

# Girl Scouts live lightly on the land

By JANE TALBERT  
GIRL SCOUT TRAINER

Picture this... tall mountains, deep valleys, cool rivers, green trees, a quiet still lake with mountains beyond... This is a picture in our memories that we want to preserve for future generations. Imagine yourself camping or even picnicking in such a place. Girl Scouts of the 1990s wish to hold fast to their traditions such as this but they also see the needs of the future. One way we do this is to learn about 'minimal impact camping.' By making as little impact as possible on the environment we help to preserve it's beauty for the people of tomorrow.

What is minimal impact camping? Basically, this phrase means "camping without a trace." After leaving a campsite, there should be no evidence that it was used. Obviously this is not always possible, but the smallest amount of evidence is what we strive for.

To gain the full meaning of this philosophy one must think about where outdoor recreation such as camping, hiking and backpacking might take place. There are three basic areas which include pristine, high impact, and low impact. Greatest care should be taken with pristine areas mainly because there are so few of them left. These are the wilderness areas where there is no evidence of humans. The opposite of pristine is high impact. A high impact area is an established site where one would find shelters,

picnic tables, fire rings, grills and such. Often these area are over-used and have become well-worn. When possible one should use an area that has already been impacted. Low impact areas are between pristine and high impact areas in usage. Care should be taken to insure that these not become high impact ones.

So, what are the Girl Scouts doing? Presently, Pioneer Girl Scout Council has trained troops to look for alternative ways of outdoor cooking. Traditionally we cook over a campfire using wood as fuel. Things are changing. Troops are encouraged to use propane gas stoves and charcoal to do their cooking. This helps to minimize the impact on the local trees. There are many creative ways to use these two sources of fuel for cooking. Charcoal in a cardboard box oven makes great cookies and pizza. The use of solar energy has also become a popular source of cooking energy. Instructions for a solar cooker are given in the book, "Girl Scout Badges and Signs."

Troops are also encouraged to recycle as they camp at our established camps. Recycling helps to cut down on the amount of garbage produced. Troops are also taught how to dispose of dish water and cooking water so as not to pollute the local streams.

These are just a few ways that Girl Scouts of Pioneer Council are taught to "live lightly on the land." By helping to teach today's girls about preserving the environment we are teaching tomorrow's adults to be responsible citizens.

Picture this... tall mountains, deep valleys, cool rivers, green trees, a smile on our faces... not just a memory!



**VISIT LIBRARY** - Claudia Grissom's Chapter I Reading Lab at Eat School recently sponsored a project to encourage students to read for fun and knowledge. All students were given an application for a Mauney Memorial Library card. Each Thursday, one grade level was taken on a bus ride to visit the library for a tour. After the tour a brief explanation of all the features the library has to offer, each student who returned a completed application was presented a library card. The boys and girls heard a story that was read by Louise Sanders in the auditorium, and had their picture made for the East School scrapbook.



**SHIRLEY SMITH'S WINNERS** - Students in Shirley Smith's fourth grade at East School were given awards for special achievement during the second nine weeks grading period. Front row, left to right, Mary Ramsey, Tanna Morgan, Josiah Burger, Ricky Huskey. Second row, Jonathan Houze, Shannon Moses, Chris Lawson, Karl Burch. Back, Danelle Ward, Matthew Biddix, Chad Johnson, Sharelle Chambers, Jason Hastings and Mrs. Smith.

# School Board to discuss 12-month school at West

The chairman of the Kings Mountain District Board of Education, Ronnie Hawkins, has called a special meeting of the school board to discuss the possibility of converting West Elementary School to a year-round calendar.

Assistant Superintendent Jane King and West Elementary Principal Sherrill Toney would explain plans for the year-round system to be implemented at West Elementary.

The meeting will be Thursday, March 5, at 7 a.m. in the Board Room of the District Office.

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# HOMES

From Page 1-A

According to Dr. Harry M. Davis of the N.C. Alliance of Community Financial Institutions, there are two factors that determine the affordability of a home: mortgage lending rates and the price of a home.

"Presently, mortgage lending rates are near the lowest level in 18 years... Rates should remain stable for the next couple of months and then start to rise later in the spring," he said.

"Housing prices have been increasing slower than the rate of inflation for the past two years," he said. "In other words, housing prices have actually been falling for the past two years in real dollars. As home sales increase in the next few months, those prices will start rising. For this reason, now is the time to buy a home in terms of price and availability."

Furthermore, according to the National Association of Realtors, the average family will now pay about 20 percent of its income to cover monthly payments on a median priced house. That figure has

fallen since 1985, when it was 26 percent.

Legislation is presently before Congress to give favorable tax treatment to first-time homebuyers. The legislation will give first-time homebuyers up to a \$5,000 tax credit -- half to be taken this year and the other half next year. The credit will probably apply to houses purchased after Feb. 1 of this year. The credit decreases the cost of a home and thus increases the affordability of housing and the likelihood of rising sales this spring.

Davis says that while the recession hurt activity in North Carolina, the state did better than most parts of the country. Housing activity has already increased and will play its traditional role of leading the recovery in the state.

For the past two years, most financial institutions have instituted more restrictive lending policies in order to strengthen their balance sheets. Now most financial institutions are stronger and more profitable. In the present interest rate environment, community banks will experience one of their most profitable years and institute somewhat less restrictive lending policies.

# CITY

From Page 1-A

Howard said that informal bids will be let and the construction will start next month.

Contracted with the State Department of Transportation for biennial bridge inspections on two city bridges. The city will pay 20 percent of the cost.

Authorized installation of a 2 inch water line on City street for 540 feet at a cost of \$3,980.

Approved a final change order to the contract with Steppe Construction Company on the N.C. 161 sanitary sewer line project, increasing to \$80.19 and making the total cost of the project \$75,506.91.

Called a public hearing for April 28 and forwarded to the zoning board request from Barrett Floor Covering for rezoning from R-20 to GB for an addition to his building.

Set public hearing for April 28 on request from William M. Herndon to rezone property at York and Gold Street for an automobile repair garage.

Set the annual budget planning session for March 13-15 at Cleveland Community College. The Saturday morning session will start at 2 p.m.

### INSURANCE REVIEW

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# YARBRO

From Page 1-A

ing her marriage and lost five daughters. But, she said she had gained two wonderful sons and two wonderful daughters-in-law.

Kathy Yarbro, a niece, recalled the mouth-watering desserts from "Ma Ma's" table and the country biscuits and apple pies.

Ron Mauney, music director at Bethlehem Baptist Church, led the group in singing 'happy birthday' and tears welled up in the honoree's eyes as she smiled to party guests.

Evelyn Herndon recalled that the Blalock farm was only about a mile from where Mrs. Yarbro lives today.

Margaret White of Charlotte accompanied her mother to the party

and recalled that her aunt used to bake bread three times a day and was in the hospital only twice during her life.

Being a shut-in doesn't dampen Mrs. Yarbro's enthusiasm for life. She still enjoys watching the news on television but she says her happiest moments are when company comes and they get out the picture books and reminisce of the many happy times the family has shared.

When Bethlehem Church observes its 150th anniversary this July, Ma-Ma hopes to go to the celebration. If not, Flora Ledford has promised her that her picture will definitely be included in the book of memories she is preparing complete with a clipping from The Herald about her birthday bash.

What is her secret to long life? "Love the Lord and work hard," says Ethel Yarbro.

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# "29"

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**STOREWIDE SAVINGS FOR the entire family!**  
Drawings for prizes every hour

IS THE NUMBER 29 IMPORTANT TO YOU? IF SO, WE'LL GIVE YOU A DISCOUNT COUPON VALID FOR 9% OFF YOUR PURCHASES SATURDAY, FEB. 29th

Were you born on the 29? Were you married on the 29? Have you been married for 29 years? Are you 29 years old? Do you have a 29-inch waist? Do you have a 29 in your Social Security number or your drivers license? Do you have a 29 in your address (sorry, zip codes do not apply)? Do you have a 29 in your Belk charge card number? If any of these apply to you, pickup your discount coupon at our Instant Credit Table and enjoy shopping and saving Saturday Only! Some exclusions do apply.

**Belk Charge Card Promotion**  
Open a Belk Charge Account Saturday, and receive a **29% Discount on any regular price item purchased Saturday, Feb. 29.**

An Instant Credit Table will be located at our mall entrance for your convenience.  
Excludes: Cosmetics, Collectibles, Hoover and small electronics.

**Make a Difference Day**  
Bring a canned item to be donated to the soup kitchen or winter night shelter and receive a **9% Discount coupon, valid on your purchases Saturday, Feb. 29 Only!**

Excludes: Cosmetics, Collectibles, Hoover and small electronics. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other coupon. One coupon per customer