

What a difference a year makes

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What a difference Easter 2013 makes for Abigail Marie (Abby) Nelms, a 13-pound bundle of joy who weighed 440 grams or 15 ounces at her birth May 6, 2012 at Levine Children's Hospital.

The baby was welcomed home August 31, 2012 by her parents, Brandi and Daniel Nelms, and her older sister, nearly three-year old Aina, and other members of their doting family.

"We thank God for both our healthy daughters," said their proud mother.

Everything was great during Brandi's pregnancy until around 19-20 weeks.

Last Easter season the parents were anxiously waiting to hear more results from doctors who suspected the baby she was carrying had a rare chromosome issue called Triploidy, a defect not compatible with life.

A month before another ultrasound found the baby was not growing in her mother's womb and

that the blood was reversing through the umbilical cord after each beat of the mother's heart. "Head straight to Carolinas Medical Center they told me, since this could kill the baby within a few days," said a devastated Brandi.

A month before that a blood test turned out positive for Spina Bifida but a comprehensive ultrasound found no sign of Spina Bifida.

"I just wanted to hide last Easter, I didn't want to talk to anyone. Our families were so supportive but we were so scared we might lose our second daughter and it was hard to wait until Easter Monday morning to call the doctor," said Brandi.

Everything was negative for a chromosome defect and everything was negative for Spina Bifida.

"I felt there was now hope for our daughter to live," said Brandi.

More ultrasounds were ordered and specialists said once the baby became big enough she would be delivered but the bad news to the parents was that because the baby was so tiny that it could suffer severe handicaps.

Brandi said the staff at Levine Children's Hospital "was so good to us and tried to prepare us for what could happen."

Prior to May 4 they had encountered a very grim outlook for the baby's life. "I was kept on constant fetal monitoring but severe handicap was the phrase that was always in the back of my mind," she said.

The weight of the world was beginning to hit the young mother like a ton of bricks. All the family arrived at the hospital on May 6, 2012. "Daniel held my hand and I was more at peace," said Brandi. At 2:30 p.m. that day the baby was delivered breathing on her own.

"It sounded like a kitten crying and it was the most beautiful sound in the world. I didn't get to see her in the operating room but Daniel made a picture and at 11 p.m. last May 6 I met Abigail Marie Nelms for the first time. I was in love," said her mother.

Abby, who steadily gained weight in the hospital for four months has no medical problems, sees only two doctors now, instead



A happy, healthy Abby Nelms in the arms of her mother, Brandi.

of seven, for checkups. The brown-eyed baby has brown hair and friends say she looks like her mommy.

Abby is the granddaughter of Shane and Pam Baity of Kings Mountain and Steve and Linda Jenkins of Bessemer City, and

great-granddaughter of Jo Ann Baity of Kings Mountain, Helen Price of Bessemer City and Roland Jenkins of Gastonia. Obviously they and aunts and uncles—Angela Marie Jenkins, Jason Jenkins, Billy Nelms and Lyndsey Baity, have big plans to spoil the baby.

Brock announces retirement after 42 years in TV

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Kings Mountain's Joe Brock officially retired immediately following the ACC Finals game Sunday, Miami vs UNC, after more than 42 years in the television industry. An announcement was made during the game wishing him well.

As an engineer, Joe has come a long way in the television business, from starting out working with vacuum tubes in the late sixties and early seventies, to today's high definition television.

Every time advancement has been made in the technical side of TV, it's been like starting all over, and Joe has had to keep up with every change along the way.

Being the EIC (Engineer in Charge) can be a nerve-racking job. A lot of people think that working in sports is all fun and games. But what these people don't realize is that the whole production of the game lies on Joe's shoulders, from the cameras to the studio and everything in between.

There's nothing fun about looking up at a monitor during a sports event, and seeing a blank screen! The problem must be located, and most of the time, it is Joe's responsibility to know how to solve the problem, whether it be something as simple as a plug coming loose, to something as complex as a camera going down. Joe has to know how to fix it.

And fix it, he does. The show must go on!!!

His first experience working in TV came when he was 18, just out of high school, working for the summer at WSPA-TV in Spartanburg. Joe started USC-Spartanburg in the fall and continued working for WSPA. During the next few years he continued his studies at American Christian College in Tulsa, OK where he built a 100,000 watt TV studio, worked with WGGG in Greenville, SC, then moved to Rock Hill, SC, where he built a studio and worked as an engineer for WNSC in Rock Hill, a South Carolina Public Television affiliate.

After several years with WNSC, Joe started working with Jefferson Pilot Broadcasting. For 10 years he "ran" a remote television truck and covered mostly ACC football and basketball games.

In 1984, with an eight-months pregnant wife, and a one-year old son, Joe moved from Rock Hill to Kings Mountain. After much consideration, Kings Mountain looked like a great place to raise a family and still be in good proximity to Charlotte.

The Brocks lived in the White Plains area of Kings Mountain. In addition to his full-time job with Jefferson Pilot, and doing some freelance work with Turner Sports and ESPN, Joe opened a VCR repair business beside Sydney Dixon's barbershop on Bethlehem Road. Along with repairing VCRs and other small electronics, the shop also offered video and game rentals. The whole family pitched in to help with the business, which later moved to Mountain Street downtown.

After free-lancing for several years, Joe was offered a job with ESPN in 1993. This job seemed really exciting to everyone else, but he soon discovered that being gone from home around 300 days a year was no holiday.

With ESPN, Joe covered Seniors Golf, NASCAR, World Cup Soccer and other sporting events including Super Bowl XXVIII in Atlanta in 1994.



Joe Brock after covering his final basketball game Sunday afternoon.

And speaking of the Super Bowl, imagine Joe's feeling, deep in the pit of his stomach, when he received a phone call from the ESPN studio in Bristol, CT informing him that the feed to Japan was down...and once again, whose job was it to troubleshoot the problem? You guessed it, Joe's!

Oh, and let's don't forget the Women's National Bowling Finals in Columbia, TN when the power went off in the entire town due to an unexpected ice storm after a warming trend. The only power around was the generator used for the television equipment including the mobile studio. So, once again, Joe Brock saved the day. By connecting power for spotlights and one bowling lane, from the generator, the finals

went on as planned. It just took a little longer, and a whole lot more clothes since there was no heat!

In 1998, Joe decided that he'd had enough of traveling and missing so much of his two sons' lives. He decided to accept a position in Phoenix, AZ with Southwest Productions. On June 6, he flew home and called the family in to watch a video in the family room. It was a beautiful home in Chandler, AZ and a realtor was giving a tour of the home and pool area. "This is our new home and we are moving as soon as possible," Joe told the family. Everyone was literally speechless.

After a giant yard sale, and arranging for an auctioneer to sell most of the other furnishings, the Brocks headed to AZ on July 20,

1998.


The boys, Stuart 15, and Daniel 14, took to Arizona like ducks to water. School was on a nine weeks on, two weeks off schedule, didn't start 'til 8:30, and they got out at 2:30! In addition, they had an hour-long open lunch. They made friends quickly, and soon the Brock house was buzzing with teenagers. It was nice to have dad coming home every night and joining in the family fun!

After much consideration, Joe decided to take Jefferson Pilot up on an offer to come back to NC in 2000, with the understanding that he would do little or no traveling. Stuart decided that he wanted to graduate from Kings Mountain High School, so he came back with Dad. Daniel and Mom stayed a few years longer before heading back "home" to Kings Mountain.

With Stuart now in Ohio, and Daniel in South Dakota, what does Joe plan to do with all his free time? Free time? What free time? Besides building immersion circulators for restaurants in his workshop at home, he loves working in his yard and garden. He grows everything from almonds to tobacco and popcorn and everything in between. Joe has recently purchased 12 acres of wooded property in Rutherford County. He is having a ball clearing the land and making plans for the future. "Let's see.... here's a perfect spot to build that 'little cabin in the woods'."

Now Joe says that it's time to kick back and enjoy life!

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Harold's Weekly Health Tip...
Should I get allergy shots?

Q: I'm tired of fighting my allergy symptoms. What do allergy shots do? How long would I have to get them?
A: Allergy shots, also called immunotherapy, are best for people with severe allergy symptoms or those that last more than three months every year. They can also help people who can't take allergy medicines because of side effects or interactions with other medications. The shots work by slowly increasing the dose of the substances (or allergens, such as pollen and pet dander) that trigger your symptoms, ultimately lowering your sensitivity to them. While the shots don't "cure" allergies, they should reduce your symptoms noticeably. Most people eventually discontinue them completely (although if you move to a different area, you might need a new round of shots to protect you against specific pollens there). In most cases, allergy shots don't cause side effects, other than redness and slight swelling near the injection site. Each injection does pose a slight risk of allergic reaction, however, so you always need to get your shot at a doctor's office and stay on-site for a few minutes afterward.

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