

Opinions...

Yours, Ours, Others

Quote of the week...

If you don't like something, change it.

If you can't change it, change your attitude.

~ Maya Angelou



Sharon Stack
Mauney Memorial
Librarian

Library's resources stretched

One of the highlights of a summer when my children were elementary school age was a trip to the US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. The fun continued when we arrived back home with a trip to the library and arms full of books came home to learn about rockets, space, gyroscopes, astronauts and more. This same sense of adventure and the free voluntary reading and learning is one of the distinguishing goals of the Mauney Memorial Library Summer Reading program. We offered polka music, live snakes, walks in the woods, looking at rocks, juggling and unicycle riding. Kings Mountain responded like never before with record breaking numbers experiencing, learning and reading this summer.

Yet, this success and its resulting impacts translate to the fact that the library has troubles with its own success. Our capacity of space, personnel and ability to respond to have stretched our resources to levels that once again for next year, we will have to think differently. Here are a few examples from the library's point of view:

We have to go off site for our Wednesday programs because of the numbers. We averaged over 300 in attendance. We are grateful that Central United Methodist church allows us to use the family activity center free of charge.

Because we have to go off-site with the Wednesday programs, we instituted 'Come back' to the library activities to encourage the checking out of books. We averaged 270 atten-

dees from 11 to 12:30 at these programs.

To assist the 7.5 member staff to handle these programs we created a volunteer program for teens. We average 25 to 30 teens that volunteer nearly 1200 hours the six weeks of summer reading to assist us with the weekly Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday programs, i.e. setting up/taking down the 300 chairs at the church, assistance with registration, crafts, camp songs and clean up.

To assist with the large response in the community room, staff responded with a check out table outside the community room doorway.

With 1306 teens and children and 465 adults registered for Summer Reading the excitement of building a community of readers shows that the library is making an impact. Through improved reading our community readies children to stay successful in school minimizing the summer slide and learning loss that occurs during summer break. Our mayor, Rick Murphy takes time to come to the programs to speak to the importance of reading. Adults who participate model the fact that lifelong reading and learning are critical to the workplace and life.

Summer reading in Kings Mountain is a highly successful program and it is important to thank our city, library staff, teen and adult volunteers, our business partners, performers and you —our very important readers! Thank you for reading with Mauney Memorial Library this summer!

Congratulations to Miranda Smith who won the Kindle Fire 1st prize for participating in the adult program!



Kevin Osborne
Kings Mountain
YMCA Director

Meet a Y member

Meet Y Member
Doyle
Campbell.

This is his story I am proud to present to

Kings Mountain residents in this column today.

"It was on May 12, 2006 that I retired and joined the Kings Mountain Family YMCA the following day so that I could continue the exercise regime that I had started more than six years earlier.

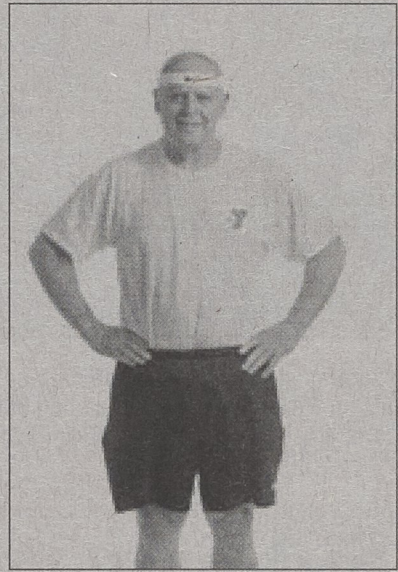
"In December 2007 I was diagnosed with "Glomerulonephritis, a rare progressive kidney disease. My Nephrologist told me there is no treatment for my condition other than living a healthy lifestyle including controlling blood pressure, having a good diet, exercising, managing stress and having adequate rest. My prognosis was that I could expect to be in dialysis for 7-10 years.

"Recently, my doctor told me that thus far I have "beaten the odds" as my kidneys have maintained a stable level of functioning. My 4-5 weekly visits to the Y have been a significant factor in maintaining my kidney functioning. My doctor thinks that it is highly unusual for one with my diagnosis to remain relatively stable for more than five years post diagnosis.

"I am grateful for the Kings Mountain Family YMCA for its total facility that is convenient for my use and I appreciate the knowledgeable staff and other resources. This facility has indeed enhanced my quality of life and has given me great hope for the future. Without the resources of the Y, I am

confident that my life would not have the quality that I am able to have daily. I truly appreciate this community resource and feel the citizens of this town are fortunate to have such a well-equipped facility to use."

(Ed. Note- Doyle Campbell is a retired Kings Mountain businessman and longtime associate of McGinnis Department Store. For a number of years he was a member of the Kings Mountain school board.)



Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I will be a senior this coming year at Kings Mountain High School and I have enjoyed all my years I have spent in the Cleveland County School System and was excited when I entered high school three years ago.

It was a little scary but exciting. When you enter high school you immediately look forward to your senior year and the many privileges you will have as a senior, or so I thought. The last years of high school have not been so fun.

We have no school spirit. We don't have pep rallies. We have been told by administration we can't cheer loudly and stand too long during football games because we may get in someone's line of view. Noisemakers and flags have been taken away from students. We are not hurting others, just trying to cheer on our team. We are watched at lunch so we don't move chairs to other tables or we will have after school detention. I think there are more things to worry about than the 30 minutes we get at lunch to chill out with our friends.

The main reason I am writing today is when the seniors went to choose their lockers and get their parking passes they were told that the parking lots had changed and that the juniors and sophomores would now be parking in the senior parking lot. Now, as you read this as an adult, I am sure you are thinking a parking lot is not really a big deal.

Well, when it is the only the advantage you get as a senior and something you look forward to it is a big deal. And of course

Editor, The Kings Mountain Herald:

Do you remember when we held non-partisan rallies encouraging people to register and vote, because we believed it's our patriotic right and duty as Americans? Do you remember that in the early 2000s we North Carolinians resolved that we'd end the embarrassment of rank-

the juniors and sophomores are now acting like they are tough now because they got the senior parking. That senior lot has been senior parking forever. I have asked many people including my parents' friends who attended KMHS many years ago and they confirmed it has been senior parking since then. Many of the seniors are upset about this change and we are hoping they will change it before school starts. The administration said they did not know about the changes even though parking stickers were given out stating where everyone is to park. So I am confused about that and why no one seems to know why this decision was made.

I just wanted to get the word out and let everyone know that seniors have worked hard for 11 years and this should be a fun year for us and it has not started out so good!

Name withheld by request

(Ed. Note - Principal Ronny Funderburke says the senior lots will not be moved. According to the principal, "This was discussed at one time because when we assigned specific parking spaces we did not have enough parking for our students and we were exploring different possibilities. Obviously, when students are absent, we have a number of empty parking spaces and thus we do not have enough. However, since we decided to not assign parking spaces, we are going to keep the lots the same. The senior lot will still be the same; the senior Renaissance will be the same as it has always been. The only thing that will be different this year is we are not assigning spaces. So, if you are a senior and you would like a good parking space, you will need to get to school early. The earliest to arrive will get the best parking space."

ing 15th from the bottom in voter turnout among all the states?

And that we not only ended that shame but, with innovations such as early and same-day voting, N. C. rose proudly to the top 15 states in turnout by 2008 and stayed there in 2012? How we took pride in being recognized as having achieved "the

See LETTERS, 6A



Beauford Burton
Guest Editorial

We should all practice road safety

All of us should be concerned with safety, and more importantly we should be especially concerned with safety of our children, family and friends.

Over the past weeks and months I've noticed more and more young people who seem to know nothing about road safety. At least I think its ignorance on their part. I'd hate to think they would purposely ignore rules they've been taught.

Just a couple of examples: Bicycle traffic is supposed to follow the same rules as automobiles as it relates to traveling on the "right" lane of the roads. They are also responsible to signal turns. I don't know that its law, but it would also be

good practice if they are on a narrow road to pull over and let faster traffic pass when possible.

Walking traffic, if sidewalks aren't available, should walk on the left lane of the roadway facing oncoming traffic. The reason is that the pedestrian can see the oncoming traffic and step out of the way if necessary. Pedestrians should always use crosswalks when available.

Drivers of autos, motorcycles, etc. have both a legal and moral obligation to watch for pedestrians and walking traffic but the real safety factor is for the least protected to be cautious. After all, the old saying that it's better to be alive than "dead right" is very true.

It's been a long time since I was in any school so I don't

know what is or isn't being taught. My vague memory is that we had some type of safety classes back in the late 40's and 50's and there wasn't nearly as much traffic as now. I think this might be something to bring up to the school board, local police and at PTA meetings.

If schools, police and families are teaching road safety to children it is not sinking in. Those of you with young children may want to re-enforce the training. Those of you with teenage drivers may want to emphasize importance of watching out for bikers and pedestrians. And those of us that are older and more experienced should hold onto patience, count to ten and give way to those who don't know better.

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