



Front Porch Music

By Ron Isbell

Politics

In a way Mitt Romney wanted to fire me.

And, I kind of have to agree with him. A few years ago I worked for a company that was dealing with the same economic downturn that laid our entire country low. It's just that this industry and this company, perhaps in particular because of some internal decisions, got hit a little harder and a little sooner than the rest of our economy.

They turned to a company now very publicly associated with Romney for help in figuring out how to deal with their situation.

Bain's suggestions were hard to hear. They were uncomfortable to a company rooted in tradition and proud of its accomplishments. And they were many. Its reputation in its field was stellar and people, including me, were eager to be a part of their future.

But in 2008 things changed quickly. Especially in markets driven primarily by secondary housing. Vacation homes dropped in value by double digits overnight. Reductions in tax revenues followed.

Bain recommended changes that upset the very way we did business daily. There were consolidations, layoffs and closures. There was a new way of doing business. One I personally didn't like because it moved decisions involving my job closer to corporate level and farther from local. In fact one recommendation from Bain would have eliminated my position, and others at that same level, although that recommendation was not accepted.

I'm not sure that in the particular case of my specific job Bain's recommendation was wrong. However, my boss saw the value in those same positions throughout her division and convinced the com-

pany to keep them. I watched my boss sift through pages and pages of Bain recommendations and make sense of nearly all of it.

What Romney's company did was present her, other vice presidents in the company and managers at the top level with alternatives they could accept or reject to keep their company strong. Some of those recommendations were so powerful it could be argued they helped save a company that filed for then emerged from bankruptcy.

Did the process cost jobs? Yes. Did it save jobs? Most certainly.

By the way, my boss at that job emerged as one of the people I most admire in business today. She was tough, fair and never lost focus of her goals of emerging from a difficult situation in a stronger position. Looking back, she most certainly has done that. Bain and Romney probably helped her do that.

I don't think Romney needs to apologize for downsizing some companies they have helped. Far better to save 1,000 jobs while cutting 200 than to lose the whole company. To not recognize that is to participate in the economic lie we've lived under for several years now. Smoke and mirrors and policies that don't fix our economy won't help. Romney seems to have this figured out. I'm tired of bailouts at every level, but especially for huge banks and corporations that want to reward themselves for bad business practices and not make investments in our country's economic future. Especially at taxpayer expense. At least Bain and Romney put the responsibility for fixing their clients' companies and the ones they bought or managed squarely on their own backs.

My kind of president.

Wes Westmoreland tapped for Senate seat

Wes Westmoreland will represent the remainder of Senator Debbie Clary's 2012 term in N.C. Senate District 46.

The Shelby businessman and longtime leader in the Republican Party got the nod Thursday after he won a unanimous vote from GOP leaders in the Cleveland-Rutherford Senate district. Governor Bev Perdue is expected to make the formal appointment of Westmoreland later this month.

Westmoreland had been considered the presumptive appointee since winning a December straw poll of GOP leaders in Cleveland County, which had the majority of weighted votes in the Cleveland-Rutherford Senate District. Former Shelby mayor Ted Alexander and former state Senator Dennis Davis had also sought the appointment.

"I've been very clear I

was not going to stand for election in 2012," Westmoreland said as votes were cast at a meeting that Clary hosted in her Shelby office of Millennium Marketing Group. Westmoreland had said previously he would support incumbent GOP Senator Warren Daniel of Morganton in his election bid for the new Cleveland-Burke state Senate seat.

"Whether it's one year or 17 years, we hold a temporary trust of the public, and I will do my best to fill that," Westmoreland said.

Clary announced her retirement in June 2011. Her last day in office was Jan. 10, 2012. She has represented Cleveland County in the NC Senate since 2008 and served in the state House since 1994.

Clary thanked her mother, her constituents, GOP leaders and gave Westmoreland a bear hug and her

Senate pin.

"The words thank you hardly feel adequate to express the gratitude I feel toward the people of Cleveland, Rutherford and Polk Counties," said Clary, adding, "It has been the greatest of compliments that you put complete faith in my ability to serve as your State Representative and State Senator through nine elections. These 17 years of service have been challenging and rewarding."

Clary said she will continue to work for business and industry in North Carolina as a legislative consultant with local governments, registering as a lobbyist when the 2012 General Assembly adjourns and taking private sector clients as well.

Westmoreland said that bringing jobs to the region will top his legislative agenda in this new year.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor and Friends,

The words thank you hardly feel adequate to express the gratitude I feel towards the people of Cleveland, Gaston, Rutherford and Polk Counties. It has been the greatest of compliments that you put complete faith in my ability to serve as your State Representative and State Senator through nine elections. These seventeen years of service has been challenging and rewarding.

As it comes to a close, many of you have asked what is next. I will continue

to work with Millennium Marketing & Technology as well as begin working as a legislative consultant with local governments during 2012. I will register as a Lobbyist when the 2012 session adjourns, and be able to take private sector clients as well. I am excited about being able to continue to work for business and industry in NC.

Again, I say thank you for your trust and confidence in allowing me to serve as your Senator.

Debbie Clary

FAST: detective work leads officers to nab suspects in beer, money heist

FROM Page 1

Proctor said that upon further investigation by both KM and Gastonia City police two suspects were charged with robbery in both cities.

Jordan Leon Mustard, 20, of 801 Raleigh Court, Gastonia, and Nathaniel Elias Hook, 22, of 213 Indiana Avenue, Bessemer City, face felony charges of robbery with a dangerous weapon and felony conspiracy for robbery with a dangerous weapon of One Stop in Kings Mountain. The duo is also charged with robbery in Gaston County, according to KM Det. Sgt. Lisa Proctor.

Sgt. Proctor said that as she and Det. Lance Hamrick began processing the robbery scene that other officers working with Sgt. Mark Butler, who responded to the initial call, processed the description of the getaway car and suspects to other agencies.

Gastonia City Police notified KM Police of a robbery in their jurisdiction involving the same suspect vehicle and Mustard and Hook matched the description of the KM suspects when a Gastonia policeman stopped the car in which the suspects were riding. Gastonia City police detained the suspects.

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Kings Mountain Weekend Weather

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Mostly Cloudy - 48'	Mostly Cloudy - 55'	Showers - 57'	Mostly Cloudy - 62'
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Avg - Low: 29 Hi: 51	Avg - Low: 29 Hi: 51	Avg - Low: 29 Hi: 51	Avg - Low: 29 Hi: 51

OBITUARIES

W.H. Costner

SHELBY - William H. Costner, 82, of 517 Leander St., died Jan. 14, 2012 at Hospice at Wendover.

He was a World War II US Navy veteran.

The funeral service was conducted Monday, Jan. 16, 2012 at Clay-Barrette Funeral Home Chapel in Shelby. Interment was in Rosehill Memorial Park with military honors.

Lisa J. Greene

SHELBY - Lisa Joely Greene, 44, 1306 Greer St., died Jan. 7, 2012 at home.

The funeral service was conducted Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012 at Clay-Barnette Funeral Home Chapel in Shelby.

B.B. Lewis

SHELBY - B. B. Lewis, 80, of 908 E. Main St., died Jan. 14, 2011 at Hospice at

Wendover.

He was a US Navy veteran of the Korean Conflict.

The funeral service was conducted Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2011 at Clay-Barrette Funeral Home Chapel in Shelby. Interment was in Sunset Cemetery with military honors.

Becky M. Parker

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Sharon Rebecca "Becky" Parker, 58, of 146 Park Grace Rd., died Jan. 11, 2012 at Kings Mountain Hospice House.

She was the widow of Charles "Redman" Parker.

The funeral service was conducted Friday, Jan. 13, 2012 at 2 p.m. at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel, interment followed in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

J.C. "Bill" Lynn

KINGS MOUNTAIN - J.C. "Bill" Lynn, 92, of

Kings Mountain, died Jan. 12, 2012 at White Oak Manor in Kings Mountain

He and his wife, Jennie Catherine Erwood Lynn, had been married 70 years.

The funeral service was conducted Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012 at 2 p.m. at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel at Harris Funeral Home, interment followed in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Charles Whitmore

EARL - Charles "Chuch" Barclay Whitmore, 56, of 3018 Blacksburg Road, died Jan. 12, 2012 at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

A Celebration of Life service was held at noon Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012 at Clay-Barnette Funeral Home Chapel in Shelby.

Dottie Williams

GROVER - Doris Bowles Williams, 82, died Jan. 10, 2012.

She was a US Marine Corps veteran who served in Washington, DC.

The funeral service was conducted Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012 at Clearview Baptist Church of which she was a member.

Interment was in Arlington National Cemetery.

Naomi S. Wright

SHELBY - Naomi S. Wright, 75, 2440 Shelby Road, died Jan. 14, 2012 at Carolinas Medical Center in Shelby.

The funeral service will be conducted Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012 at 2 p.m. at Clay-Barnette Funeral Home Chapel in Shelby. Interment will be in Cleveland Memorial Park.

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Eugene Young
D.D.S., F.A.G.D.

44¢ forum

Letter to the editor...

Do you have questions or concerns about what's happening in your community? Are there good things happening in your neighborhood? Let us know in a *Letter to the Editor*. We welcome your comments*!

Send your Letters to The Editor at:
The Kings Mountain Herald
P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain NC 28086

or e-mail us at:
emily.kmherald@gmail.com

*Letters to the Editor must be signed and include address and phone number. Thank you letters are required to be placed as paid personal notes.

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