

LETTER

Lost wallet decision is shocking

It was shocking to read that Kings Mountain Police Chief Melvin Proctor used taxpayer dollars to reimburse a police officer \$1,600.

It appears the officer was negligent with his wallet, may not have had \$1,600 in it, and could have lost it outside of the police department.

How can Mr. Proctor justify such an inappropriate act?

To make matters worse, Mr. Proctor stated, "Nobody can convince me that it was not right."

It was appalling to see that Mr. Proctor, who has been put into a position of leadership and authority, does not realize stealing from taxpayers is wrong! In addition to that, he failed to investigate the incident effectively.

His decision reflects a gross lack of judgment and/or character, both of which are essential for effective leadership. And how can an intelligent, educated citizen, such as City Attorney Mickey Corry, stand by Proctor's decision?

This situation should be thoroughly investigated and the truth revealed. It appears that a demotion may be needed. Taxpayers must hold leaders responsible for their decisions.

Belinda McMurry
Shelby

Letters Policy

We appreciate your letters 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 third party letters, unsolicited poems, thank-you letters or letters from anonymous writers; names, addresses, and phone numbers must be included and letters must be signed in ink. We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar, punctuation, clarity, brevity and content.

Letters must be received no later than 12 noon on Monday of the week they are to be published. Mail letters to Publisher Mike Blanton, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 or fax them to (704) 739-0611.

OPINION

The Kings Mountain Herald

Thursday, April 1, 2004

GOOD JOB



Kings Mountain Middle School's Top Readers for the Month are, front row, Jannat Majeed, Taylor Cudd, Avery Dahl, Sarah Tipton. Back, Brandon Parnell, Chris Byrd, Jericka Ross, and Haley Peeler. Not pictured Johnnie Johnston and Greg Avant. Students were selected by their team teachers for their outstanding reading effort. The group was treated to personal pan pizza and Cokes for lunch.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Trip to dumpster sometimes can be rewarding



Andie Brymer
Staff Writer

Something for nothing, that's what Joey and I got Saturday afternoon.

It all started as just another weekend trip to the dump. We filled his Honda with several bags of trash, cardboard boxes and the recyclables. We were off to the convenience site to get rid of stuff, we thought.

Joey heaved the heavy black garbage bags into the trash dumpsters. I tossed aluminum cans in their receptacles and then I was ready for the fun part, throwing glass bottles into the bin. I enjoy getting to break glass and not have to clean it up. After that I tossed old newspapers, not the Herald of course, into another bin.

We thought we were done. Joey cranked up and just as we were about to pull away, he spotted a nice plant stand. I opened the door and asked the couple if they intended to throw it away.

Yes, they were getting rid of it. One of the plant holders was broken but I was welcome to it, the woman said. Cleeful, I almost knocked the lady over retrieving it.

We thanked them and were about to leave for the second time when Joey spied a large television. I pooh poohed the notion that someone would throw away a working T.V.

Undaunted, Joey got out, climbed into the dumpster and examined the set. I had to admit, it was impressive with its large screen.

Another man walked up and inquired if Joey wanted the T.V. He was going to take it home if not. When Joey said he did, the man helped drag it to the edge of the dumpster, then he took off.

I stood beside the set as Joey backed the car up. According to dump etiquette, if you leave something unattended, you lose your claim.

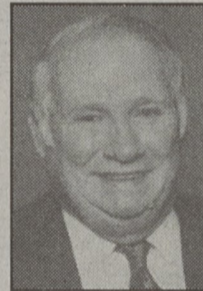
We got the T.V. home and were delighted to discover it actually works. The color is a bit distorted but nothing serious. For the price of curiosity, no shame and a little heavy lifting, we now have something besides a 15 inch screen to watch.

The weekend of free stuff didn't end there. Sunday evening Joey's parents brought over my birthday present - a shiny red push mower. I wonder if they read last week's column?

While some folks might be upset to receive a gift which requires work, I was delighted. Now we don't have to spend our money on the purchase.

The trick will be getting out from in front of the free T.V. to go outside and push the free mower around the yard.

Jimmy Carter should stick to peanuts



Jim Heffner
Columnist

I want to discuss a couple of items this week which have been bugging me.

Number one is Jimmy Carter. If not for Gerald Ford, Carter would be the worst president in U.S. history.

I can remember him sitting in front of that roaring fire in the White House telling the American people they had a "crisis of confidence."

Here he was overseeing an administration which gave us double-digit interest rates and the highest gasoline prices in history at that time, and he was telling us we had a "crisis of confidence."

He was right, of course. We did suffer such a crisis. We had absolutely no confidence in our president.

Now, after all these years on the peanut farm, this lightweight is telling us how to vote. He is the first president to break the tradition of not criticizing the current president. He has run his mouth about each Republican president since he left office.

I'm tired of Jimmy Carter. I have no confidence in him. I might even be in crisis. I guess you can't expect much from a man who uses his 11 year old daughter as his principle advisor.

Over in the world class city they're beginning to pressure Gaston County public officials for help in building their pipe dream mass transit system, and it appears that some Gaston bigwigs are listening.

World class city officials have tried this tack before, but were turned away by indifference, and that's as it should be.

Now they are trying to get into taxpayers pocketbooks by going through the chamber of commerce. Charlotte transit system representatives met with chamber people on Monday, and just for fun, they're meeting with Cleveland County Chamber people as well.

Charlotte wants to build a light rail system, and they want all surrounding cities to help foot the bill. The need is there so that area people can be funneled into the world class city to shop.

I can't find any compelling reason for getting involved in this scheme. It will cost taxpayers more money, and reduce customer flow to local merchants.

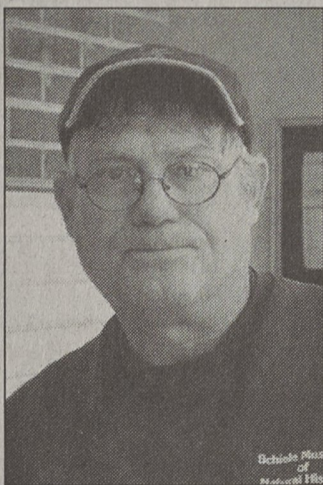
All those people protesting the building of big box stores need to jump on this bandwagon.

For the record, mass transit systems and light rail systems have never worked anywhere in the country. People don't use them.

SIDEWALK SURVEY

By ANDIE BRYMER
HERALD

How have higher gas prices affected you?



It hasn't affected me at all. It's \$1.47 at the Texaco. I found cheaper gas.
Doug Bell
Kings Mountain



It's an aggravation, an inconvenience.
Scott Johnson
Kings Mountain



I'm driving a lot less.
Tim Guyton
Kings Mountain



It takes a whole lot more to take the kids to school. It took \$30 or more for us to go see my daughter in Mississippi.
Sherry Blanton
Kings Mountain



I drive an SUV. They've really affected me. I try not to drive as much. It takes almost \$30 to fill it up.
Kristie Small
Kings Mountain

LOOK BACK

Grover made changes in April 1980

From the Tuesday, April 1, and Thursday, April 3, 1980 editions of the Kings Mountain Herald:

Fred Kirby, WBTV's singing cowboy, strummed his guitar and sang for patients of the Kings Mountain Convalescent Center as they rocked for the Heart Fund Friday afternoon. Rockers raised over \$500 for the campaign.

Tim Leach pitched a five-hitter and struck out nine, Lynn Hayes and Mark Schuman slugged back-to-back home runs, and Eric Dixon drove home the winning run with a double as Kings Mountain defeated Burns 3-2, leaving the Mountaineers as the only undefeated team in the Southwestern 3A Conference.

Bridget Glass and Diane Williams had two hits each and Kim Moss struck out two North Gaston batters in the seventh inning as Kings Mountain High's girls softball team won its fourth straight game, 3-2.

In a stormy one-hour meeting Monday night, Grover Town Council reinstated Gloria Horton as town clerk, named Ronald Queen to replace Martha Scruggs on the board, and gave mayor pro tem Edward Philbeck the office manager and finance officer duties previously held by Mayor Bill McCarter. The board passed each action unanimously over the protest of several citizens. However, just as many citizens approved the action that was taken in the shortest session the board has held since it took office in December.

Independence National Bank of Kings Mountain was robbed of an undisclosed amount of money Tuesday. It was the second time the city's newest bank has been robbed since opening here.

Cleveland Countians will be trying to raise at least \$35,000 in their 1980 cancer drive which was kicked off in Kings Mountain Tuesday.

Kings Mountain's William Donald "Don" Crawford has retired as General Supply Specialist at Cape Hatteras Seashore and is now residing at Lake Montonia.

Larry Allen, former Central School Principal, is coordinator of the Title I Reading Program in Kings Mountain Schools.