

LOCAL

Scouting dinner set March 29

Kings Mountain Boy Scouts will celebrate Boy Scouts' 95th birthday with the Reverend Dr. Charles Bell Award Dinner Tuesday, March 29 at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church Christian Life Center.

The public is invited. RSVP by March 25 to Ronald Hawkins or Brad Ellis at 739-2591.

Each year Friends of Scouting honors an individual and an organization who have played a special role in promoting Boy Scouts in Kings Mountain over the years. The recipients of this year's awards will be announced next week.

Past individual recipients include Otis Falls Jr., Larry Hamrick Sr., Donald Crawford, Jim Ferebee, John Henry Moss and Thurman Eugene Tignor.

Past organization recipients include East Elementary School, Kings Mountain Baptist Church, First Baptist Church, and St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Joe Holland Pack 93.

Harris Funeral Home is sponsoring the banquet for the eighth consecutive year.

Easter hours set for Mauney Library

Mauney Memorial Library will be closed for Easter March 26-28. The library will re-open Tuesday, March 29 at 9 a.m.

Regular library hours are Monday-Tuesday 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Wednesday-Thursday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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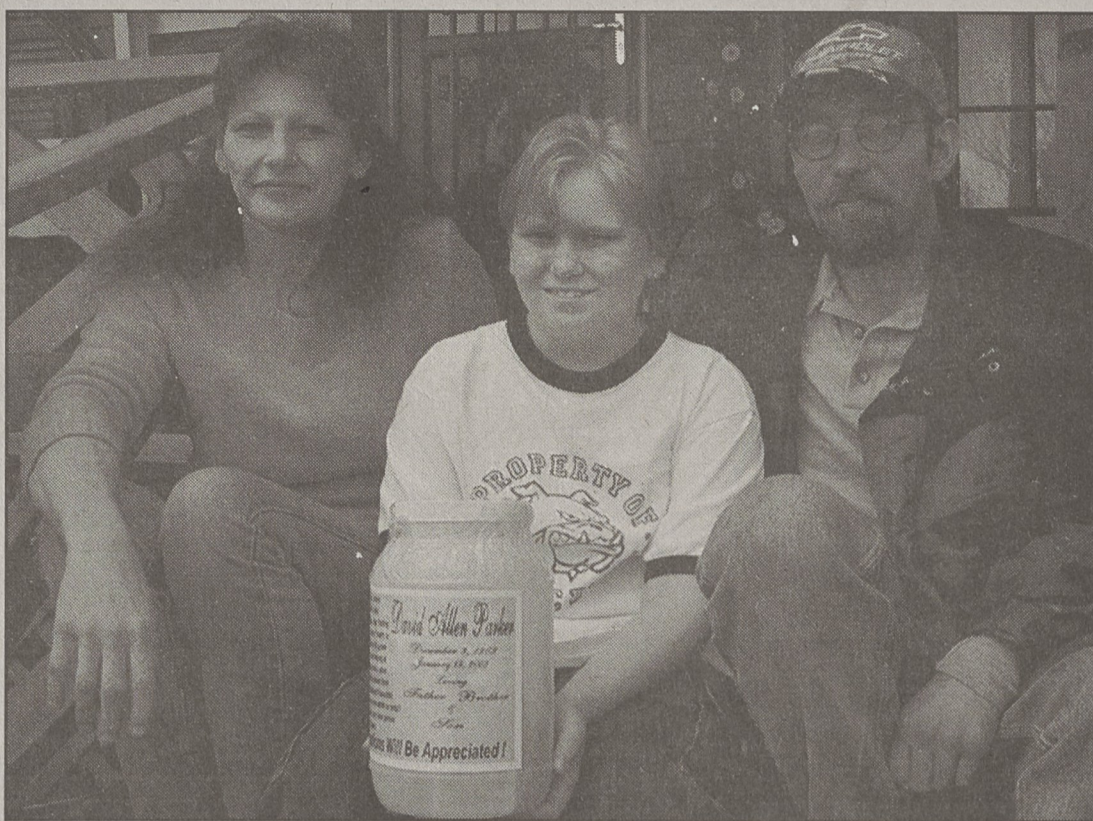
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ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD
 Charles Rainey, middle, holds a container he is using in a fund raising drive to purchase a grave marker for David Allen Parker. Parker was killed two years ago trimming trees. His sister Donna Hester sits to Rainey's left. To his right is Lynn Hethering who was working with Parker when he died.

Caring Child

11-year-old raising money for grave marker for friend

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
 Staff Writer

An eleven-year-old Kings Mountain youth is helping put a headstone on the grave of a friend of the family.

"Everybody deserves a headstone," Charles Rainey said. "They're poor and don't have enough money to get one."

As of Friday, Rainey had raised \$262. A total of \$862 is needed to buy the stone and vase. Any additional money will be donated to charity.

"I'm amazed somebody his age has come up with that," said Donna Hester. "He's a special person in my book."

The headstone will go on the grave of Hester's brother David Allen Parker. The 33-year-old man was killed Jan. 19, 2003 while trimming trees at the home of Hester's boyfriend Yancey Sturgeon. A rope he was using touched a live electrical wire. Sturgeon paid for the funeral and casket. Allen's uncle Ernest Parker paid for the

grave plot.

Charles' parents Philip and Tara Rainey describe Allen as someone who was always willing to help others. The day before his death, Parker helped Philip Rainey load landscaping shells. They describe Allen as a fun person who loved his four daughters and one son.

When Charles learned that a new Mountain Rest Cemetery policy disallowed flowers on unmarked graves he got involved. His mother Tara calls the policy "sad."

The Rainey's are not surprised at Charles' actions. They describe him as a caring child. Charles is an honor student at North Elementary and has earned good citizenship awards.

Charles placed collection jars at McAbee's Store, L&L Auto on Long Branch Road and Red Wok Express and Bankhead Surveying, both in Shelby. Donations also may be mailed to the Rainey's at 1307 Piedmont Avenue, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086.

LOCAL

Dalton introduces tax credit bill

State Senator Walter Dalton has introduced a bill which would make small

businesses eligible for tax credits if they provide health care for their employees.

Small businesses in North Carolina rate insurance costs as one of their biggest problems, Dalton wrote in a press release.

Under Senate Bill 364, a business with 15 or fewer employees providing health benefits for all its eligible workers could earn a tax credit. A small business could earn a credit of up to \$700 for each employee it covers, or \$1,300 per employee family.

Meek to speak at Dems' gala

Jerry Meek, chairman of the N.C. Democratic Party, will speak during the Gardner-Hoey Legislative Gala Friday. Democrats who have led state government

over the past 50 years will be recognized along with U.S. Senator Clyde R. Hoey. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. at Cleveland Country Club. For more information, call Betsy Wells at 739-1585.

Chestnut Ridge calls Rev. Brown

Rev. Richard A. Brown has assumed duties as pastor of Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church, Kings Mountain.

Rev. Brown and his wife, Joyce R. Brown, have three children and six grandchildren. Rev. Brown graduated from Gardner-Webb College



THE BROWNS

Crosswalk begins tonight

Despite forecasts of cold weather and possible precipitation, organizers of this weekend's Crosswalk were upbeat Tuesday afternoon.

"We're just doing what we're suppose to do and trusting the one in charge," Reg Alexander said.

Out-of-town sales are stronger than ever before, according to Alexander. As in past years, local sales picked up this week.

This year's Crosswalk will include more live animals, expanded sets, church and community choirs and a crucifixion scene.

The fifth annual passion play which moves through

downtown will take place Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. A project of the non-profit Regal Ventures, the audience moves with the action covering five blocks and seven scenes.

Crosswalk began five years ago when community members wanted something similar to a live nativity. From there the idea developed to use that model but around an Easter theme.

Tickets are \$5 or \$4 for groups of 10 or more. For more information, visit www.kmcrosswalk.com or call 704-739-3838.

Moore bill would allow freeze on credit reports

Kings Mountain Representative Tim Moore along with two other legislators have introduced a bill that would allow consumers to place a freeze on their consumer credit report should they become a victim of identity theft.

House Bill 608, Consumer Credit Protection Act, was introduced in the state House of Representatives today. If passed, the bill would prevent a consumer's credit rating from being damaged if they learn that their identity had been stolen, according to Moore.

The consumer would have the option of placing the freeze on their file by submitting an application to a consumer credit reporting agency. The freeze would prevent credit information to be given out to a loan company unless the consumer gives permission.

Law enforcement agencies, child support agencies,

Bill would end parental rights in death cases

Representative Tim Moore is introducing a bill which would allow for the termination of the parental rights of individuals who have caused the death of their child's other parent.

House Bill 97 would not automatically terminate parental rights but would give judges that option. Moore said he did not anticipate any opposition.

The Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Revenue, and county tax assessors and entities with an existing creditor or contractual relationship with the consumer would still be allowed to receive credit information if a freeze was in place.

Moore, Shipp attend meeting

Kings Mountain City Council members Howard Shipp and Rick Moore participated in the Congressional City Conference of the National League of Cities this week.

More than 2,400 municipal government officials launched an aggressive lobbying strategy to build a stronger federal-local partnership around key issues. Those included saving Community Block Development Grants, economic stimulation, safety and a well-funded transportation bill.

Delegates met with their representatives pushing for NCL priorities.


Easter drama set at Chestnut Ridge

Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, will present the Easter drama "He Chose the Cross" Saturday and Sunday, March 26-27 at 7 p.m.

For more information or directions call 739-6151 or 739-9709.

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Richard Greene Happy Belated Birthday!
 From Mom & Dad and the rest of the family!