your New Year's resolution for 2004?



"I don't have one because you always break them."
Sandra Christ
Kings Mountain



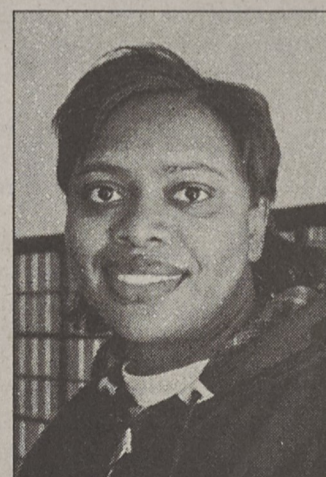
"I don't have one. I don't do them."
Al Adams
Grover



"To hit the lottery."
Karlee Jenkins Jr.
Kings Mountain



"To be in my new house."
Stephanie Hatley
Kings Mountain



"To study my Bible more."
Cynthia Brown
Kings Mountain