

# Opinions...

## Yours, Ours, Others

Quote of the week -

Coming together is a beginning;  
keeping together is progress; working together is success.

Henry Ford

## Letters to the Editor

### KMPD goes above and beyond

To the Editor,  
It was a Wednesday afternoon and I had just finished cutting a potato to make home-made french fries. The chilli was simmering on the stove and someone was knocking on my door. It was my boyfriend who I was expecting for dinner. I had just moved into my apartment over the weekend and it was the first meal that I was cooking there. The chilli was not quite yet ready so we decided to step outside while we waited.

Once we stepped outside I was confronted by an older caucasian gentleman asking me if I was the reason his daughter was being evicted. I told the gentleman that I did not know his daughter but I did call the landlord on Monday about all the commotion over the weekend. The lease that I signed had strict rules set out about noise ordinances and other things that they were violating.

About that time, an African American lady came out of the apartment beside me and was very frantically talking to the gentleman and myself. I had no clue who this lady was. All of a sudden, the lady opened the front door to my apartment all the way and then closed it. I told the lady "Do not touch or open my door!! You do not live in this apartment!"

My boyfriend and I went back into my apartment and immediately called my landlord and he instructed me to call the police. I called 911

and they told me they were sending officers out.

The Kings Mountain Police Department was at my apartment in less than five minutes. They were very thorough with myself and my boyfriend on the details of what happened and what I would like to see come out of this. They were very much in control of the situation and handled it with the utmost professionalism. They arrested the lady who opened my front door for misdemeanor breaking and entering and I have a court date in May that I will be present on.

Also, the KMPD accompanied me to my apartment to get my things on two separate occasions. The first time was just for a minute to get some clothes and my TV. I was not sure what these people were capable of and did not want to take any chances. The officer even helped my boyfriend carry a piece of furniture. The second time was to move ALL my things. They stayed the whole time until we were done. They did not have to do any of this but they did.

I have since moved from there. The main reason I am writing this is because criminal justice is my life. My degree from Gardner Webb is in Criminal Justice and I have worked as a paralegal for the past five years. I currently work for the District Attorney's Office in Charlotte and I deal with law enforcement on a regular basis.

I was very impressed with KMPD and can say that they have some outstanding officers.

E. Robbins

### Casino concerns

To the Editor:  
The Kings Mountain Awareness Group has great cause for concern that local elected officials have not examined sufficient research and impact study data prior to making the decision to support a proposed casino to be located in Kings Mountain.

In an effort to understand the Cleveland County Commissions decision-making process, our group placed an information request to the commission for copies of any and all data that was examined by the board prior to their arriving at an official position of support. We received a reply from clerk Kerri Melton that stated " At this time, the County Managers

Office does not have any impact studies, research summaries or any other electronic or printed material regarding the Casino. Commissioners did not review information as a group when signing the letter of support that you are speaking about. "

This concerns our group tremendously because it would appear that our elected officials have made a decision that will affect 100% of the community based only on the information provided by those who stand to profit from our loss. If that is indeed the case our membership finds this totally unacceptable. This, and the commissions continued dismissal of our group's request to present information to them leads us to conclude that perhaps our best interests are not currently being served

by the county commission.

Kings Mountain Awareness Group is a group of like-minded citizens interested in maintaining the quality of life in Kings Mountain.

We are concerned with the potential impacts of any large addition to the city, and our goal is to ensure that all aspects and research receive equal time and emphasis, along with public exposure prior to the elected officials making a decision. We also feel that there could be a higher level of transparency within local government along with more citizen participation and input. For more information, please visit stopcatawba-casino.com

Adam Forcade  
Bessemer City

### 'Bet' you think you'll be a winner

To the Editor  
There's an old saying I heard as a youth that certainly makes sense today; it was "use your head for something besides a hat rack." I'm certain we're using the hat rack as it relates to supporting the building of a casino nearby. And when I say supporting I mean openly, verbally, or by no action at all.

It doesn't take a financial wizard, nor a mental giant to figure out that a casino is just a place for you to be hung by your feet until all your pocket money, present, and future assets drop into the floor to be picked up by the parasites that have you in their lair. We can get to the moral issues later, but right now think about these simple truths and I challenge anyone to show where they are not true:

The initial investment for land, buildings,

furnishings, equipment etc. is reported to be in the millions of dollars. Then there are taxes, utilities, insurances and general upkeep. After that there are employees and all the costs they entail including pay, insurance and benefits. Plus high dollar advertising, TV adds, billboards, mailings and promotions.

Those items alone have to be paid for out of the income of the casinos and all those costs except the initial land cost and construction continue as long as the facilities remain.

If you can wrap your mind around all those dollars then you start to get an idea of how much the casino has to take in just for costs. When you start factoring profits into those figures you might start to wonder how much is available for actual winning by the patrons. You don't have to wonder, the answer is very little, but you can "bet" the casino will make you believe you can come out a winner.

Information is available for all of us that says businesses around a casino wither and die because the casino is self contained with everything from hotel rooms, food and entertainment.

More negative information is easily found about higher crime rates and additional social costs such as welfare that comes as a result of the loss of income. Higher suicide rates because people loose their money and have no hope.

Do the people spending their money in casinos make bad choices. Yes.

Should we allow those filled with greed to hold out the temptation of something for nothing? No.

Search your hearts and minds, pray for understanding of this issue and I'm certain that you will see the need to stand against the casino.

There will be those that tell you that you can't win but I'm here to tell you the battle is not

See LETTER, 7A

Send us your Letters to The Editor at:

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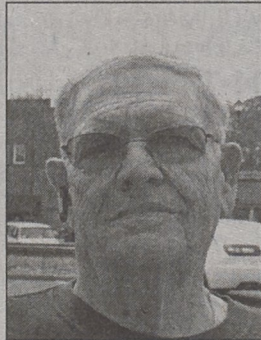
\*Letters to the Editor must be signed and include address and phone number.  
Letters are limited to 500 words or less and are subject to Editorial review.

## Sidewalk Survey

Folks were asked...

A group called the Kings Mountain Awareness Group is leading a public campaign to oppose a proposed Catawba Indian casino and resort in Kings Mountain.

Do you think they'll be successful?



"I don't think they'll be successful. You got a lot of new and younger people living in this community now."

Gilbert Brazzel



No, they won't be. If people want to gamble, they'll find a place to go.

Robbin Goins



One year from now, no, it won't be built yet. Two years from now, yes. This could be a tourist destination for the history (we have here).

Lauren Yatko



I don't think the group itself will be successful. They'll need to get a ton of public support.

Mark Baity

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