

Paintings for Phifer

Art auction to raise money for liver transplant

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

Don Phifer needs \$150,000 for a liver transplant. Luckily he has received much support from the community of Kings Mountain. Around \$92,900 has been raised. Now it is time to finish the job.

The next big fund-raiser for the transplant is a silent auction for three pieces of artwork that will be held from Nov. 22-Dec. 31 in the Cleveland County Arts Council building, said Sonya Ivester, a member of the committee that is raising money for Phifer's transplant. All of the proceeds will go to Don Phifer.

Peter Max, a popular New York painter whose work has sold for as much as \$60,000, agreed to submit a signed poster to the silent auction. The work is called, "Red Angel with Heart III."

"He's been well-known since the 70s," said Ivester.

Ronnie Blanton, the chairman for the committee of the National Foundation for Transplants that is raising money for Phifer, said that Max has done posters for various U.S. Presidents, as well as artwork for the Olympics and the World Series.

Also, Cleveland County artist, Philip Philbeck, agreed to donate two prints to the auction. Philbeck has been compared to the famed Bob Timberlake, said

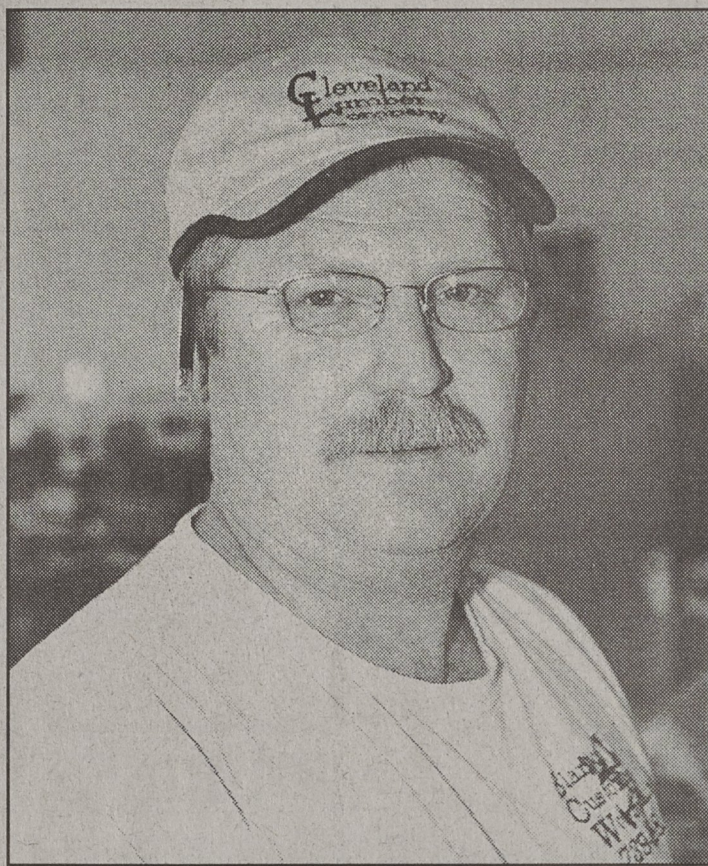
Ivester. Sharon's Hometown Framing has also agreed to donate the frames for the artwork that will be sold at the silent auction.

The auction will take place in the Arts Council building, but the Arts Council really does not have anything to do with it. They are simply donating the space so that the committee that is raising money for Phifer can set up the art.

"We felt like the best thing to do would be to go through the Arts [Council]. You have to go where the people are interested for something like this," said Ivester.

"Since it is art, we are being kind enough to let them set it up here," said Donna Melton of the Cleveland County Arts Council. "We really are just a backdrop."

With all of the efforts going on to help him, Phifer is actually doing very well, said Blanton. He



Don Phifer of Kings Mountain will soon undergo a liver transplant at Duke Medical Center.

even works everyday.

"I can't say enough good things about him. He is such a good guy," said Blanton. "I think that's why the community has

really knew what we were doing."

According to Blanton, other fund-raisers have included barbeque dinners, silent auctions,

chicken pie dinners, yard sales, hot dog sales and canisters in Cleveland County businesses asking for donations.

Phifer is now near the very top of the list for a transplant at Duke University Medical Center. "They [the doctors] told him to be ready to go any day," said Blanton, "Because the call could come at any time."

The effort to raise money for Phifer has been a community- and church-wide effort, said Blanton. He said that he and the other committee members really didn't know much about fund-raising when they started. They just knew they needed to help their friend. He credits God with bringing everything together when they needed it.

"The good Lord is the one who's made it happen," he said. "None of us

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Community tree lighting Monday at Mauney Library

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

The annual Christmas tree lighting will take place on Monday, November 25 at 7 p.m. in front of Mauney Memorial Library.

"The public's invited. We've been doing it for years and years and years," said Ellis Noell, director of special events for Kings Mountain. This year, however, one small change will be made to honor the soldiers who are stationed away from home during the holidays.

"We're going to decorate the tree with yellow bows for the armed forces this year," said Noell.

The bows will specifically be for the 505th battalion that has been sent to Washington, D.C. The members of the battalion will not make it home for the holidays this year. The ribbons are a way to honor them and their service to the country, as well as the sacrifices their families have made during their time away from home.

Mayor Rick Murphrey has actually sent out a letter to invite the families of the soldiers to the special ceremony, Noell said.

"We're going to have a couple of kids who represent the soldiers' families put a big yellow ribbon on the tree as well," said Noell.

This year, the NEW Children's

Choir, made up of students from North, East and West Elementary Schools, will also be singing at the event, said Noell.

As usual, Santa Claus will pay a special visit to the children at the ceremony.

A reception will be held in the children's wing of the library immediately following the lighting ceremony.

"It should be a nice event," said Noell.

The tree lighting will be part of the "Down Home Christmas" celebration, which will also include a mural lighting and a Christmas parade in early December. More information will be available on these events later.



ABIGAIL WOLFORD / HERALD
The tree in front of Mauney Memorial Library will be decorated with Christmas lights and yellow ribbons, in honor of the 505th battalion, which has just been stationed in Washington, D.C. The tree-lighting will take place on Monday, November 25, at 7 p.m.

Smith completes refrigerator course

Marine Corps Pfc. Dewey J. Smith, son of Brenda L. and Arthur W. Jones of Grover, recently graduated

from the Marine Corps Basic Refrigeration Mechanic Course. During the course with

Marine Corps Detachment, Army Ordnance Center and School, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, students con-

centrated on learning basic electrical and refrigeration theory, refrigeration systems and refrigeration units. Students also studies maintenance and repair of air conditioners and bulk refrigeration equipment.

Smith joined the Marine Corps in April 2002.

EARLY DEADLINE

The Deadline for news for next week's Herald is 3 p.m. Monday.

Letters to Santa

Our annual Letters to Santa will be published in our papers December 18 & 19. In order to get them typed we will need to have the letters by Monday, December 2.

Thank you and please send in your letters!

Kings Mountain Herald
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Cherryville Eagle

PO Box 699
Cherryville, NC 28021

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MON-FRI 9:30-7PM
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