

SIDEWALK SURVEY

BY EMILY WEAVER
THE HERALD

Are you ready to go back to school?



Kirby Widener, Bessemer City
"Yeah, because I get to go to a new school in Bessemer City."



Lyndsey Barnes, Kings Mountain
"Yeah, so I can see all of my friends that I've missed."



Carly Barnes, Kings Mountain
"Yeah, so that summer will be over."



John Mark Smith, Kings Mountain
"Yeah, so I can go to fifth grade at KM Intermediate."



John Thomas, Kings Mountain
"No, I'm not ready for summer to be over yet."

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 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.

Herald Deadlines

The Herald welcomes your news for each Thursday's paper. We ask that you observe these guidelines:

Deadline for weddings, engagements, anniversaries, church news, school news, club news and community events is 12 noon Monday. When it is necessary to publish the paper a day early because of holidays the deadline is 12 noon Friday.

There is a \$20 charge for weddings, engagements, and anniversaries of 1 to 49 years. Fiftieth wedding anniversaries are published free of charge. Wedding and engagement forms are available at the receptionist's desk. Only the information on the form will be included. Any additional information will be charged at the advertising rate.

Deadline for news and sports is 5 p.m. Tuesday. However, information about meetings and games held on Tuesday evening will be accepted until 8:30 a.m. Wednesday.

YOUR OPINION

McHenry shouldn't have supported OFTA

To the editor:

In light of the recent bid by the state-owned Dubai Ports World to purchase six major terminal operations at six major US ports, I am in total disbelief to learn our Representative, Patrick McHenry, voted yes to pass the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement (OFTA).

Immediately after the vote, N.C. Congressman Walter Jones (R) released a statement where he stated "OFTA would allow firms incorporated in Oman to acquire and

operate landside port activities within the U.S. Furthermore, if the U.S. government took action to stop or limit that acquisition, the Omani company could sue the U.S. government for violating its OFTA rights. The challenge would then be decided by a U.N. or World Bank tribunal."

Under the terms of this Agreement, companies from Oman would be entitled to conduct the following activities in the U.S. ports: landside aspects of port activities,

operation and maintenance of docks, loading and unloading of vessels directly to or from land, marine cargo handling, operation and maintenance of piers, waterfront terminal operations, and other related activities.

Three and half years after 9/11, our elected official, Patrick McHenry, voted to leave our ports exposed, vulnerable to terrorism and a threat to our National Security.

Besides jeopardizing our National Security, OFTA

farms out manufacturing jobs overseas where cheap labor prevails. NC has lost over 200,000 jobs in the last 4 years. We have NAFTA, CAFTA, OFTA and soon to come MEFTA (Middle East Free Trade Agreement). Because we import more than we export, our trade deficit now total's \$718 billion. These trade agreements amount to insanity - doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. My family members work in furniture and I

worry this is the next group of manufacturing jobs to hear that "ole suckin" sound.

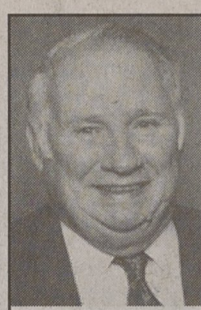
I don't know Rep. McHenry, but I do know I want someone representing me who will vote to protect our national security and a "fair" free trade agreement which supports the best interest of American workers.

Donna Roulic Hickory

OUR OPINION

It looks like we're all doomed

Sometimes, especially during the dog days of summer, news gets a little short. Most people in the business realize



Jim Heffner
Guest Column

this country, especially the TV networks, can't settle for normal journalistic practices. They have to have a heaping helping of sensationalism.

Ever since the hurricane hit New Orleans, TV newscasters seem to link everything to that storm. "What if we get another Katrina? Will we have enough money to handle it?"

That means can we dip into the taxpayer's pocket again and give everybody south of the Mason-Dixon line \$2,000 to move into a motel, buy some jewelry, or fancy wine, or call a couple of prostitutes?

I heard a famous news anchor actually say, "If we get another Katrina, it will cost billions just to hire enough counselors to listen to the victims, and advise them on what to do."

I can give them the advice they need for nothing. Get your free government money, check into a nice motel, buy some wine and jewelry and phone a couple of call girls. Anything to keep that old psyche on an even keel.

But I'm getting off track here. I really want to talk about a non-story on one of the networks, and in some gullible newspapers around the country.

I didn't pay enough atten-

tion to the entire charade to tell you which network was involved, but recently one of them put on a special about a storm of the century hitting New York City.

The premise had to do with a category 5 hurricane striking the big apple and all the devastation that would occur. There were scenes of flooded NY streets, water halfway up the Empire State Building, cars and buses floating around, ad nauseum.

The point is, they created a TV show from something that has not happened, and passed it off as a probability, not just a possibility. The entire thing was designed to do nothing more than scare people.

Can you imagine? A sensationalized non-story! I can only conclude these people are certifiable nuts, and some of the newspapers across the country were publishing stories along the same lines.

It must be contagious.

Sunday evening I tuned in to the Discovery channel, and they were airing a show on global warming, another non-story.

The thrust of the Discovery show was what would happen if the polar ice caps melt. New York City, Newark, Philadelphia, Miami and Washington are just some of the cities which would disappear, they say. The show mentioned all of the eastern seaboard, even North Carolina, which would be under water well into the interior of the state.

It's not all bad news, of course. We wouldn't have as far to drive to the beach.

I guess I should take these things more seriously, but I can't help remembering how

the mayor of New Orleans talked about 10,000 killed by Katrina, and that was before it had even stopped raining.

I can't forget being in Boulder, Colorado a few years back and it snowed 31 inches on May 12. I hate to think how deep that snow would have been if we hadn't been in the middle of a global warming crisis.

Why, I expect, when it thawed, the streets of Boulder would have been flooded, and there would have been beer cans and old cigarette butts floating around. It's entirely possible that motel space would have been scarce, not to mention call girls.

Where are the counselors when you really need them?

Falls appointed agent for The Erie Insurance Group

Jason Falls has been appointed as a new agent representing The Erie Insurance Group in Kings Mountain.

Falls will join Alohma Falls, Nancy Falls and Lisa

Canipe at Falls Insurance Agency, located at 5110-2 East Dixon Blvd. The agency phone number is 704-730-0700.

Falls Insurance Agency offers a full line of proper-

ty/casualty insurance products, including auto and homeowners insurance, as well as commercial and life insurance products and services from Erie Insurance Group.

Carpenter's Funeral Home, Inc.

"Shaping the Future of Caring"

J. Carroll Carpenter
Funeral Director
John W. Porter
Funeral Director

For a Life Worth Celebrating

Would you like to work with funeral directors who understand how valuable it is for you and your family to have a truly meaningful funeral experience?

When the time comes to honor a loved one's memory in a personal way, give us a call.

P.O. Box 607
Cherryville, NC 28021
Tel: (704) 435-6711

Proud Member
2006
NFD

National Funeral Directors Association

TO ADVERTISE IN THE HERALD CALL 704-739-7496

Full time cook needed for private home. Dependable, references required. Call After 10:00 AM. 704-867-6869

Carmike Cinemas
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE AT www.carmike.com
482-5523 CLEVELAND MALL
Carmike 10
STADIUM SEATING IN ALL AUDITORIUMS
BARNYARD THE ORIGINAL PARTY ANIMALS
Rated PG - 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
Rated PG-13 - 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
MIAMI VICE
Rated R - 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
THE ANT BULLY
Rated PG - 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25
YOU, ME & DUPREE
Rated PG-13 - 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30
DESCENT
Rated R - 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:10, 9:30
TALLADEGA NIGHTS: THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY
Rated PG-13 - 1:15, 4:10, 7:05, 9:30
MONSTER HOUSE
Rated PG - 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
Rated PG-13 - 12:30, 3:40, 7:00, 10:10
LADY IN THE WATER
Rated PG - 9:30
LITTLE MAN
Rated PG-13 - 1:30, 3:45, 7:00
CLERKS II
Rated R - 9:30
ALL SHOWTIMES INCLUDE PRE-FEATURE CONTENT

COUPON OFFER
100 S. CANSLER ST. KINGS MOUNTAIN 704-739-5461
BRIDGES HARDWARE & HOME CENTER
True Value
SINCE 1919
★ USE THIS COUPON WORTH \$5.00 ON YOUR NEXT PURCHASE
NOT GOOD ON PROPANE FILL-UP • ONE COUPON PER CUSTOMER • WITH THIS COUPON • EXPIRES 8/31/06
COMPLETE LINE OF:
• HARDWARE
• LAWN & GARDEN
• PLUMBING
• ELECTRICAL
• HOUSEWARES
• PPG PAINT
• SPORTING GOODS
• WOLVERINE BOOTS
• KEYS
FREE Key
Buy One Key • Get 2nd Key FREE
With Coupon. Expires 8/31/06
Excludes Transponder Keys.
FIVE DOLLARS OFF