

Breath of life: Kim Pearce: "It's just nice being able to take a deep breath."

Student with cystic fibrosis looks for happy homecoming

By BILL COUTANT
STAPI WATER

I arrison High School's homecoming celebration will be one Kim Pearce has looked forward to more than most of her classmates.

In fact, for the 17-year-old senior it will literally be a homecoming. She will have endured more than 16 months of waiting for a lung transplant to give her another chance at life and an end to a battle against cystic fibrosis.

"It's just nice being able to take a deep hreath," said Kim, who had received a new pair of lungs Aug. 11 at the University of North Carolina Medical Center in Chaple Hill.

"Kim and her brother Brett have had CF since birth. The disease usually claims its victims before their 90th birthday. It causes heavy mucus to build up in the lungs, leading to infection and scarring. Kim's twin sizter, Kristle, died from CF when she was 12.

Kim's mother, Lynn, moved Kim, Brett and their younger brother, Bradley, to Chaple Hill so that they could be ready if healthy lungs became available for transplant. Brett, a freshman at UNC, is awaiting a chance for the procedure.

"I'm really happy there is good nows for a change," said

"I'm really happy there is good news for a change," said family friend Sally Zimmer.

Death a blow to family

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The death of Kristie five
years ago was a blow to the
Pearce family and added to the
desperation felt by her mother,
who hoped to somehow save her
other two children with CF.
Bradley, the youngest family
member at ago 8, is adopted and
doesn't suffer from the disease.

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"Two times as many people die waiting for lungs than get the operation," said Lynn Pearce from her North Carolina home. "At the time Kristic died, there were trestments available in Toronto and England, but Kristic did not want be away from home. I can see Kristic when I look at her (Kim).

"Kristic planned hat own fu-

"Kristie planned her own fu-neral and told me, "When Kim-mie's 17, you'll know what I would have looked like," "Lynn Pearce said.



Some rigorous therapy

Lynn Pearce

Some rigorous therapy
Despite the death and a divorce from her former husbond,
Randy, Lynn Pearce has been
living in Chapel Hill with the
hope that Kim and Brett can
both be saved. They both have
been undergoing rigorous physical-therapy regimens to prepare
for their operations.

"I'm a trained nurse, which
helps." Lynn said.
During the anaious months
Kim has kept up her studies at
a special bospital school using
the texts and class materials
that her classmates in Farmington Hille use. In fact, she's been
more than keeping up.
"She'a a straight-A student
in every sense of the word," said
Ellic Case, a tracher at Harrison who specializes in working
with students who are physicallyor otherwise impaired. "She
just desent give up, both in
school and otherwise."

Dr. Fran Detterbeck, Kim's
doctor and a specialist in performing lung transplants for CP
patlents, said his patient is responding well to the operation
and the aftermath, a crucial
time when her body is trying to
reject the new organs.
"CP will not come back in
transplanted lungs," said Det
terbeck, who attended the Univoratty of Michigan And
Northwestern Medical School.
"CP is also in the rest of the
body — the Gl' (gastrointestinal) tract and the liver. But
she's not having any major
trouble with it."

Maybe even cheerleading

Maybe even cheerleading
Although he doesn't know the
long-term prognosis, Detter-

beck said Kim will not be re-stricted in any way. She could even go back to cheerleading— something she plans to do. "We have a lot to learn," he said. "It is only over the last 10 years that there have been a lot of lung transplants."

And although recent break-throughs in gene therapy can help CF victime when the con-dition is detected early, pa-tients like Kim and Brett are too far advanced for that to do any good.

For two of Kim's closest

tients like Kim and Brett are too far advanced for that to do any good.

For two of Kim's closest friends at Harrision, Kim Said and Amy Tobe, the homecoming will also be specially speci

Kim Pearce's friends now know just how important do-nating is.

"The first thing I did when I got my (driver's) license was fill out my denor card," Tobe said.

Lead levels in water drop in local cities

BY SUE BUCK STAFF WRITER

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WAITE

Tap water in Farmington and
farmington Hills has lower lead
levels this year than last, according to tests performed carlier in
the year by the Detroit Water and
Sewer Department.
Tests last year showed unacceptable levels of the metal.
"We have no good reason why
that (this year's acceptable reading) hoppened," said Jim Porter,
Oakland County's deputy drain
commissioned," said Jim Porter,
Oakland County's deputy drain
commissioned." So the side of the side
in good reason and communities which passed the first round
of tests didn't pass this time.

The acceptable levels are set by
the federal Environmental Protection Agency, which takes action if more than 10 percent of
homes sampled have more than
15 parts per billion of lead in the
water.

Lead poses no problem unless

Lead poses no problem unless it exceeds 100 parts per billion,

experts say.

City officials stressed last year
that water bought from the City of
Detroit wasn't the problem. Lead
service lines and inside plumbing

service intes and insue plumbing are the concern.

"Fixtures in the home are leaching lead," Porter said. Brass faucets and chrome-plated brass faucets are culprits.

As one possible explanation why lead levels are lower this year, Kevin Gushman, Farming-

ton assistant director of public services, suggested that "the most likely sites were tested first — homes with lead-based solders and lead services (lead-in lines). "Farmington has agreeasively replaced lead service lines, so last year we only had a few (homes) in our area. Out of ten homes tested, only one exceeded the limit the first round of tests."

Both Farmington Hills city manager Bill Costick and public services director Tom Blaseli wer out of town and unavailable for comment.

services director Tom Biasell were out of town and unavailable for comment.

Brass, which can contain some lead, leaches lead into the water. Most problems can be avoided by flushing water line seek morning before using any drinking or cooking water. If a fauter has gone unused for more saix hours, experts advise letting the water run from the top-before using it for drinking. Copper leved by the conting the cooking.

Copper leved bave been within acceptable levels. Porter said.

Fedoral town minimize lead in drinking water must be in place by Jan. 1, 1998. This program includes concerned to the control, source water treatment (if warranted), an Lud is a common metal found throughout the environment in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, food, certain types of pottery, porcelain, pewer and water.

"Lead can pose a significant risk to your health if too much of it enters your body," according to written information supplied by Porter. "Lead builds up in the written information supplied by Forter. "Lead builds up in the body over many years and can cause damage to the brain, red blood cells, and kidneys. The greatest risk is to young children and pregnant women. Amounts of lead that won't hurt adults can slow down normal mental and physical development of growing bodies."

"Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of infants who drink baby formulas and concentrated juices that are mixed with water," according to the Oakland County drain commissioner's office.

Lead cannot be seen, tasted or smelled in drinking water.

Lead is unusual among drinking-water contaminants in that its seldom occurs in water supplies like rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion of materials containing lead in the the water distribution system and in household plumbing water primarily as a result of the corrosion of materials containing lead in the the water distribution system and in household plumbing water primarily as a result of the corrosion of materials to the lead content of faucest, pipes and other plumbing materials to 8.0 percent.



Tina Abbate-Marzolf

Senior dinner hosts speaker on housing

The Farmington Chapter of the Older Women's League will kick off its 1933-94 season with a potluck aupper at the Farmington Library, 23550 Liberty Street, on Monday, Oct. 4, at 6 p.m.

Speaker of the evening will be Christina Abbate-Marzolf, Health and Housing Specialist for the Area Agency on Aging.

Abbate-Marzolf s address will focus on subsidized housing, com-

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John Argy of Grosse Pointe Park.

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