

Local scout supports park effort

By **Darrell Elder**

Staff Writer

Powhatan County citizens can truly call the playground at Fighting Creek Park a community park.

Many clubs, organizations and individuals have donated time and money to making the park a place children and adults can enjoy.

From the Huguenot Ruritan's building a pavilion to A PlayABLE Place for Anna and her Friends raising money and adding equipment for children with special physical needs, Powhatan citizens have taken an interest in their playground.

That spirit has continued to a 16-year-old boy, who decided to use the park and the desire to provide a community service, to build a shelter at the playground so parents watching their children find adventure in the many park contraptions can relax under the cover of the shelter.

Jacob McDaniel, a junior at

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photo by Darrell Elder

High on the rafters, Kevin Young handed McDaniel a knee brace, which fits into the frame.

Powhatan High School, has been in the Boys Scouts since he was a youngster in the Tiger Scouts. In order to earn the ranks of Eagle Scout, boys have to complete a community service project. After talking with county officials, McDaniel decided to build the shelter for his project.

He said, so far, he has recorded about 500 hours of work. The scout has to document the entire process and upon completion, write a report. He said, although others have assisted him throughout the journey, he was completely responsible for all of

the logistics and the progress. McDaniel was tasked with making telephone calls seeking advise, quotes, donations and volunteers.

Soon he decided to take the timberframe structure route. "It fits with the look of the library and the covered bridge so I thought it would fit the park, and I liked the look of it." McDaniel said Dreaming Creek Timberframe helped with the design of the shelter. The Powhatan-based business also donated the timber and equipment necessary for making the joinery.

Joe Foster laid the concrete floor and McDaniel said S.B. Cox donated the concrete.

As of Saturday afternoon, the frame was complete and pending weather conditions, McDaniel hoped to have the roof complete by the end of the weekend.

However, if necessary, the team will return next weekend to complete the project.

The finishing touch will be a picnic table. McDaniel said he hopes Tom Walton, a teacher at Powhatan High School, will help him with the table.