

PHILLIPS

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"He's an amazing man and people look at this good-lucking, Macho man and ask why," she said.

But Phillips, who says his faith keeps him strong, never questions why and never doubts the surgery will be successful and give him a new lease on life.

But the fact that someone may die over the long Memorial Day weekend to give him the lungs he needs is for Phillips the sad part of his miracle story.

Doctors told Butch at first that one transplant was needed and that a new procedure called volume reduction therapy would assure a longer life span. Phillips opted for more opinions and started learning all he could about transplants from doctors in Charlotte, Chapel Hill and finally in St. Louis, Mo.

"It really takes you back when doctors give you five years to live and that was four years ago," said Butch, relaxing in his beautiful home on Cherryville Road. He said he fell in love with the pretty two-story house as he watched it go up as he drove from Cherryville to Kings Mountain every day. He and his bride moved from her former home in Greenville, SC.

As a high school student playing basketball at Crest High, the former Shelby man noticed that he often became short-winded. Later in service, he walked five to 10 miles and often became short-winded. He smoked for 20 years but quit about six years ago when doctors suspected he had an allergy. Following a lung evaluation at Chapel Hill Butch learned the disease was hereditary. He quickly contacted his 11-year-old daughter in Pasadena, California and her mother had her tested.

He became disabled on November 4, 1993 after 8 1/2 years as a long-distance truck driver.

Visitors are amazed at his agility and his non-dependence totally on oxygen.

"I go to the grocery store and take Sam, my Golden Retriever, with me, and I try to wash my truck a little bit at a time but I am not a quitter," says Butch, who says that attitude plays a major part in the success of any of life's problems and particularly in recovery from major illnesses.

"If a person just gives up, he doesn't have a chance," he says philosophically.

Mrs. Phillips agrees and says that their love for each other and the support of their close-knit family will help them survive. His mother, Faye Willis of Shelby and her mother, Judith Gillespie of Greenville, SC, plan to fly to St. Louis for the surgery. Ashley Page Phillips, 11, visited her father recently and plans to return to Kings Mountain after the surgery.

Phillips admits that he is worried about the additional costs of the surgery that insurance won't pay and extra costs for maintaining a second household in St. Louis for six months while he recuperates from the surgery.

But Mrs. Phillips says that friends like BB&T of Gastonia, where she is the retail Lockbox Production Manager, friends at Carolina Freight, and friends like Linda and Larry Moss have started fund drives to help the family.

Butch plans to drive his truck to St. Louis on May 24 and he and his wife are looking for an apartment near the hospital.

Insurance will pay up to \$150,000 for the surgery but the bills are estimated to be nearly twice that amount with the long period of recuperation, therapy and medication plus the cost of living expenses.

"We have had phenomenal response from caring people who have held all kinds of fund raisers with a goal of \$10,000 before we leave for St. Louis," said Mrs. Phillips.

Moss says that Center Service of Kings Mountain and Auto Body Shop of Clover, SC are sponsoring a \$1,000 give-away with the draw-

ing to be held at Center Service on August 26 at 2 p.m. Donation tickets at \$1 each are available locally from Center Service, Dennis No. 3, Plonk Brothers, Mike's Citgo Food Store, BB&T and KM Pool and Gardens.

"This surgery is scary," Butch frankly admits. A Vietnam veteran who was discharged in 1978 after eight years in Uncle Sam's Army, he is not afraid of facing what he sees as the biggest challenge of his life.

He wants to climb a tree stand again and hunt for a deer and fish and run. And he wants to live.

"I don't want pity but what I really want is for people to be aware of the brevity of life and be donors," he said.

"Most people don't realize that they can donate at death almost everything, even their blood."

Time runs out for many patients on donor lists because many who could have donated life-saving organs would not.

"I'm going for it," said William Butch Phillips, who says his donor must be about his size and weight for the transplantation of lungs to work. Doctors are not as afraid of rejection of the organs as possible infection.

In therapy in Chapel Hill recently Butch said he was saddened to see so many young children with life-threatening illnesses.

"It made appreciate my life so much more," he said.

"We used to take things granted and this experience has made us savor every moment" said his wife.

Butch says the experience opened his eyes to the shortness of life

"I always thought I could fix everything but now I know that God is watching over us and we are moving in the right direction."

Phillips gets support from other patients like the Topeka, Kansas man he chats with over the telephone at least twice a week. The 54-year-old new friend underwent lung reduction surgery successfully and was formerly completely oxygen-bound.

"My problem is that I don't have any good lung tissue left and I need the transplants," said Butch.

"My lungs look like those lungs in an 80-year-old person," he said, noting that Alpha 1 is a rare disease and can only be detected with a specific blood test.

"Kids who get shortwinded on the ball field need to be tested for this disease," he said.

"A fella ahead of me on the donor list at Barnes walked out of that hospital and I plan to walk out of it too," he says, petting affectionately his pretty Himalayan cat, Sly, and pointing proudly to a mounted deer above the mantel in his living room.

A big NASCAR racing fan, he's eager to get his life back to normal. His friends are betting that with God's help he can do it.

AUDIT

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efficiency and the identification of areas of spending which could be reduced or eliminated in favor of currently but needed tasks or programs. He interviewed staff, analyzed organization charts and job descriptions, reviewed the written policies, analyzed the workflow, observed workers, and compared statistics with other school systems on staffing ratios, productivity data, etc.

Kings Mountain District Schools has 3,911 students at seven schools and employs 550 full-time people. During the 1993-94 school year KMDS has 2.33 more employees per 100 students in the combined categories of teachers, assistant teachers, and service workers but less personnel in the combined categories of professionals, clerks, etc. giving the appearance of over-staffed when compared to other systems.

BANQUET

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football and baseball at The Citadel. He will be inducted by high school teammate, Perry Champion.

The '66 Teener League team was the first KM youth baseball team to win a state championship. They went on to finish third in the World Series in Hershey, Pa. and most of the players were members of the 1969 KMHS nine which won the Western N.C. High Schools Activities Association title. The Teeners will be inducted by Roy Pearson, who doubled as KM Recreation Director and the team's coach.

MILEWSKI

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and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Milewski volunteers at local nursing homes. Since retirement he and his wife enjoy their eight children and three grandchildren. This month the Milewski family is welcoming two more grandchildren.

Milewski, who speaks English, Polish and some Italian, traveled frequently when he was vice-president of the local Duplex Plant and the firm owned plants in the Virgin Islands, Albemarle and Pageland, SC. Almost always a newcomer commented on his accent.

"They were so surprised when I said I was from Kings Mountain, North Carolina," he said.

But how did he get such a distinctly unSouthern accent?

"Do you have two hours to hear the story?" he asked.

Fifth grade sex ed meeting set

The Kings Mountain Health Council will present its recommendations for a revised fifth grade family life education curriculum at an informational meeting May 23 at 7 p.m. in the Board Room of the Central Administrative Offices, 105 E. Ridge Street.

Supt. Dr. Bob McRae the curriculum is "changed somewhat" as the outgrowth of a study on family education completed and recently accepted by the school board.

Members of the Board of Education were briefed on the curriculum at Monday night's school board meeting.

After the parent meeting on the proposals the item will be on the agenda of the June board meeting for final adoption.

McRae described the curriculum as "just the basics of what we need to teach at this age in a family life curriculum."

In other actions Monday: The board set an all-day work session for May 29 at the administrative building.

Approved the use of the Middle School field for soccer camp July 24-28. Kings Mountain High School Soccer Coach Dan Potter will instruct the course for players 6-13 from 9 a.m.-12 noon.

Three Strikes bill passes House

Rep. Jack Hunt's bill "Three Strikes and You Walk" passed the N. C. House last week by an overwhelming majority.

"This is an effort to make our highways safer and to help keep habitual drunk drivers from driving on the highways," said the Cleveland County Democrat.

If the Senate approves the bill, it

would be effective December 1.

The bill provides that if a judge determines that a defendant has two or more prior convictions for offenses involving impaired driving that the motor vehicle operated by the subject becomes property subject to forfeiture.

The bill was referred to Judiciary II this week.

PAY

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Starting annual pay of a sanitation worker is \$11,440 and the recommended pay is \$14,470, a \$3,000 a year increase.

Starting annual pay of a policeman in Kings Mountain is about \$17,000 and the study recommends \$19,394.

Starting annual pay of a telecommunicator in the police department is about \$15,000 and the study recommends \$16,752.

Starting annual pay of an accounting clerk in the Administration department is \$15,288 and the study recommends \$18,470, a \$3,182 annual increase.

Starting annual pay of a receptionist is \$13,499 and the study recommends an increase of \$2,455.

Starting annual pay of accounting technicians in the finance department is \$15,288 and the study recommends an annual increase of \$3,182.

In the Finance department, the recommendations call for an annual pay increase of \$4,234 to the finance director and an increase of more than \$2,000 annually to the lead collections assistant.

The recommendations indicate that wages paid to department heads and to hourly workers are well below the average for comparable cities in the area, according to the study prepared by Management and Personnel Services of Cary and presented by MAPS president Becky Veazey in a work session with City Council Thursday night. No action was taken.

Veazey pointed out that Kings Mountain shows a turnover rate of almost 30 percent - 15 percent higher than average of other cities in the state. She suggested that the city could save money training and hiring new employees by raising the pay by 15 percent of every city

employee.

Her recommendations, if implemented, call for an increase in the weekly payroll by 6.88 percent and could cost, including the fringe benefits paid by the city, upwards of \$260,000 annually.

Projected raises by departments include: finance, \$20,772; police, \$24,806; fire, \$5,000; public works, \$58,819; cemetery, \$2,682; planning, \$1,225; aging, \$10,596; library, \$12,458; parks and recreation, \$18,137; water and sewer, \$20,377; and electric, \$12,693.

Some of the workers would see raises ranging from \$300 to \$4,000 or more a year, depending on the employee's position with the city.

"I think the consensus of the board is that we would like to give some raises but we need to see the budget figures first," said Councilwoman Norma Bridges.

Councilman Dean Spears says he doesn't think pay hikes will keep some lower-paid workers.

Councilman Phil Hager says he's tired of Kings Mountain being a training ground for other cities.

Bridges says she is concerned that an across-the-board increase would give some employees much larger raises than others who may have been on the job longer.

"If we have the money why not increase the pay of those paid \$22,000 and under 6 percent and 3 percent to those who make over \$22,000," said Bridges.

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