



**EMILY WEAVER/HERALD**  
**MEET THE CITY'S JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS** - Kings Mountain Fire Department's Junior Firefighters are, left to right, Ryan Bridges, Marty Lockridge, Trevor Mashburn (in back), Noah Allen, Brandon Gantt, Joey Carroll (in back), Chris Allen, Brandon Parker, and Bubba Moss, accompanied by Firefighter Engineer Rocky Pack.

## White Oak celebrates Nursing Home Week

'Just couldn't find a better place to be'

By **EMILY WEAVER**  
 Editor

Joey Turner, 69, is happy to be a resident of White Oak Manor in Kings Mountain, where he said he's a name not a number.

May 10-14 was National Nursing Home Week and Turner, along with the staff and residents, celebrated the occasion with the theme of "Enriching Every Day at White Oak Manor-Kings Mountain Theme Park".

On Monday, they celebrated with beach music with the Many Faces of Johnny B performing. The afternoon was filled with beach games, building sand castles, and a bubble blowing contest. On Tuesday, they watched the movie "Grease", enjoyed games in the "Rydell Senior Carnival", milkshakes in "The Soda Shop" and a visit from "Elvis".

On Wednesday, White Oak enriched the day on the "Riverboat Queen", spending the afternoon "gambling" and playing Bingo. On Thursday, they enjoyed entertainment at the "pavilion". "The day started with pianist Bobby Burson and the afternoon was filled with the WOM Pavilion Talents," according to a recent WOM-KM newsletter.

On Friday, residents and staff celebrated with a "county fair", starting the day with a petting zoo. They ate "country vittles" for lunch and played "Cow Patty Bingo" and judged a blue ribbon contest in the afternoon.

They ended the day and the week with a Bluegrass country hoe down provided by the Whetstone Mountain Boys.

Turner has been a resident of White Oak Manor for two-and-a-half years. Three days after his wife suddenly passed away before Christmas in 2008, he fell in his house. He



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**Joey Turner, left, and Amy Mayes, his "buddy" at White Oak Manor.**

was taken to the hospital and was treated for pneumonia.

"The doctors wanted me to come down here and stay," he said. Turner suffers from emphysema, COPD, asthma and has had a heart attack.

"After she passed away I didn't have anyone at home to help me," he said.

He was nervous about going to a nursing home and wasn't sure what to expect.

"But when I got down here and got to know the residents, knowing people on my own level, it made me feel better," he said.

It wasn't Turner's first time in White Oak Manor. He had come to the facility several times to visit patients and donate his time.

After joining the Mount Holly Police Department in the 60's, Turner, who served in the U.S. Army, decided to pursue a career as a certified nursing assistant.

He worked as a C.N.A. for 45 years at the old Gaston Memorial Hospital, Gaston Hospital, the Presbyterian hospital and Kings Mountain Hospital. After a heart attack, he retired, and said that he looked forward to a life of leisure and traveling with his wife. Her time came too soon.

Missing her is hard. But perhaps the smiling faces and

the attentive ears of those at White Oak Manor have helped in a way.

"Without socialization we fail to thrive," said Amy Mayes, Turner's "buddy", who works in the activity department.

She brings his Kings Mountain Herald to him every week, simple gestures that mean a lot.

Turner bragged about Crystal Lombardo, the White Oak administrator; the nursing staff, housekeeping, the cooks and the activity helpers. They have all made a difference in his life today.

"A lot of people come in and donate their time playing games with us," he said.

"Joey's a special resident for us," Lombardo said.

He also thanked Nursing Director Judy Dover, who he added is a "fine person".

"We're his family and he's

our family," Dover said, with a grin.

In the Activity Department, he gives credit to Director Kathy Payne, Amy Mayes, Sharon Wilson and Ashley Melton. "They do a real fine job with giving us things to do," he said.

He participates in nearly all of the activities White Oak offers, including Bingo games, Sunday school, church services, music programs, bag auctions, exercise programs, poker night, Wii video games, and karaoke.

"I enjoy everything they do here," he said. He added that he also enjoys going outside, when his allergies aren't acting up, and on outings.

"Last year for Christmas Kathy (Payne) drove the van and took us to Owens Auditorium (in Charlotte) to see the Living Christmas Tree," he said.

## Shutterlight Group plans first photo contest for June 12

The Shutterlight Group, a photography club at the Kings Mountain Art Center, is having its first photography competition and will be accepting entries 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, June 12. A complete prospectus is available online at photo-club.southernartssociety.org and at the KM Art Center in the old depot, 301 N. Piedmont Ave.

Kristy McSwain, a Cleveland County native and the owner of Intimate Visions by Kristy Photography based in Kings Mountain, will judge the contest. Awards will be presented at a public reception on June 20 at the depot.

For more information, email photoclub@southernartssociety.org or call 704-473-9971.

### CORRECTION

Reagan Childers, the youngest bra designer in the Southern Arts Society's new exhibit in honor of breast cancer and those affected by it, was mistakenly identified as Meagan Childers in last week's Herald. A ninth-grade student at Kings Mountain High, Reagan Childers volunteered to decorate a bra for the exhibit currently on display at the Kings Mountain Art Center, in the old depot, 301 N. Piedmont Ave.



**EMILY WEAVER/HERALD**  
 Assistant Scout leader S. Nelson Clemons, wearing a 1970s Boy Scout uniform, stands with his son Cory Clemons, a 1st Class Scout. They are both members of Troop 95 sponsored by El Bethel United Methodist Church.

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