

LOCAL

# Kings Mountain Scouts lay wreath on Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Four Kings Mountain Scouts were selected to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during a recent trip to Washington, D.C.

Noah Bolin, a member of Troop 92, and Pack 95 members Camden DeVane, Joseph Maner and Kyle Richards participated in the patriotic ritual. A total of 30 Scouts went to the nation's capital.

Bolin was selected because he was the only Cub Scout in the group. The other three were chosen based on essays they wrote.

Maner said he thought participating in laying the wreath would be fun. DeVane considered it a "once in a lifetime" experience.

The scout troop completed an application to lay the wreath and then were placed in a drawing. They competed with other groups who applied for the same day, according to Scout Master Dennis Bolin.

The group almost didn't make it to Arlington National Cemetery in time. Road construction around the capital delayed them. Once they arrived, the group literally ran through the cemetery. When they neared the headquarters, Dennis Bolin told them, "guys stay put. I'm going to beg."

Bolin did just that. The military official in charge asked him how many were in his group. The large number did the trick.

"Do you think I'm going to make you look bad in front of 30 people," were the officer's words to Bolin.

Honor guards walked with the young men up to the tomb. Noah Bolin and Richards handed the men a wreath. Then the group gave a 21-second salute.

"It gave me goose bumps," Dennis Bolin said.

DeVane said the five-minute ceremony was over so fast he did not have time to get nervous. The group experienced an adrenaline rush after the ceremony, according to Bolin.

The red and white carnation wreath tied with a red, white and blue ribbon was provided by Harris Funeral Home and Kings Mountain Florist.

The honor guard identified the troop. Ceremony participants are not allowed to make any public remarks.

"They don't allow anything else to take away from this," Bolin said.

An unidentified soldier from both World Wars and the Korean War lie in the tomb. DNA testing recently identified the Vietnam War Air Force fighter pilot. Due to testing, there probably will be no more unidentified soldiers, Bolin said.

During their trip to Washington, the group also visited the new Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, National Indian, American History, Natural History and Holocaust museums and the Franklin D. Roosevelt, Lincoln, Korean War and World War II monuments.

Security was tight, Bolin said. When he parked the bus near the WWII monument, Park Police arrived with lights and sirens. When Bolin explained he was only picking up a few of the scouts, the officer told him "I empathize but I don't care."

Pennsylvania Avenue was closed to vehicle traffic. The group saw the White House from its back entrance where press conferences are held.

Pack 95 takes a trip to Washington approximately every three years. The group meets at First Baptist Church.



Top photo Joseph Maner, left, front and Camden DeVane, Kyle Richards, rear, left and Noah Bolin prepare to place the wreath. Bottom, scouts who visited D.C.

BRIEFS



ALYSSA NEWTON

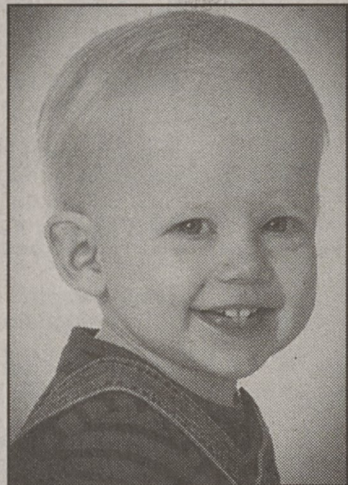
**Alyssa Newton is three years old**

Alyssa Nicole Newton, daughter of Steve and Leigh Anne Newton of Kings Mountain, was three years old Saturday, December 11.

She celebrated with a Dora the Explorer party at the Dixon Presbyterian Church fellowship building.

Thirty-five family members and guests attended. Children attending were Nicholas Stewart, Savannah Poston, Jesse Hughes, Katie Bridges, Hayden and Camden Alexander, Kady and Kinsey Elder, Brandon Dover, and Isabelle Walton.

Alyssa is the granddaughter of Faye Newton and the late John Newton of Shelby, and Gary and Mary Jo Stewart of Kings Mountain. She is the great-granddaughter of Camila Rogers of Taylorsville.



KAEMON EDMONSON

**Kaemon Edmonson celebrates birthday**

Kaemon Silas Edmonson, son of Brian and Sarah Edmonson of Kings Mountain, was one year old November 12.

He celebrated with a musical theme party at Christian Freedom Baptist Church. He and his guests enjoyed hot dogs and cake.

He is the grandson of Kay and Scott Cloninger of Kings

Mountain, and Donna and the late Jerry Edmonson of Kings Mountain.

Great-grandparents are Dot Allen and the late Frank Allen of Shelby, and Gene Tignor and the late Dorothy Tignor of Kings Mountain.

**Auditions slated for Music Camp**

Appalachian State University will hold auditions for Cannon Music Camp Jan. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Olympic High School, Charlotte. The camp is for young musicians.

For more information, call 828-262-4091.

**Arts Council sets fun day for kids**

The Cleveland County Arts Council will hold a winter whimsical fun day for kids in kindergarten through fifth grade December 29 from 1 to 4 p.m. Events include arts, crafts, entertainment and

refreshments. Cost is \$10. Pre-registration is required.

For more information, call 704-484-ARTS.

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Deadline for social briefs is 12 noon Monday.

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