

Groundbreaking for mental health facility

Groundbreaking for Cleveland County's new mental health facility was held Monday at its new site located at 917 First Street in Shelby.

The new building is located just east of the facility on Crawford Street currently serving as the main center. It is tentatively scheduled to open in the spring of 1993.

The program to be housed in this facility serves people with mental and emotional needs, developmental disabilities, and alcohol and drug problems. Over 3,700 individuals were treated by the area program during 1991.

The 19,900 square feet of new finished space will allow for expansion of services for emotionally and physically abused children, substance abusers, and families needing therapy.

Last year, the North Carolina

General Assembly called for new investments in local mental health services of \$600 million over the next several years, \$6 to 8 million of which were allotted for Cleveland County. Mental health staff presently serves the public in eight different sites, plus in numerous schools and family settings.

"Overused, crowded mental health buildings have created a poor environment for consumers," says Dr. Sandy Brenneman, Area Director for the Cleveland County Area Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Program. "The need for a centralized, confidential facility has increased with the growing number of consumers, and employees' increased travel time among facilities. We appreciate the county voters' support for the 1989

bond referendum which provided funds to address these growing needs. We also thank the North Carolina General Assembly for their grant which enabled us to begin this project."

Additional funds are being sought to complete the second floor and construct the rear third of Cleveland County's new mental health building. When completed, the facility will provide adequate space as the home-base for staff working in the center and throughout the county. It will also provide ample, well-designed consumer waiting areas, psychiatric and nursing care, group therapy, and other specialized services. The building will also provide space to conduct training and supervisory work, especially for family and group treatment, as well as the medical records and reimbursement functions.

Plans are also underway to replace the small substance abuse facility on Grover Street in Shelby with a multi-purpose 24-hour care center and activities area, to renovate the program's center on Crawford Street, and to obtain permanent space for a treatment center for children.

"These facilities will enable more Cleveland County citizens to receive high quality care in their community instead of leaving for distant and expensive in-patient care," says Brenneman. "The facilities will also provide a healthy work environment for our employees and will serve as a major asset in recruiting and retaining top professionals in our field."



BRITTANY HOUSER

Brittany Houser is four years old

Brittany Schronda Houser, daughter of Tarrell and Leslie Houser, celebrated her fourth birthday Tuesday, June 23.

A family party was held Tuesday at Show Biz Pizza. The family also took a trip to Myrtle Beach with friends last week to celebrate the birthday. Making the trip with Brittany and her mother were Treena Martin, Mark Robertson, and Susan Hartsoe.

Grandparents are Ruth Hoyle and Mary Houser, both of Kings Mountain, and Amos Houser of Bessemer City.

Brittany has a brother, Michael Hoyle, of Durham.

Chelsea Chapman is four



CHELSEA CHAPMAN

Chelsea Michelle Chapman, who was four years old on June 23, was honored Saturday at a party at her home.

A pink and purple Barbie doll cake, chips, and Koolaid were served to 20 friends and relatives. Her birthday present, a treehouse, was decorated with pink and purple balloons and streamers.

Chelsea is the daughter of Jimmy and Susan Ware Chapman and granddaughter of Erskin and Daphne Ware and Joe and Pat Chapman, and great-granddaughter of Hunt and Ocie Ware, Beulah Chapman, and Oveida Gladden, all of Kings Mountain, and Edith Smith of Holly Ridge.

Heather crowned State Queen

Heather-Dawn Ashley, five-year-old daughter of Pam Ashley and granddaughter of Dr. Val and Jack Shull of Moss Lake, was crowned N.C. State Beauty Queen at America's 12th annual national pageant of America's Most Beautiful Girls in Southaven, MS.

Heather-Dawn's areas of completion were interview, beauty, sportswear, swimwear, country and western wear, overall most stylish, costume, and photogenic.

As the national winner, Heather-Dawn will be traveling in the two Carolinas with N.C.-S.C. Director Carolyn Kiser and returning to the national pageant next year.

Heather-Dawn's hobbies are ballet, tap, and gymnastics. She is a student of Shelly and Chips School of Dance and takes modeling and pageantry from Lisa McCusell Academy of Performing Arts in Gastonia. She is a member of First Baptist Church and youth organizations.



HEATHER-DAWN ASHLEY

Ashley's grandparents sponsored her in the pageant.

Ashley Barber notes birthday

Ashley Barber's first birthday party on Sunday was a joint celebration with Father's Day and her father and grandfathers were special guests.

The daughter of Steve and Cindy Barber was one year old June 19. The Sunday hotdog supper included the cutting of her decorated birthday cake.

Ashley has two brothers, Michael and Steele, and one sister, Tara.

Grandparents are Dean and Gwen Smith and John and Mary Barber. Her great-grandmother is Mabel Eskew.

It's a boy

Steve and Cindy Barber announce the arrival of their son, Taylor Seth Barber, May 23, 1992, Gaston Memorial Hospital.

The baby weighed eight pounds, three ounces.

He has two older brothers, Michael and Steele, and two older sisters, Tara and Ashley.

Grandparents are Dean and Gwen Smith and John and Mary Barber, all of Kings Mountain. Great-grandmother is Mabel Eskew.

Amber Most Beautiful Girl

Amber Starr Kiser, 8, has won the national title of "America's Most Beautiful Girl."

She won the sportswear division, was first in swim wear and most stylish and also won the beauty title in Memphis, TN, May 21-23.

Amber has been competing in beauty pageants since the age of 15 months and has won over 100 trophies and crowns. She also holds this year's title of "Petite Miss Kings Mountain."

Amber has modeled for several commercials and was on the Made for TV movie with Melissa Gilbert, child star of Little House on the Prairie.

"If you believe in Jesus and do what He says He will give you the desires of your heart," says Amber, who will be traveling throughout the United States as a national title winner.

She is the daughter of Fred and



AMBER KISER

Carolyn Kiser of Oak Grove Road.

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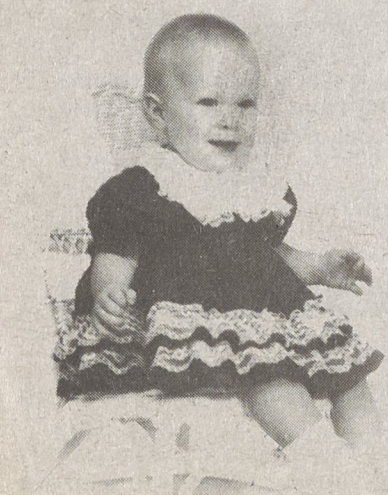
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