

# Heffner

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Truman held up a copy of the newspaper and smiled benignly.

The Los Angeles District Attorney's office had a load of evidence pointing to O.J. Simpson killing his wife Nicole and Ron Goldman. They found the two victims' blood in Simpson's car, but the clincher was his DNA, which was found at the scene of the grisly murders.

The two assistants who handled the actual prosecution were convinced they had a lock on a first degree murder conviction.

The one thing they forgot about was jury nullification. Everybody knows the evidence was incontrovertible, but the jury turned him loose anyway. Overconfidence surely played a part.

George Herbert Walker Bush, 41st president of the United States was so popular after the first Gulf War the Democrats figured their candidate was little more than a sacrificial lamb. Bush's popularity numbers soared into the 90s.

He was defeated soundly by Bill Clinton in 1992, and the reason he was beaten so badly was overconfidence.

Bush thought, with his numbers so high, he could do anything he wanted, so he raised taxes after his famous "Read my lips, no new taxes" statement. He was a victim of overconfidence.

Even though John Frank Kerry is fast asleep most of the time, the Bush people should keep working hard. They should be reminded that General Custer, at the Battle of Little Big Horn said: "Don't take any prisoners, men."

They didn't.

# Hammett competes in Give Me the Mike contest

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Shane Hammett, a competitor in WSOC's Give Me The Mike! Charlotte contest, will appear on the network at 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 29.

The Kings Mountain man will sing the country song "I'm Already There." He is competing against 24 other contestants for a chance to sing during the final round July 28. The winner will take home a new car and a recording contract.



Scott Hammett

Hammett first auditioned in May beating out approximately 1,000 others for a chance at the semi-finals.

Hammett is a 1989 Kings Mountain High School graduate. His wife is Lynda Hammett. He works for the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office and leads praise and worship at Plainview Baptist in Dallas.

# Grandfather Mountain resounds with "Singing on the Mountain" this Sunday

Long before it reached the age of 80, the "Singing on the Mountain" was the largest and longest running gospel music gathering of its kind. The free, day long gathering is held out-of-doors in a meadow at the base of 6,000-foot Grandfather Mountain in Northwest North Carolina on the fourth Sunday in June, which in 2004 will be June 27.

Bringing the message at the 80th annual Singing will be pastor of the largest church in the world, Dr. Billy Kim of the 15,000-member Central Baptist Church in Suwon, Korea. The president of the Baptist World Alliance, Dr. Kim served as interpreter for Dr. Billy Graham at the 1973 Korean Crusade.

The Greenses will again serve as host group for the event. Familiar to gospel audiences for hits like "Some Sweet Day," "In The Morning Light," and "Glorious City of God," the Greenses have headed up the musical portion of the program for more than a decade.

Joining the Greenses on the program will be Country Music Hall of Fame saxophone player Boots Randolph, George Hamilton IV of the Grand Ole Opry, The Primitive, Amantha Mill, Hope's Call, Sons of God, Greater Heights, and Dr. Kim's 60-member Korean Children's Choir.

The "Singing on the Mountain" is clearly a product of the cultural traditions of the Appalachian Mountains, but at the same time it is unique unto itself. Quilted from a piece of the Sunday school picnic, a patch of the camp meeting and a scrap of the singing convention, the "Singing on the Mountain" preserved the texture of each of these traditions while it created a heritage all its own.

Ten years before the first "Singing on the Mountain" was held on Grandfather's meadow, Joe Hartley's Sunday school group began meeting at the little white church in Linville for a picnic and hymn sing. In 1924, however, Uncle

Joe decided to invite the members of another little church in Linville to pack up their Sunday school and join his congregation in the meadow for a singing and dinner on the grounds.

The "Singing on the Mountain" has always been similar to a camp meeting except in the fact that it was always limited to a one-day event. Folks arrive early and fellowship in a small campground community in the meadow for a few nights before the Sunday "Singing," but never in a way that fit the classic description of a three to four-day camp meeting.

"Singing on the Mountain" became more of a concert than a sing-a-long in the 1940s. Radio performers such as Little Betty Johnson and Arthur Smith became regular performers on the Grandfather stage, and the "Singing" once again mirrored the evolution of the mountain culture.

Today's pilgrims gather to hear performances by top Southern

Gospel groups and a sermon from a well known preacher. Folks bring lawn chairs and picnics and make a day of seeing old friends. The concession area resembles a church bazaar with vendors selling funnel cakes and cotton candy, tee shirts and souvenirs. Guests can also visit tents set up by each of the performing groups to purchase their latest CDs.

Admission to the "Singing on the Mountain" is free, and primitive camping (without hookups) is available on the grounds on a first come basis. Music begins at 8:30 a.m. and continues throughout the day, with a break at 1:00 p.m. for the message. The "Singing" grounds are located on US Highway 221, two miles north of Linville, North Carolina, and one mile south of the Blue Ridge Parkway at milepost 305.

For more information, phone 800-468-7325 or visit on the Web at [www.grandfather.com](http://www.grandfather.com).



The Kings Mountain Softball All-Stars ages 13 to 15 will play in the district tournament tonight at 8 p.m. at the West Lincoln Optimist field on N.C. 27. Team members are left, front Alternate Brittany Baucom, Sarah Roper, Chelsey Loman, Jordan Childers, Kelisha Goodson and Hannah Dye, middle row, left, Lyndsey Batchler, Carmen Scism, Hollie Myers, Casey Owensby, Sierra Barnett, Beverly Bennett and Jessica Bell, third row, left, Head Coach Sheila Loman, Assistant Coach Chip Owensby and Assistant Coach Heather Hale. The Kings Mountain All-Stars ages 10 to 12 will play Stanley at West Lincoln Optimist field today at 6 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Braves, sponsored by Wendy's, won the Kings Mountain 9-10 year-old baseball league at the YMCA with an 11-1 record. Front row, left to right, Noah Bolin, Justin Townsend, Dominque Littlejohn, Timmy Moore, Jeremy Boulder, Blake Suess. Second row, Alex Castellano, Jacob Jones, Clint Johnson, Dallas Conner, Issac Pearson, Kanaan Greene, Marty Lockridge. Back row, coaches Reggie Conner, Rick Greene and Mark Johnson.

# Loyal

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you'll get their support."

The minister admits occasional problems have occurred during his tenure. He believes working through those have strengthened his relationship with the congregation.

"If you love him (Jesus), you're going to love one another," Rev. Pruitt said.

His advice on what makes a good church member is to the point.

"Be saved and committed, loyal and faithful."

In a poem about the reverend, member Joann Dellinger describes him as an "old time preacher man" with a servant leadership style. Dellinger writes about the minister taking people to the doctor and grocery store, cutting his own pay when finances were shaky and mowing the grass and cleaning the church building.

Chestnut Ridge supports the Southern Baptist Convention, North Carolina State Convention and Greater Gaston Association. They also help members and others in the community.

"Our church has done real well on giving," he said. "If you want to do anything for God, you have to do it through helping people."

Rev. Pruitt has performed marriage ceremonies for many members and later for their children.

Holding wife Martha's hand, he says love and respect are crucial for a good marriage.

Mickey Pruitt, the minister's grandson, performed the couple's marriage ceremony last May. Rev. Pruitt's first wife died in 2002.

"I felt like I'd died. Now I'm living again," he said. "The Lord put her (Martha) in front of me."

Martha Pruitt's husband died in 2001.

Rev. Pruitt and his first wife had four children. They also raised three grandchildren and a nephew. His parenting advice centers around faith.

"God gave you those children. Teach them about Jesus. That will hold your home together."

Calling himself a conservative, Rev. Pruitt agrees with the Southern Baptist Convention's recent vote to drop out of the Baptist World Alliance.

"When the world goes to getting in the church you are in trouble," he said.

Recent issues within the denomination have centered around the role of the Bible. Rev. Pruitt believes the book ought to be the sole authority of faith and practice and is without error.

During the convention an unsuccessful motion was made to drop the word "southern" from the denomination's name.

According to Rev. Pruitt, the issue is immaterial though he says the name is becoming a misnomer as the denomination is sending ministers to northern states.

He predicts the change will eventually be made.

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