



China, a big, black Chow, brings smiles to residents like Leola Tate, left, and her brother-in-law, Grady Tate, at White Oak Manor. Standing are volunteers Preston Todd and Tom Barnette, right, with Activity Director Shirley Mathis.

China big hit at nursing home

When Tommy Barnette first started volunteering at White Oak Manor he found some of the residents uncommunicative.

Not anymore since he introduced them to man's best friend, a big black Chow by the name of China.

Four-year-old China belongs to China Lawson, thus the name. And, when Lawson learned that a mascot was needed by the rest home he paid for all the required shots for his pet and now China and Tommy call on almost all the residents.

"Where's Bear?" asked one patient on a recent visit. The lady thought the big, lovable dog looked like a bear.

Another resident called China by other names because she remembered having a dog as a young child.

"These folks really love this dog,

says Activity Director Shirley Mathis.

"Animals are not allowed in this facility but we made an exception when China became such a hit with the patients."

China goes in and out of the rooms easily.

Barnette says the dog has a sixth sense. He knows exactly what door to go into and when to come out.

Mathis says China cheers up patients and brightens their day. They look forward to his visit.

Barnette said he became a volunteer after his Second Baptist Church Sunday School teacher, Preston Todd, started going to the rest home on regular visits.

Leola Tate and her brother-in-law Grady Tate say that China is a blessing to residents like them.

"We really look forward to that friendly mutt," said Grady Tate.

Mrs. Tate said China is more than a mutt. He's family.

Child's Health Carnival in schools

A "Child's Health Carnival" is underway this month in various school locations for children who will be entering Head Start or other preschool programs next year.

Free screenings for height, weight, hearing, vision, speech, dental and blood pressure checks will be held in this area Thursday from 3:30-6:30 p.m. at Grover

School, May 14 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at East School and May 17 from 3:30-6:30 p.m. at North School.

Community based screenings will be held in this area on June 13 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Bethware School, June 15 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Cleveland Community College and June 17 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Cleveland Mall.

Program gets bikes for kids

First Union is teaming up with J Rich, Bike Outfitters and a local charity to help deserving children fulfill the dream of owning their own bikes through First Union's Recycle-A-Cycle program.

First Union, a national gold medal sponsor of the Tour DuPont, created the program for children who might not otherwise be able to own a bike. Residents are encouraged to donate used bikes, which will be reconditioned and distributed to children through the Kings Mountain Baptist Association, which works with families throughout Cleveland County.

First Union is sponsoring the program in conjunction with its sponsorship of the Tour Du Pont, the 1,060-mile bicycle race that rolls through Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina May 4-15. The race will pass First

Union's Shelby Main Office on Washington Street around 2 p.m. Friday.

In Kings Mountain the race will pass through the Oak Grove Section and on Cherryville Road at Chestnut Ridge.

Residents are encouraged to drop off their used bicycles between now and Saturday at JN Rich Bike Outfitters on the Highway 74 E. Bypass beside the bowling alley. Hours are 9 a.m.-5:30p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

First Union National Bank of North Carolina, which has 249 offices throughout the state, including Kings Mountain, is a principal subsidiary of Charlotte-based First Union Corporation.

Local executive officer Elaine Grigg invites the public to donate a used bike.

Art exhibit at Cleveland College

Cleveland Community College will host the works of the College's Allied Services students and instructors in The Gallery during the month of May.

The exhibit features welding sculptures. Exhibitors are John Swofford, Gene Cox, Mary

Lampley and Gene and Jennifer Cox.

The exhibit is free and open to the public during regular college hours, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Fridays.

BLANTON-HALE WEDDING

the bride were on the table along with the groom's cake made by the bride's grandmother. Candles in each window were encircled with satin roses made by the bride and her mother.

The four-tier wedding cake was decorated with pink roses, blue wedding rings and yellow tear drops which stood over a decorated blue fountain. Kelly Yarborough of Kings Mountain cut and served the wedding cake which centered a heart-shaped table. The hostess/caterer, Louise Newsome of Shelby, was assisted in serving party food by Ben Newsome and Lisa Rice. The punch fountain was attended by Bonnie Gore. The bride's uncle, Bob Clapp of Laurel, Md., toasted the couple as guests raised champagne glasses with sparkling grape juice to the bride and bridegroom.

A rehearsal dinner was hosted April 15 at the Woman's Club for members of the two families. Margaret Dixon, grandmother of the bride, and Jenny Clapp, aunt of the bride, hosted the event.

Out-of-town guests included Mr. and Mrs. Harry Fielden of Silver Spring, Md., Mr. and Mrs. Bob Clapp of Laurel, Md., Carlos Summerlin of Spruce Pine, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Deyton of China Grove, Yvonne and Pat Boone of Rebel's Creek and Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Luther of Asheville.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Blanton of Kings Mountain. She is a 1993 graduate of Kings Mountain High School and attended Cleveland Community College. She is employed by Able Plating Company of Gastonia and the City of Kings Mountain. She is the granddaughter of Margaret Dixon and the late Ray Dixon and Wesley Blanton and the late Annie Lou Blanton, all of Kings Mountain.

The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Hale of Bessemer City. He is a 1990 graduate of Bessemer City High School and is self-employed at family owned businesses of Able Plating Company and J&D Plating Company in Gastonia. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Haywood Hale and Mildred Blanton and the late David Shaw Blanton, all of Gastonia.

The newlyweds have returned from a wedding trip to the Smokey Mountains and are residing on Payne Road in Bessemer City.



CORY NORRIS

Cory two years old

Cory Steven Norris celebrates his second birthday on May 23. He will have a cookout and Barney cake with decorations and ice cream. Guests will be his grandmother, Rose Price; cousins, Chelsea and Carley Vestal, Kala and Nacole Vestal, Chris and Shane Hall, David and Megan Hall, grandparents John and Saretta Mullins, and Tammy and Chris Rhome.

Cory is the son of John and Linda Mullins of Gastonia.

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Doctor not coming to KM

The Indiana surgeon who had indicated he would come to Kings Mountain to open a practice at McGill Clinic has changed his mind.

Dr. Richard Francis has notified the Kings Mountain Hospital Board of Trustees that he won't be coming to Kings Mountain.

"We'll have to begin work on another prospect," said J. C. Bridges, chairman of the hospital board of trustees.

The local hospital recently hired its first physician at McGill Clinic in the person of Dr. Edward Butler, a family doctor from Atlanta, Ga.

Bridges said that Francis had said he planned to practice independently at McGill Clinic and would be moving here about July 1.

Two longtime Kings Mountain doctors, Dr. Charles Adams and Dr. Frank Sincox, are expecting to end their practice at McGill Clinic on May 31.

Hank Neal, Kings Mountain Hospital Administrator, said the hospital is interviewing other prospects.

Moore enlists in U.S. Air Force

Steven R. Moore of Kings Mountain recently enlisted into the Air Force's Delayed Enlistment Program.

Moore, a 1993 graduate of King Mountain High School, is scheduled for enlistment into the regular Air Force in September. Upon graduation from the Air Force's six week basic training course at Lackland Air Force Base near San Antonio, Texas, he will receive technical training in his designated career area.

Moore will earn credits toward an Associate Degree in Applied Sciences through the Community College of the Air Force while attending basic and technical training schools.

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