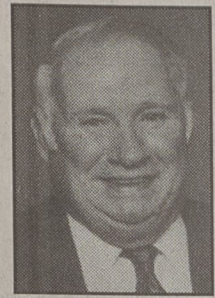


How about a turkey sandwich?

I stopped counting when the total number of TV shows on the preparation of leftover turkey reached 14. I know there were many



Jim Heffner
Guest Column

more, but how many ways can you prepare turkey hash, or turkey casserole? How many different kinds of

turkey sandwich are there in the world?

But most of all, who cares?

Before Thanksgiving I was watching one of the morning jabber shows, and the WIC (woman in charge) made the following statement: "research shows that over 90 percent of American households will cook turkey for Thanksgiving dinner."

Wow! Turkey on Thanksgiving day. What an idea! I'll bet it would go good with stuffing, green beans, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie. I may be on to something here.

Just think what a treat those who planned on a bologna sandwich had. But most of all, are news outlets so desperate for news they must resort to the same old stories every holiday season?

The day after Thanksgiving, all the network morning shows and virtually every newspaper in this country had a story about how the malls were so crowded with people doing their Christmas shopping.

One guy over in the world class city got in line at a department store at 11:30 the night before. It seems to me I read the same story last year.

Next year, I am going to visit one of the TV stations on Thanksgiving and make sure people are really working instead of taking the time off and rerunning last year's story.

I am firmly convinced that, on the day after Thanksgiving, stores could double their prices, open up at 5 a.m. and sell out the store before lunch. Some people would line up the night before seeking to be first to be fleeced.

This is a strange world.

I can hardly wait for Christmas. There will be a barrage of stories on not leaving your packages in the car at the mall, recycling Christmas trees, more turkey leftover shows, don't drink and drive, an overweight woman holding up a dress that is three sizes too

See Heffner, 5A

PEEK AT THE PAST



The undefeated and Southwestern 3A Conference champion KMHS football team was honored at the Lions Club banquet in December 1963. From left, head coach Bill Bates holds the conference championship trophy. With him are Mike Huffstickler, most valuable player; Jim Medlin, leadership award; Warren Goforth, best blocker; Ben Grimes Jr., scholarship award winner; Terry Leonard, most improved player; and University of North Carolina head football coach Jim Hickey. (Any readers with old photos they would like to contribute to "Looking Back" are encouraged to bring them by The Herald between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.)

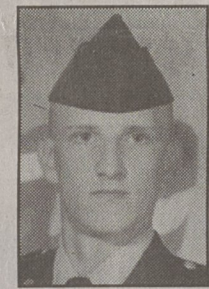
HERALD / FILE

YOUR OPINION

Care packages to Iraq in memory of fallen soldier

To the editor:

PFC Joey Whitener was killed in action in Mosul, Iraq on Nov 15, 2003 when two Black Hawk helicopters collided after one was hit with ground to air fire. There were a total of 17 from Ft. Campbell Ky, the 101st Airborne, killed in this accident.



WHITENER

Tristan Whitener. When the nurses laid the baby in Joey's arms for the first time, Joey cried. All he could say is "I'm a daddy, I'm a daddy."

Joey was the first one that has been killed in action from McDowell County since the Vietnam War. His words to his wife, Beth, before leaving for Iraq were "at least I will be called a veteran."

In memory of PFC Joey Whitener, his wife Beth has asked the Red Cross to do a blood drive in Joey's memory every year in November. This year on Nov 10th, at the PFC Joey Whitener Memorial Blood Drive we were able to collect 71 units of blood. Also this year, Beth wanted to do something else in Joey's memory. We took up donations, and made care packages to send to some of the troops that are still overseas. We were able to send care packages to 12 different ones.

Each one got two different packages, one package with personal care items and things like that, and one with food items in it.

Also, on November 13th, we had a "special" memorial service at Old Fort Elementary School. We were proud to have in attendance three of PFC Whitener's commanding officers from Ft. Campbell, Ky with us, Lt. Col. Murray, 1st Sgt Nagel, and Sgt. Forbess. Also present were some of the local VFW members and the State Commander of the VFW, and some of the local National Guard. Rev. Frank Cable from Davistown Freewill Baptist Church officiated in the ceremony.

Donations are still being accepted to the Joey Whitener Memorial Fund c/o First Charter Bank, 14 South Main Street, Marion, NC 28752.

Susan Yelton
Old Fort, NC

Very disappointed in City of Kings Mountain

To the editor:

I had not received a utility bill by the third of the month. I live on a very tight, fixed income and I try to have all my bills in the mail by the third of every month. So I don't have any late fees, or other charges.

I was concerned about not having a utility bill, so I called. Now every time I have been to city hall, there may have been one person there paying bills. But when I called I was told three separate times to hold on, they

were with a customer. They could not take the time to simply say, "the bills have been mailed," or give me how much I owe.

I am very disappointed in the city of Kings Mountain. They have no regards at all for people on a fixed or set income. But they don't mind spending thousands of dollars on junk that only in the long hall is going to cost more money for upkeep.

Michael Wood
Kings Mountain

Some reasons why 49% voted against President

Dear Editor:

Since Jim Heffner and his ilk insist on being sore winners (witness Mr. Heffner's column in the Dec. 2 edition of The Kings Mountain Herald, "10 reasons why John Kerry lost president's race") then I assert my right to be an ungracious loser.

Here are some of the many reasons why 49% of the American electorate did not vote for George Bush.

1. The war in Iraq. Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia said it best: "I truly must question the judgment of any president who can say that a massive unprovoked military attack on a nation which is over 50 percent children is in the highest moral traditions of our country. War must always be a last resort, not a first choice."

2. The economy. The budget for the fiscal year 2005 will spend the entire \$1.1 trillion Social Security surplus

See Letters, 5A

SIDEWALK SURVEY

By ANDIE BRYMER
HERALD

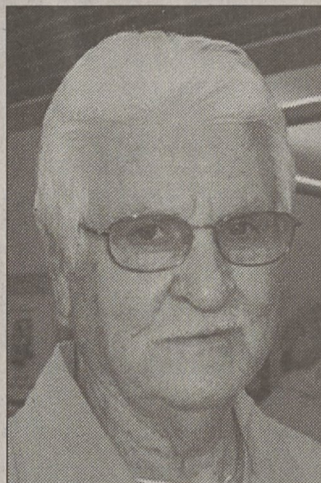
What one thing would you like to see changed or improved about Kings Mountain or this area in 2005?



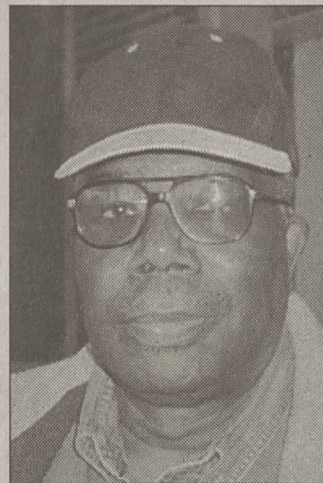
The trash. There's a lot of trash on the side of the roads.
April Morrison



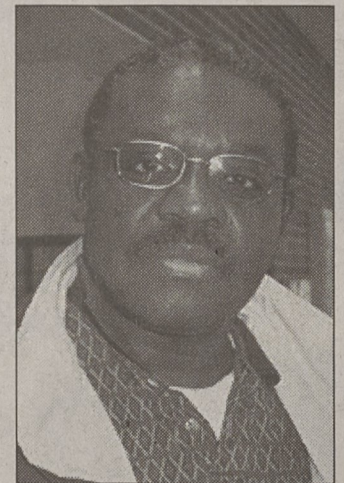
We need a coffee house for teens to go to.
Crystal Love
Kings Mountain



Clean up the side streets.
Bill Surber



I would like to see downtown improved.
Councilman Howard Ship
Ward 1
Kings Mountain



Some sort of transportation system in this area.
Madison Hunter