

Support Marriage Protection Amendment

To the editor:

The election results are in, and Americans overwhelmingly want marriage to be defined as the union of one man and one woman.

All of the 11 states with constitutional amendments on marriage passed them - by upwards of 60 or 70 percent of the vote in most cases. Hopefully, that sends a message to our senators and representatives in Washington that we want, and expect, them to similarly protect this sacred institution in the U.S. Constitution.

Sadly, though, the ballot box is no match for the judge's gavel in modern-day America. Don't be surprised if the next headline you read about this issue involves a state court ruling one of the amendments unconstitutional, usurping the power rightly delegated to the people.

The sole sure-fire way of stripping judicial tyrants of their ability to do this is to amend the federal constitution through the Marriage Protection Amendment. You made your voices heard at the polls, now I hope you will join me in calling your representatives in the U.S. Senate and in Congress to urge them to give the people what they want in the United States...the Marriage Protection Amendment.

Sharon B. Eaker
Cherryville

Opinion Page Policy

The Herald welcomes your letters to the editor for publication in each Thursday's paper. All letters must be signed, and for verification purposes include the address and phone number. Letters should be limited to 500 words.

Mail your letter to Editor, The Herald, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086; fax to (704) 739-0611; or e-mail to KMH Letters@kingsmountainherald.com. Letters sent by fax and e-mail must also include name, mailing address and phone number for verification purposes. Letters may be edited.

Letters to the editor and columnists who appear on the editorial page do not necessarily represent the views of the Kings Mountain Herald.



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD
The sign above Grady Costner's work shop in the Midpines Community serves as he and wife Katie's Christmas card to everyone in the area. The Costners' annual light display begins Thursday at 5 p.m. and will continue through Christmas.

Thankful for the blessings that matter



Andie Brymer
Staff Writer

Earlier this year I got caught up in wanting an older two-story home in a small town historic district. A Volvo wagon was parked in the driveway of my fantasy.

Knowing that wasn't possible on my salary, I was sad. I felt like I didn't have enough. Then my husband's friend Gene Reep died.

A sports fan, Gene traveled to ball games with Joey and other journalists. When he had a sudden and fatal heart attack, two writers penned a column about their friend.

Their words helped me refocus. Mike Powell and David Keever described Gene as a man rich in what was important. Gene made his money mowing grass and managing a self-service car wash. Neither venture brought in big profits. Gene lived in a tiny house but much of his time was his own. He spent it wisely, coaching youth leagues and supporting his favorite teams.

This accounting of Gene's life helped me realize I should focus more on experiences than possessions. I looked at my life and realized I was rich.

I am blessed to have a husband who loves and accepts me. Cats Susie and P.O. are always glad to see us. We have a small but comfortable home. Our refrigerator is packed full of tasty treats. Our vehicles are older but so far reliable.

I value the time I spend in person, on the phone and over e-mail with friends Carol, Abby, Teresa and Elvenia. The people I work with at The Herald and our sister papers are smart, helpful and fun. I am healthy and when I do feel bad, have quick access to healthcare. New titles and old favorites are free for the picking at the library.

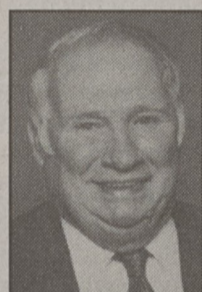
Looking over my life here at Thanksgiving, I see much to be grateful for.

Going in another direction, who saw "Wal-Mart: Is It Good For America" on Frontline last week? That was one eye opening documentary. According to the film, Wal-Mart has bargained so hard for low prices from its suppliers that those businesses are having to send jobs to China.

Wages are dramatically lower there than here, as we all know. I feel bad both for the American workers who lost jobs and the Chinese who are being exploited. Maybe if we all stopped wanting so many cheap consumer goods this wouldn't happen. We all need to ponder that as we do our Christmas shopping.

Andie Brymer can be reached at 704 739-7496 or abrymer@kingsmountainherald.com

Zealotry should be unlawful



Jim Heffner
Columnist

As I have said many times before, we are a nation of zealots. They invade every aspect of our lives.

I saw a comment in another newspaper the other day: "Death by drunk driver is not an accident; it is murder."

Now isn't that ridiculous?

MADD, of course, is behind all the anarchy regarding drunk drivers. They are intent on zero tolerance. In other words, if you have one sip of beer and drive, they want you in jail and charged with drunk driving.

If they get their way, you won't be able to have a glass of wine with dinner should you choose to dine out in a nice restaurant. Don't even think about having two glasses. That's tantamount to mass murder.

The lady who started MADD has left the organization because the zealots have taken over. It's outrageous.

The zealotry is such it has spilled over into the workplace. If you happen to drink a beer after a hard week's work, get pulled over and ticketed, you could lose your job. Think I'm kidding about that?

Ask your employer how he feels about it. It isn't that employers are so hard-nosed, it's that there's a good chance they'll be visited by their local MADD group if they continue to employ anyone who has received a ticket for drunk driving.

I know a young man who suffered that embarrassment. He lost his job, then his father did a little research and found that the owner of the small company also had received a DWI ticket a year earlier.

When confronted, the employer took the man's son back, but restricted him to inside work. After a few months, the boy was eased back into his old job as a service mechanic. Justice does prevail in some cases.

The zealots began to edge their way into society in the late seventies. When the Iranian hostages were released in early 1981, the zealous movement blossomed fully.

Everybody wanted to give the prisoners as much money as they could cart home in a large hay wagon. These people worked dangerous jobs in a dangerous country. They were career diplomats, and they were well compensated for their work.

When they got out, the airlines competed to see which one could provide the most luxurious vacations for the prisoners and their families.

Automobile companies ran all over each other trying to give them new cars of every description.

See Heffner, 5A

LOOK BACK

City-mills suit went to trial in '74

From the Thursday, November 21, 1974 edition of the Kings Mountain Mirror-Herald:

Two main items of concern discussed by directors of the Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce Tuesday were the proposed merger with the Merchants Association and the ward equalization project.

Rev. Gary Bryant, new pastor of First Presbyterian Church, will deliver the sermon in the traditional community-wide Thanksgiving service Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church.

City of Kings Mountain vs. Mur Glo and Bonnie Mills is docketed for trial in the current civil term of Cleveland County Superior Court, which opened in Shelby Monday. The city alleges that the mills owe the city \$2,548.51 for gas usage and \$323.55 for water used between Nov. 4, 1972 and March 5, 1973. The mills, in a cross action, allege that the water and gas were supplied to the "mill village" and was not part of the contract for use of city utilities.

Mayor John Henry Moss has been named chairman of the CAGO Recreation Study Commission.

Bill Stinnett, owner and operator of Bessemer City-Kings Mountain Drive-In Theatre, was robbed at gunpoint Saturday night by a masked bandit.

Kings Mountain High's cagers, hoping to be vastly improved this season under veteran coach Allen Dixon, put out the welcome mat to Crest, Burns and Shelby Monday and Tuesday in the fourth annual Cleveland County Tipoff tournament.

Russ Conley, stepson of KMHS teacher I.G. Alexander, is leading North Carolina's Tar Heels in pass interceptions with three. Bobby Trott, nephew of KM's Tom Trott, has one interception.

Myra Jane Griffin, Kings Mountain Carrousel Princess, will depart for the Queen City Wednesday for activities culminating in the Thanksgiving Day Carolinas Carrousel.

Kings Mountain's Frank Cornwell will be inducted into the NC Legion Baseball Hall of Fame Jan. 25 in Salisbury.

Dellinger's Jewel Shop has occupied brand new quarters on West Mountain Street.

SIDEWALK SURVEY

By ANDIE BRYMER
HERALD

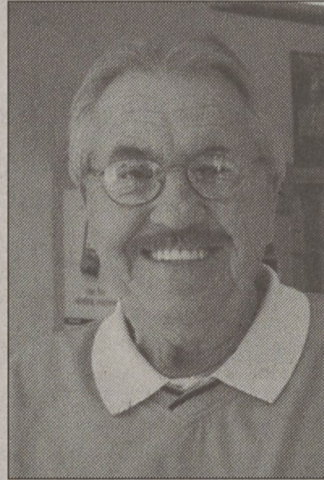
What are your plans for the Thanksgiving holiday?



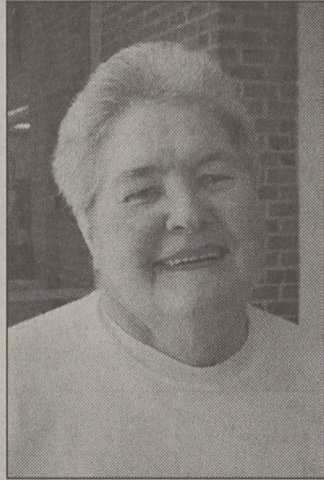
I have this Thanksgiving off. This is the second time I've had it off. I'm going to spend it with my family.
Daniel Tenney
York, S.C.



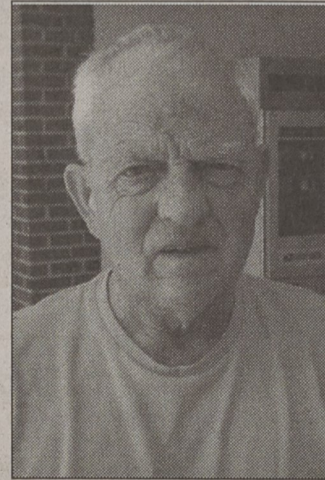
Our kids who are in college and the family are meeting with another family we've been friends with since they were babies.
Connie Ash
Kings Mountain



Have a big turkey and follow up on some requests at city hall.
Jerry Mullinax
Kings Mountain



We're going to cook at my house and have a big dinner.
Frances Lingerfiedt
Kings Mountain



Have Thanksgiving dinner with family.
Howard Lutz
Kings Mountain