

LOCAL

THOMASSON
From 1A

Recorder's Court Judge and City Attorney.
"Fifty-two years of practice is a long time," he said. "But I've enjoyed it. It's been good."
Thomasson started his practice here in 1953. At that time, the only other attorneys in town were J.R. Davis, Jack White and Ector Harrill. Through the years

he has had a number of associates, including Andy Neisler, Mark Hullender and David Thornton.
In retirement, Thomasson said he may resurrect two of his old hobbies, golfing and fishing. He expects he and his wife Marian will also spend a lot of time visiting their two grandchildren in Marietta, GA.
"I don't have any particular plans," he says. "I'm just going to take it easy."

BENNETT
From 1A

Bennett remembers one woman whose two-year-old child died. She would bring a yard chair and sit at the grave all day long. He instructed maintenance crews to work in other parts of the cemetery.
Bennett himself had a brush with serious illness in 1994. Diagnosed with cancer, doctors didn't give him a good prognosis.
"I'm still here," Bennett says, grinning.
He continues to take chemotherapy treatment every 84 days. Bennett's oncologist credits his recovery to staying on the job. Bennett agrees.
He works Monday through Friday and is on-

call on weekends. Bennett sells plots. Mountain Rest also opens and closes its own graves and does maintenance.
Bennett often helps visitors find graves. Many are doing genealogical research. The cemetery, with its oldest grave dating to approximately 1837, is popular among genealogists looking for ancestors.
Bennett and his wife Maxine have three children and five grandchildren. The Kings Mountain native graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne College with a degree in business. Bennett is active in Relay for Life and is a charter member of Resurrection Lutheran Church. Co-workers hosted a surprise birthday party for him last week.

MOORE
From 1A

and Reservists from state income tax. Moore said he introduced the legislation after talking to an Air Force member from Shelby. The man was paying North Carolina tax but did not live here.
"I agreed with him. I didn't see that as very fair," Moore said.
The legislator said that many National Guard mem-

bers are taking pay cuts when deployed. At the same time spouses are often having to quit jobs because of increased childcare responsibilities.
"We need to do anything we can to help these folks," he said.
The bill has been sent to the Rules Committee. Moore said he would prefer it be directed to the Finance Committee and is meeting with House leadership to discuss this.

HEFFNER
From 4A

I have found it to be true that some people will believe anything. I know you've heard the old wives tale about how if a bat becomes entangled in your hair you'll go crazy. Whoever made that one up is crazy.
My grandmother used to say that if a wild bird flies into your house, someone is going to die.
There are people who believe that an effective way to get rid of warts is to have someone buy them from you. Now, I have no idea who would buy warts, but I've heard there's a market for everything.
Some people actually

believe that hair grows back darker and thicker after it has been shaved. Just to be on the safe side, I shaved my head once, but I still got back a sparse, white patch here and there. So that one isn't true.
I do know that, in the most crowded of rooms, a mysterious silence will invariably strike conversationalists at twenty minutes past every hour. If you don't think that's true, try it sometime. I think there's a satellite which comes over at that time and it sends down a silence beam which lasts just a few minutes.
Oh well, I do have a wart on my wrist. I wonder if anybody would buy it from me.
Maybe I'll ask Miranda.

GROVER
From 1A

bers will operate the store four to six hours a day beginning in the spring, according to Jackie Bennett, a club member and town commissioner.
The council unanimously approved letting the Grover

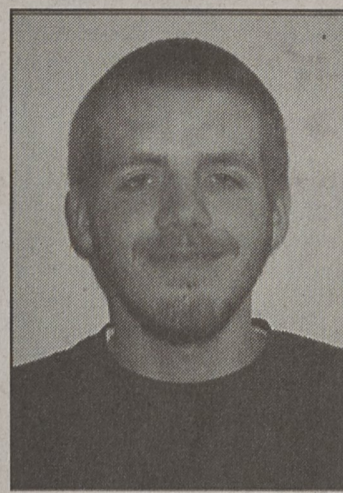
Fire Department use the town hall meeting room at no charge. The department is taking on much of the Grover Rescue Squad's duties, according to Mayor Robert Sides. The fire department is training a class of 25 first responders.
The next meeting is March 7 at 7 p.m. and is open to the public.

HOW TO REACH US

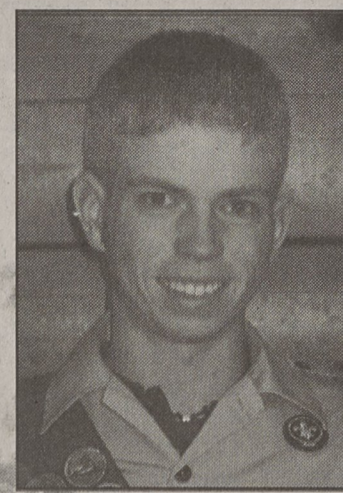
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Three earn Eagle Scout

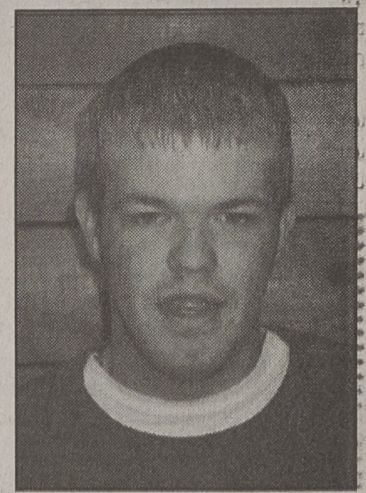
BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer



DANIEL RUFF



CHARLES WITHERSPOON



WENDELL BUNCH

Three Kings Mountain area Boy Scouts have earned the top award in that organization, the Eagle Scout.

Daniel Ruff, 18, renovated the Kings Mountain High School cross country track for his Eagle project.

Ruff solicited donations to purchase 10 tons of crush run gravel. Ruff, his grandfather Abraham Ruff and six scouts spent 12 hours spreading the gravel on a quarter-mile section of the track. Mud from cafeteria renovation had washed onto the track making it dangerous.

He chose the project because he runs cross country and wanted to do something special for teammates his senior year.

Ruff was awarded his Eagle during a ceremony Jan. 9 at First Baptist Church. He is a member of Troop 92 which meets at the church. Dennis Bolin is the scout master.

Ruff credits scouting - he's been involved since second grade - for helping him develop leadership and teaching skills. Ruff has worked at Camp Bud Schiele for two years and now serves as an assistant scout master.

Some of his most memorable scouting moments include plunging from a jump tower at Fort Bragg, a canoeing trip to the Canadian wilderness and a

sailing and snorkeling trip to the Florida Keys.

Ruff will attend The Citadel, then spend 20 years in the Navy. After military retirement, he plans to teach physical education.

Darlene Ruff is his mother and June Ruff, his grandmother.

Wendell Bunch, a sophomore at Kings Mountain High School, repainted and refinished the welding lab at his school. The area had not been painted in 16 years. Bunch spent 275 hours over summer break doing the work.

"It's a good feeling," he said.

Hiking the Appalachian Trail, events at Camp Bud Schiele, camporee and freeze, a winter camping experience, are some of Bunch's top Scout memories.

For Bunch learning leadership has been one of the

best parts of Scouting.

"If (leadership) is not just telling what to do but being there as a friend," Bunch said.

Bunch is a member of Troop 95 which meets at El Bethel United Methodist Church. His Eagle Scout ceremony was held there Oct. 31. His scout leaders are Dwight Dixon and Alan Morgan.

He plans a career as an officer in either the Army or Air Force. His parents are Karen and Wendell Bunch.

Charles Witherspoon painted a chain link fence at Kings Mountain High School. The fence circled the football, track and baseball fields and a portion of the school. He worked on the project during September and October with some help from fellow Scouts and other friends.

Witherspoon is a member of Troop 92 which meets at

First Baptist Church. He is a senior at Kings Mountain High School and plans to attend UNC-Charlotte where he will major in architecture. His scout leader is Dennis Bolin.

Some of his most memorable scouting experiences are hikes on the Appalachian Trail and a visit to Rodgers Mountain, West Virginia. Forging friendships with more senior scouts was one of the best parts of the experience.

"I learned a lot of new things," Witherspoon said. "They befriended me. It was a neat experience."

Scouting has taught Witherspoon self discipline and time management.

Witherspoon will have his Eagle Scout ceremony at his church, Holy Trinity Lutheran in Gastonia. His parents are Charles and Lynn Witherspoon.

Girl Scout troop selling cookies

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Girl Scout Junior Troop 40 is selling cookies to raise money for an April trip to Savannah, Ga. The nine and 10-year-old girls need to make \$800.

The trip will include a visit to Girl Scout founder Juliette Gordon Low's home. They will dress in costumes

from the early 20th Century and make crafts from that era. The girls also will take a trolley ride through historic Savannah, visit the Coastal Georgia Marine Science Center on Tybee Island and take a boat ride to watch dolphins.

The 10 girls attend North, Bethware and East elementary schools. Leaders are Michelle Ford and Renee

Borov. The troop meets at Resurrection Lutheran.

The girls will sell cookies Friday night at Love's Fish Box and Saturday at Cleveland Mall from 3 to 6 p.m. To purchase cookies at 704-734-0022.

Cookies include Thin Mints, Caramel deLites, Shortbread, Peanut Butter Sandwich, Peanut Butter Patties, Animal Treasures,

reduced fat Lemon Pastry Cremes and Iced Berry Pinatas. Cookies are \$3.50 per box.

Andie Brymer can be reached at abrymer@kingsmountainherald.com or 704-739-7496.

Hearing slated on hospital expansion

Mountain City Hall.

The hospital wants to build 45,000 square feet. It also plans to renovate 10,000 square feet for an expanded emergency department and additional post- and pre-operative rooms in the out patient surgery department. The project will cost \$20 mil-

lion.

Written comments may be mailed to Certificate of Need Section, Division of Facility Services, 2704 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-2704. For more information, call Ronald Loftin, project analyst at 919-855-3881.

ing it he's going to destroy it if he can," Westmoreland said. "The GOP has never supported Social Security."

On Iraq, Westmoreland believes "we're in there and we can't get out." He calls the Iraqi election a plus but still disagrees with the invasion. Westmoreland says the reasons given for involvement in Iraq - weapons of mass destruction and it being a haven for Al-Qaida. "All have turned out to be false," Westmoreland said. Jackie Bennett, a Grover Town Council member, said Bush's proposals on Social Security won't work.

BUSH
From 1A

the Middle East. He called Bush's words on Social Security "courageous."

"If you don't tackle it (Social Security) now it will get worse," he said.

Maner believes Bush's plan to revise Social Security is a way for younger people to have more than provided under the current system.

Democrat Dean Westmoreland, a retired teacher, gave Bush an A on delivery, a C-minus on content, a D-minus on Iraq and an F-minus on Social Security.

Westmoreland believes Bush's Social Security plan is calculated deception. "Under the guise of sav-

ing it he's going to destroy it if he can," Westmoreland said. "The GOP has never supported Social Security."

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"I don't want my children taking chances like that," Bennett said. "He's just trying to make his rich friends richer."

Bennett believes that with the war in Iraq, Bush is "making a mess and leaving it for the Democrats to straighten out."

She believes the war is a waste of troops' lives and tax dollars.

Kings Mountain City Councilman Howard Shipp doesn't agree with Bush's plans for Social Security.

"I don't think private accounts are the way to go," he said.

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