

Democrat Party fund raiser at Northlake Country Club

The Democrats of Cleveland County will gather Thursday, Feb. 24 at Northlake Country Club in Shelby for their big fund raiser for the 2000 elections.

Tickets are \$100 (single) and \$125 (couple). Persons interested in attend should call Chairman Betsy Wells at 739-1584 or 734-5647, or Treasurer Brian Hawkins at 480-8686.

The main speaker will be Betty McCain, current N.C. Secretary of Cultural Resources. She is Past Chairman of the NC Democratic Party, delegate to numerous National Conventions, Past President of the NC Democratic Women, and has held numerous positions in NC government since the 1970s. She has been honored with many awards for her work in Democratic and human issues.

McCain was the NC. Democratic Woman of the Year in 1976, recipient of the Most Powerful Woman in the Triangle Award in 1996, and received the 1996 Award of NC Public Service; 1994 Arts NC President's Award, 1995 Carpathian Award from NC

Equity for her significant contribution to women and families in North Carolina, and other awards for her devotion to cultural arts.

McCain was instrumental in the Shelby carousel restoration project. Her visit to Cleveland County will begin at a reception at the Cleveland County Arts Council at 4 p.m., followed by her visit to Shelby Park to see the restored musical horses. She then will go to Northlake Country Club for the Democratic festivities at 6:30. She will be accompanied by Senator Walter Dalton, who arranged for her visit to Cleveland County.

All local and state candidates have been invited to attend the festivities at Northlake. Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker will speak, along with other candidates including Ronnie Ansley, Lt. Governor; Joel Harbinson, Lt. Governor; Doug Berger, Commissioner of Labor; Dana Cope, Commissioner of Labor; Ed Wilson, Lt. Governor; Beverly Perdue, Lt. Governor; Jerri Clement, Ed McGuire and Gene Gay, 9th Congressional Seat US. Other candidates are sending

representatives.

Ruth Dedmon, Co-Chair of the Century Club, will begin the meeting. All elected officials will be recognized as well as the precinct chairs and vice-chairs. First Vice Chair Dale Costner will lead the Pledge, and prayer will be given by 2nd Vice Chair Rosalind Hunt. Third Vice Chair Jennifer Gold and Secretary Fran Cirello will work the sign-in tables.

Other members of the Century Club Committee are Jim Gold, Johnny Reavis, Mary Accor, Brian Hawkins, Robin Hawkins, Gary Gold, David Teddy, Eddie Lockhart, Jack Partain, Denise Dorsey, Harold Ramseur, Tommy Bridges, Bill Plonk, Ronnie Humphries, Dale Costner, Connie Greene, Toby Thrift, Linda Thrift, Norma Bridges, Jim Horn, Linda Horn, Andy Dedmon, Joyce Shaffer, Doris Scruggs, Hal Dedmon and Dan Crawford.

Entertainment will be provided by Hart Wells, recent graduate of Appalachian State University, who will play classical guitar.



Kings Mountain High School FCCLA honored the Kings Mountain School Board with dessert before the recent Board meeting. Culinary Arts students prepared Double Layer Chocolate Pie and heart-shaped sugar cookies. Each honored guests received a package of Banana Nut Pound Cake cupcakes. Left to right, front row, Shearra Miller, Britt Talbert, Ronnie Hawkins, Dr. Robert McRae, Jeana Thomas, Jennifer Haynes and Melony Bolin. Back, Dr. Jane King, Ronnie Wilson, Dr. Larry Allen, and Stella Putnam.



Kings Mountain High School FCCLA sponsored the February birthday party at White Oak Manor. Culinary Arts students prepared birthday cakes, cheese pennies, sausage balls, and sugar free punch that was served to residents in the dining hall. Gifts of hand lotion for the women and Mac Tool hats for the men were given to residents with February birthdays. Students pictured, front row, left to right, are Bettye Dover, Jennifer Haynes, Ashley Fowler, Britt Talbert and Elizabeth Smith. Back, Brandy Huskey, Porsha Boyce, Janneke Vermeulen, Jeana Thomas, India Stokes and Jessica Watkins.

James Parnell new executive of Piedmont Scout Council

The Piedmont Council, Boy Scouts of America, recently announced the selection of James Parnell as District Executive for Cleveland County. Parnell will reside in Cleveland County and will be responsible for overseeing all administrative, program, and financial aspects of the Scouting program in Cleveland County.

Parnell's duties will also include the organization of new Scout units, recruiting new Scout members and volunteers as well as overseeing the organization of activities and volunteer committees within Cleveland County. During 1999, there were 2,052 youths and 500 adult volunteers in 63 various Scouting units in Cleveland County.

Parnell is a graduate of UNCC. Upon graduation, he joined the United States Army, where he was assigned to the Fighting Vehicle Infantry Division. Parnell was a member of the Dismount Rifle Team, achieved the level of Squad Leader and was also Commander of a vehicle in charge of coordinating intelligence operations. Parnell's three year enlistment included



JAMES PARNELL

active deployments during the Bosnia conflict. Parnell received numerous awards, including the Army Commendation Medal, which is the highest award that an individual can receive during peacetime. Parnell also received the Army Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Expeditionary Medal, the Army Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Army Superior Unit Award, Driver's

Badge, and the Expert Rifle Badge.

Parnell's scouting background includes attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, as well as serving as a camp counselor and area director in Field Sports for the Mecklenburg County Boy Scouts Council for five years.

Parnell was quoted as saying, "The Scouting program plays a major role in our community in instilling positive values and strong ethical decision-making skills in our youth. Even though the Cleveland County Scouting program currently serves 19.8% of the available youth while the national average is 15.5%, there are still plenty of boys and volunteers who can benefit from becoming members."

Parnell has stated his main goal includes "building on a strong tradition already in place in Cleveland County, and expanding the opportunity to all youth and potential chartered organizations to become a member of the Scouting program."

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Scouting program can call Parnell at 704-482-8721.

Scout volunteers recognized

Area Scouting volunteers celebrated the accomplishments of 1999 with the Annual Cleveland County (Battleground District) Volunteer Recognition banquet on February 10 at Brackett's Cedar Park.

Over 100 volunteers attended this celebration to recognize not only accomplishments of 1999, but also several top volunteers. Butch Kerns, District Chairman for the Battleground District (Cleveland County) presided over the evening's events.

Following dinner, Troop 413, sponsored by the Town of Belwood, presented an impressive opening ceremony by troop members and the Troop band, playing the Star Spangled Banner. Charles Garwood, District Commissioner for the Battleground District, shared numerous highlights from 1999.

According to Garwood, Scouting is strong in Cleveland County. Cleveland County Scouting superlatives include: 2052 youths participating in Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Exploring; 482 volunteers participating in the Scouting program in 1999; 63 Scouting units chartered to sponsors in community organizations in 1999; 1561 merit badges and rank advancements earned by Cub and Boy Scouts; 14 boys earned the coveted Eagle Scout Award; 387 Cub and Boy Scouts attended Camp Bud Schiele summer camp and district/council camps; 12,225 hours of community service were performed by Eagle Scouts and through unit level service projects; 15 tons of food were collected by Scouts

through the "Scouting for Food" good turn project and distributed to local food agencies; for the third year in a row, the Battleground District was awarded the National Quality District Award which reflects growth in membership, fiance, District Committee, Commissioner service and program.

During the awards and recognitions portion of the program,

those individual Scout units who achieved Quality Unit in 1999 and were also recognized. Over 68% of all Scout units in Cleveland County achieved the National Quality Unit Award. Normally only 55% of Scout units achieve this accomplishment. The 1999 Pack of the Year Award went to Cub Scout Pack 117, sponsored by Boiling Springs Baptist Church.

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Hospice offers support

Designed to meet the needs of young people who have experienced the death of someone special, Camp Mostly Smiles will offer a special day retreat to children ages 6 to 16 on May 13.

To be held at Shelby County Park from 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m., the campers will participate in small groups with counselors, growth games, memorial activities, and a carousel ride. Participants will be selected on a first come, first serve basis. The camp is made possible by private donations, corporate sponsors, and from a Youth United Way grant.

The Camp's name is based on the Mostly Smiles programs that Hospice of Cleveland County has provided in Cleveland County schools for the past several years.

The staff and volunteers working at Camp Mostly Smiles

are specially trained to work with children who have lost someone through death. Staff will include counselors, social workers, volunteers, and nurses. Registration deadline is April 7.

Beginning on March 7, "Reflections" bereavement support group will offer two classes from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m., and from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby. The classes will last six weeks.

"Reflections" is a bereavement support program using music, art, and personal reflection to come to a better understanding of why we feel the way we do. It is their hope that through these times together we can begin healing, foster new relationships, and grow as people.

Hospice of Cleveland County, Cleveland Regional Medical Center, and Gardner-Webb University will host the national bereavement teleconference "Living With Grief: Children, Adolescents, and Loss," on Wednesday, April 26, from 1:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Cleveland Regional Medical Center T.R. Harris Conference Center, 210 E. Grover Street, Shelby.

The meeting will allow health care professionals, bereaved families, school counselors, educators, social workers, and other caregivers to hear a panel of experts discuss ways to help children and adolescents cope with loss, grief, and bereavement.

For more information on these and other bereavement programs, call Jan Weinberger at 487-0800.

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