

# NEEDED: One alert dog for a restful night's sleep

Twelve-year-old Tyler Withers of Kings Mountain was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes on October 2, 2007. He and his family have experienced many sleepless nights, closely monitoring his blood sugar. For Tyler, it is a never-ending cycle of finger pricking to make sure those levels are not too high or low. One fluctuation either way, when he sleeps, could lead to seizures, organ failure, diabetic retinopathy, coma, even death.

It's called "dead in bed" syndrome and it's what Type 1 diabetics and their loved ones fear more than anything. But until there's a cure for this auto-immune disorder that affects 25.8 million American children and adults, there's a dog. A diabetic alert dog, specifically trained to sense through scent when blood sugar falls out of a healthy range,

has been shown to save lives.

Tyler and his parents, Ty and Shanna Withers, hope to have one soon, for the sake of a restful night's sleep and peace of mind.

"Through scent, the Diabetic Alert Dog would be also to sense when Tyler's blood sugar levels are off and would then alert him and those around that there is a problem. His dog will be able to detect a high or low 20 to 45 minutes prior to any monitor," wrote his mother, Shanna.

The Withers are hosting a benefit golf tournament to help raise money for a service dog. The four-man captain choice tournament will be held at Woodbridge Golf Club in Kings Mountain on Saturday, April 28. Registration is due by April 7th.

The first 25 teams will tee off at 8

a.m. Lunch will be provided. To register or for more information, email Shanna at shannawithers@gmail.com or Ty Withers at tywithers@gmail.com or call 704-473-8880 or 704-473-8521.

"Tyler is getting to the age where he will want a little independence. So when he is by himself and in case of diabetic shock the dogs are even trained to alert 911. The dog would accompany Tyler to public affairs, his sports events and even when he travels, always keeping a keen alert of his blood sugar levels," Shanna said.

Tyler is an active sixth grader at Kings Mountain Intermediate.

Diabetic alert dogs are trained through Guardian Angel Service Dogs out of Montpelier, Va. Tyler is now on



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Twelve-year-old Tyler Withers is in search of a dog...not just any dog.

See NEEDED, 5A



Photos by EMILY WEAVER

Left to right, Boy Scouts John Bridges, Paul Pillado, Eddie Grabert, Garret Allen, Sean Downey, Mayor Rick Murphrey, Scouts Ross Clark, Hunter Cooke, Randall Trahan and Alex Hannon.

BELOW: Police Chief Melvin Proctor and Capt. Jerry Tessner, l-r, introduce Boy Scouts Randall Trahan and Alex Hannon to dispatcher LaVern Smith - KMPD's first line of defense.

## SCOUTS: shadow city

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name of a department the Scout would shadow. Paul Pillado, an Eagle Scout from Troop 93 drew Public Works. Fellow troop member and Eagle Scout John Bridges was assigned the fire department.

Troop 39's Sean Downey, a volunteer with the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad, began his morning in the city's codes department before a trip to the fire station. Eagle Scout Ross Clark of Troop 92, a junior Kings Mountain firefighter, toured the city's water department.

Randall Trahan and Alex Hannon, both of Troop 95, rode along with the Kings Mountain Police and toured the KMPD headquarters.

Garret Allen of Troop 39 tagged along with the mayor, sitting in his office, checking out his walls of photos of events and people Murphrey's met during his tenure. Allen was dubbed "mayor" for the morning. And the first order of business on this particular morning was to go out and investigate a complaint. A hillside in the city was riddled with burrows.

"We think it may be a groundhog infestation," the mayor said. No word on those shadows.

He told Allen that part of his job is to help find a solution and to "get the right people involved" to help when there's a problem. The mayor and his "mini me" toured local industrial sites buzzing with new activity and then headed off to Moss Lake - the city's 15-billion gallon reservoir.

Eddie Grabert of Troop 91 and Hunter Cooke of Troop 92 doubled up for a double treat, touring the city's electric and gas departments. The two looked at a bucket truck and handled some of the lineman's tools.

With a bit of enthusiasm Grabert explained how they were shown a truck handled by controls similar to a video game console and watched a lineman scale a pole with

"spikes in his shoes".

Asking if he would ever like to climb a pole like the lineman he saw, he said "no". It wasn't the height so much that unnerved him as the thought of those spikes, which easily dug into wood, that could do the same to one's legs with one wrong step.

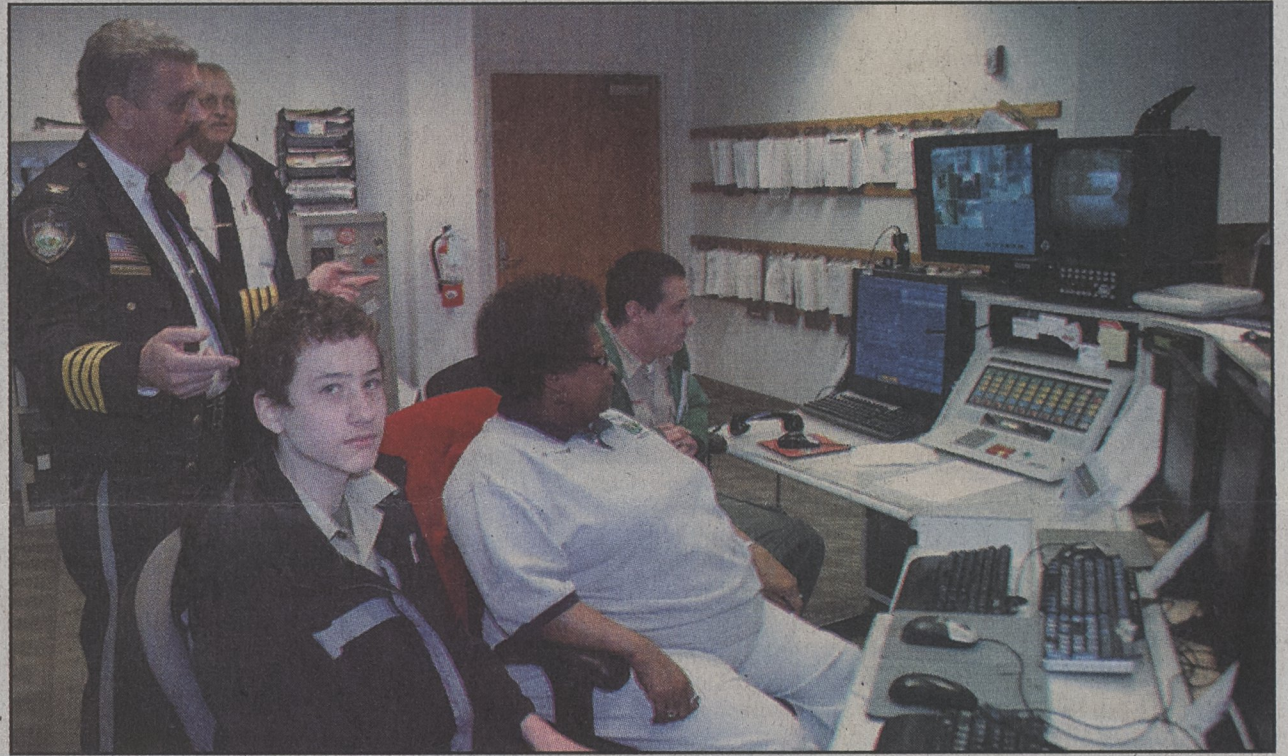
"That would leave a mark," he agreed.

Then, Grabert said, they went into a building and "walked down a hallway for a while" until they reached a door that read "STAFF ONLY". "We went in there," he said, with a grin.

In the room, he saw the city's SCADA system illuminated by a computerized map of Kings Mountain's electric grid. Cooke and Grabert were shown how a power outage in a particular sector shows up in green.

This was Cooke's first time shadowing departments in the city. He said he enjoyed it. And a little after noon the Scouts reunited at the Patrick Senior Center for a pizza lunch.

This annual City-Scout Shadow day began in Kings Mountain as early as the 1950s, according to Scout Master Tommy King, who took over leading the program in 1958. The Boy



Scouts, which celebrated its 100th birthday in America in 2010, began here two years before it was nationally chartered, by a Kings Mountain troop based out of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.

King told The Herald in 2010 that Kings Mountain was the only municipality he knew of that allows local scouts to shadow city employees.

"We are very appreciative of the city doing this," he added.

"We're always very proud to have the scouts come downtown and work with

the different department heads," said the mayor, who

is an Eagle Scout himself.

city and we learn from them."

"They learn a lot about the

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