

BROTHERS

From 1A

Shriners Hospital in Greenville, SC to evaluate Paul and Nathan on June 11; and Justin Champion, Kenny Bridges and Lewis Nantz of Kings Mountain, who organized a golf tournament at Woodbridge to help with expenses for the van.

The presentation came as a complete surprise to the family.

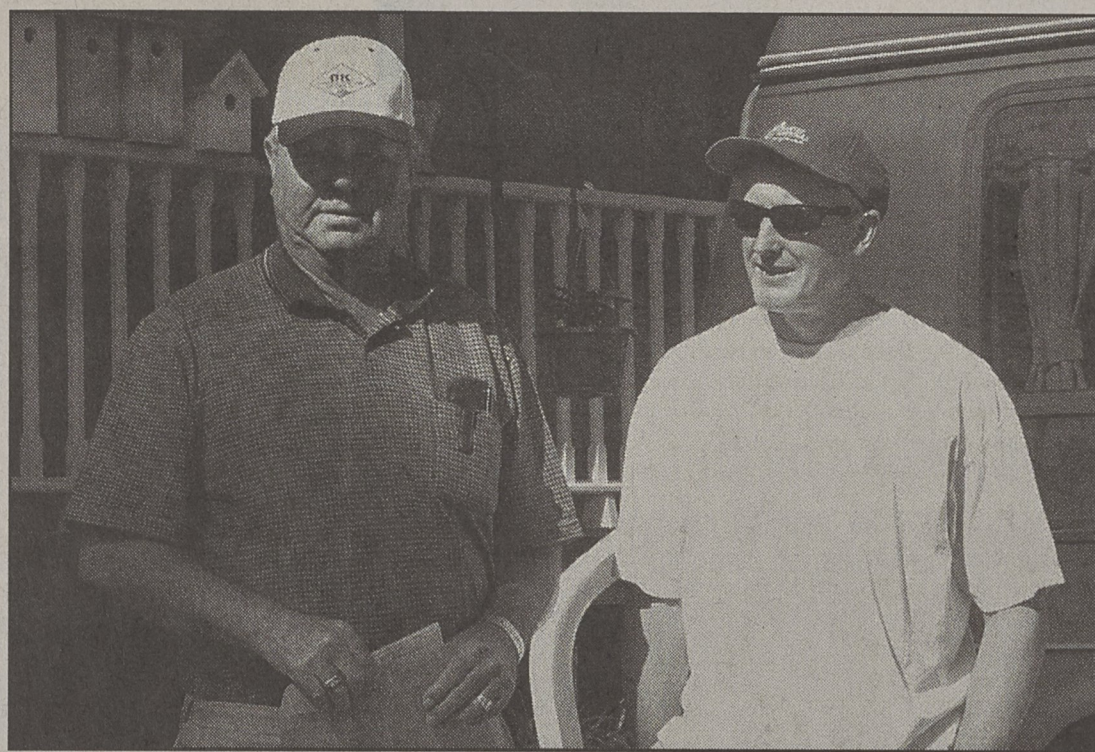
The boys' father, Barry Ledford, said he had other plans for Saturday morning but his uncle, Carl Champion, called and told him he was in from Florida and wanted to see him while he was here. He would come by around 10 o'clock.

Not only did Carl come by, but a host of Shriners, family members and friends, many of whom parked at the home of Barry's parents, Carroll and Connie Ledford, and walked through the woods to Barry's house to keep the surprise as long as possible.

"This is a blessing," Barry said.

Barry, the boys' mother Ann Harbison, and other family members' lives have revolved around the boys since they were born.

Explained grandfather, Carroll Ledford: "It's a full-time job. Just imagine - you have to get them out of bed, feed them, get them ready to go to school, take them to the bathroom, help them with their homework, and



GARY STEWART / HERALD
Carl Champion, left, presents title to handicap-equipped van to Barry Ledford, father of Paul and Nathan Ledford who were born with muscular dystrophy.

physically do everything for them."

"They set your schedule for you," added grandfather Yates Harbison. "They come first."

Since losing his job as a printer, Barry Ledford has had more time to build handicap ramps and do other projects to make life easier for the boys.

He is thankful for Principal Jerry Hoyle, teachers Billy Ramsey and Mary Richards, counselor Grace Costner and the staff at East School, who have gone the extra mile to help the kids at school. Cedar McDonald donated a wheelchair to leave at the school, which is very helpful in getting the boys out of the truck and into class every morning and back to the truck in the afternoon.

Grace Parker, Frankie Hester's grandmother, donated a wheelchair for Paul's personal use. He was riding it around the house, and Nathan was following him in the one that came with the van, Saturday

morning.

The boys stopped having fun long enough to answer a few questions.

"I like to ride around and play games," said Paul. "I like Nintendo games. I like stuffed animals and I like to swim. I like to take naps and I like to eat most foods."

Nathan is not as talkative, but said he loves to play X-Box and being outdoors.

"These chairs will help them go outside," Barry said. "Before it was hard. Paul still walks a little but it's getting harder and harder." Just walking outside to the pool was a hard, time-consuming process, Barry noted.

Barry said the experience has changed him.

"You have to learn a lot of patience," he said, "and I've never had a lot of it. They fall down a lot and you have to be very careful."

Ann said a lot of the equipment the boys need to get around easier isn't covered by insurance.

"The insurance would deny it and you have to pay out of pocket, so this really helps," she said. "The van will really help out a lot. It will be easier to get out and get around."

Previously, going shopping and other places was almost impossible. Now, Barry said, the van and two wheelchairs will make that easier.

"There's limits to what you can do and where you can go," he said. "You have to help them get dressed, go to the bathroom, and physi-

cally pick them up and put them in a truck. The simple things that people take for granted, they can't do."

Ledford credits East teacher Billy Ramsey for being at the road every morning and afternoon to help the boys unload and load at school.

"East School has really worked with both of them," he said. "They got a grant to build a handicap ramp for the playground. They're heavy to pick up. Paul weighs about 116 pounds and Nathan about 100 pounds."

Ann explained that both boys are on Predizone, which gives them strength and energy but also has side effects such as increased appetite and weight gain.

Physicians also have to keep close check on them to make sure the medication doesn't damage their livers.

Barry was making plans to build a ramp to the shower. The boys can't lift their feet but about four inches. The Hoyer Lift will get them in and out of the shower and bed without someone having to physically lift them.

"If I'd hurt my back we'd be in bad shape," Ledford said.

While the boys face some difficult days ahead, you wouldn't know it from their personality. They are both outgoing, very happy and never complain.

"This is all they know. It bothers them that they can't run and play like the rest of the kids, but they never complain," Barry said.

TOURISM

From 1A

parks as positive steps.

He believes travel and tourism will help the city's economic future.

"This is what we need to help with employment," he said.

Noell is also eyeing the possibility of a Laotian festival. Kings Mountain has a

large population of people who have resettled here from the Asian nation.

North Carolina is currently sixth in the nation as a tourist destination, Cleveland County Commissioner Ronnie Hawkins learned at the conference.

Shirley Brutko and Tim Waters of the Cleveland County Chamber also attended.

OBITUARIES

GEORGE JACKSON

KINGS MOUNTAIN - George M. Jackson, 68, 115 Omega Drive, died April 6, 2004 at his home after a courageous battle with cancer.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late Marion and Anna Childers Jackson. He was also preceded in death by his son, Russell Jackson, grandson Zachery Jackson, brothers Tommy, Floyd and Frank Jackson, and sisters Jeanette Frisbee and Carrie Almond.

He was a member of the American Legion, Bessemer City.

He is survived by his daughters, Marian Parlier and husband Bobby of Gastonia, Rheta Conley and husband Stacy of Kings Mountain, and Kathy Jackson and husband Ronnie Lawson of Kings Mountain; sons, Cory Jackson and Brian Jackson of Kings Mountain, Floyd Jackson and wife Tammy of Gaffney, SC, and Shane Jackson of Gastonia; mother of his children and close friend, Cleone Wright Jackson; brother Stoney Jackson of Kings Mountain; sister Vangie J. Ramsey of Kings Mountain; 15 grandchildren, Elizabeth McDaniel, Lori Barraza, Kirk Lawson, Amanda Parker, Brett Parlier, Jessica Conley, Brian Lawson, Philip Lawson, Courtney Jackson, Dylan Lawson, Tyler Jackson, Brent McGinnis, Dalton Jackson, Zachery Jackson, and Sara Jackson; and eight great grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Warner Doles and Bob Hope at 2 p.m. Friday, April 9, 2004 at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Midview Baptist Church Building Fund, 703 Margrace Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086; Fraley Memorial, 3025 Fraley Church Road, Gastonia, NC 28054; Harvest Baptist Church, 144 Ware Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086; and Hospice of Gaston County, 258 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia, NC 28054.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

KARA M. YARBORO

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Kara "Diddy" M. Yarboro, 65, 1817 Shelby Road, died Saturday, April 17, 2004 at Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte.

Born in Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late John A. and Estelle Ramsey Maddox. She was a homemaker and former owner/operator of Dee's Florist.

She is survived by her husband, Kenneth "Ken" Yarboro of the home; three children, Lisa Caveny and husband Dale of Elkin, Rev. Johnny Yarboro and wife Sonia of Tryon, and Dee Acuff and husband Wray of Kings Mountain; brother Earl "Tunie" Maddox of Kings Mountain; sisters Joann Conard of Cramerton and Gail Brown of Kings Mountain; and grandchildren, Elizabeth Caveny, John Caveny, Hunter Yarboro, Tanner Yarboro and Derek Acuff.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Bob Hope at 2 p.m. Monday at Harris Memorial Chapel. Interment was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Beulah Baptist Church, 140 Beulah Church Lane, Tryon, NC 28782; Midview Baptist Church, P.O. Box 41, Kings Mountain, NC 28086; or Elkin Valley Baptist Church, 118 N. Elkin Drive, Elkin, NC 28621.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

CAUCUS

From 1A

Commissioners Mary Accor and Tom Bridges also made speeches. Both are up for reelection this year.

Representatives spoke on behalf of U.S. Senate candidate Erskine Bowles, Agriculture Commissioner candidate Tom Gilmore, Tenth Congressional candidate Ann Ficher and county commission candidate Robin Hendricks.

Wayne Goodwin, a state representative from Hamlet who is running for Commissioner of Labor, gave the keynote address. The Democrat Women

raised \$2,200 with a cake auction, the most money the project has ever brought in, according to Wells.

Wells, a Kings Mountain area resident, was named Democrat of the Year by the county party.

Bowles will speak at the party's biannual Century Club Dinner, a 2004 election fundraiser, May 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Country Club. Tickets are \$100 per person or \$130 per couple.

Attorney General Roy Cooper will speak at a fund raiser tonight for state Senator Walter Dalton. The events starts at 6 p.m. at the Cleveland Country Club. Tickets are \$50.

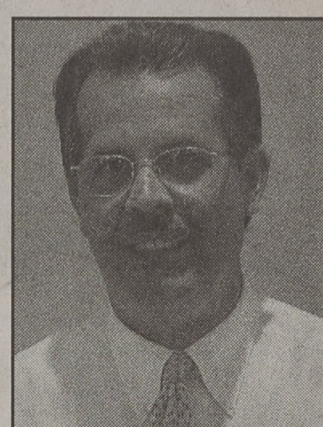
KM WEATHER REPORT

(Compiled by Kenneth Kitzmiller)

	April 14-20	Year Ago
Total precipitation	Trace	2.99
Maximum 1 day	Trace (15th)	1.91 (17th)
Month to date	2.38	11.15
Year to date	8.55	19.69
Low temperature	37 (14th)	45 (18th)
High temperature	86 (18th)	79 (15th)
Avg. temperature	65.9	60.5

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Q What are the critical behaviors that indicate living alone is a risk?

A Weight loss of greater than 6 lbs. in 6 months; falls with injuries; repeated calls to families asking what to do next; poor grooming or wearing same clothing all the time; socially isolated behavior; neighbors or others complain of unwanted or unrealistic dependence on them.

Q What are the early losses seen in any type of dementia?

A Ability to plan things and carry them through in the right sequence; loss of ability to structure day (what to do next); loss of sense of time, risk, safety; loss of reading comprehension; chronic worry; unsafe driving.

Kristi Anthony spent 14 years in the Nursing Home setting, both as a Director of Nursing Services and a Nursing Home Administrator prior to entering the Assisted Living arena in 2000.

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