

LOCAL NEWS



Doris Sipes Peterson, of Grover, has been setting up tables at local businesses to raise money for her sister Patsy Carpenter, of Kings Mountain, who is on the waiting list for a liver transplant.

Patsy Carpenter's family raising money for transplant

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Patsy Carpenter, of Kings Mountain, became ill in 2004. Her enzyme levels went through the roof. Her liver was failing.

Doctors ran some tests and found she had cirrhosis. "I never drank alcohol," Mrs. Carpenter said. But she had taken medication for her heart since the age of 19 and received a blood transfusion in 1986, both of which, doctors told her, could have led to her condition.

At the age of 52, her name is now listed on the national register United Network for Organ Sharing, with hundreds of others waiting for a liver transplant. Doctors have told her that the new liver is the answer she needs. But the transplantation and the medical costs that will follow the surgery are far from cheap.

Her family has spear-headed a fund raising campaign on her behalf. Mrs. Carpenter's sister Doris Sipes Peterson, 65, of Grover, has been setting up tables around Kings Mountain and Shelby

since last August in an effort to raise funds. This Saturday, she plans to have a table set up inside the Cleveland Mall. "I go to just about any store that will let me set up outside (or inside)," Ms. Peterson said.

Mrs. Carpenter's son Mark Carpenter, daughter-in-law Angie and grandson Matthew held a fish fry to raise money last August. Her husband, Philip, has also been a strong supporter.

Their fund raising goal is set at \$50,000. They have currently raised \$15,000, which will cover some of the post-surgery, anti-rejection medications needed after the transplant.

Mrs. Carpenter has been on the waiting list for a liver for the past two and a half years. She said that usually a patient's condition must be critical, having only a few weeks left to live, before they can receive a transplant. She goes to Duke University Medical Center every six months for scans, MRIs and tests to check her condition. "Doctors said if I started hav-

ing tumors they would move me up on the (critical) level," she said.

In addition to her travels to Duke, she goes to a doctor at Carolina's Medical Center, in Charlotte, every two months to have her blood drawn. The doctor told her that she had too much iron in her blood - another side effect of the cirrhosis. She also regularly sees her physician Dr. Scott Mayse in Kings Mountain who draws some of the blood for her to keep her from having to travel too extensively. Doctors have told her that her liver is now functioning at about 65 percent.

The Carpenter family would like to thank Mrs. Peterson for all of her love, devotion and fund raising efforts. They would also like to thank all of the businesses which have allowed Mrs. Peterson to set up and all of the people who have stopped by her table to donate.

If you would like to help in the cause, donations can be made to "Patsy Carpenter Transplant Fund c/o (care of) First Charter Bank."

Stein, Romania is now officially KM's sister city

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It's official! The city of Stein, Romania recently approved a resolution of unity between the City and Kings Mountain. Written in the books abroad and at home, Stein and KM are officially sister cities.

Kings Mountain City Council passed a resolution to name Stein, Romania as its sister city in June. Stein's City Council concluded the approval of the agreement with a sister city resolution of their own on July 26, 2007.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said that he keeps in contact with Stein's Mayor Ioan Lucaciu every so often through emails. Lucaciu visited Kings Mountain with other delegates in June this year. During their week-long stay they had a chance to experience Relay for Life, the 2007 Over the Mountain Triathlon, and to tour city departments, the hospital, and other sites.

"We want to continue to learn from each other in cultural, economic development and other areas," Murphrey said. "There are a lot of different things that we can do for each other. We'll both work on those things together."

Romania was caught under the foot of oppression until about 11 years ago, in 1996, when communistic rule was

swept from its power. Romanians are now a free, democratic people, learning the way of their new freedom.

"They're so eager to learn after being under communism when they were so isolated," Murphrey said. "Now it's like they're just waking up and seeing how big the world is for the first time. Freedom is something we take for granted, though we shouldn't. But they aren't taking it for granted."

He said that he really enjoyed their visit and they seemed to really enjoy visiting Kings Mountain when they were here. He learned a lot just listening to some of their stories about their homeland.

"One of the things I learned when they were here is that they appreciate the democracy so much and the freedom that they have now and they were under such oppression before, under the communism rule," Murphrey said. "They've just come a long way and they have a long way to go. But they're so eager, cooperative, friendly and excited. They are very eager to exchange ideas, as we are. We are all brothers. They are good people."

Although freedom may be relatively new to Kings Mountain's sister city, Stein, Romania dates back to about 500 years. The country is well known for the legendary folklore of Count Dracula, of Transylvania.

Creationism class offered at CCC

Cleveland Community College will offer the class, Scientific Creationism, September 10 through December 3. The class will meet each Monday from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The registration fee is \$55.

Instructor Jon Poston notes that most people think of creationism as strictly a matter of faith which contradicts scientific evidence. Further, he explains that evolution is widely accepted as being well founded in factual data. Poston asserts that the scientific data

does not indeed prove the theory of evolution (which is why it is a theory and not a law) and that all conclusions are a matter of the interpretation of data.

The class will introduce Walt Brown's Hydroplate Theory as an alternative explanation of many geographic features on the earth (and some outside the earth). The class will include discussion of the fallacies of the theory of evolution and the scientific evidence supporting creationism. For more information, contact Chris Nanney at 704-484-4117.