

CS worker plans benefit run for liver transplant patient

By Cray Pixley
Reporter

A College Station postal worker hopes to raise \$150,000 with a benefit run to help pay for a 6-year-old girl's liver transplant.

Margie Morris is working with the city of College Station to organize the run to raise money for Myranda Murchison of Jewett, who was born with biliary atresia, a malfunction of the liver.

Morris, who is related distantly to

Murchison, says she realized Murchison would need financial aid for the upcoming transplant surgery after seeing a television newscast about her.

"Myranda was in the hospital at the start of 1987 for about a month with peritonitis," Morris said. "She was released from the hospital, but doctors told the family Myranda would soon need a liver transplant — that she couldn't go for much longer before her liver failed."

Murchison currently is on a list of

patients needing liver transplants, but setbacks could come up, Morris said.

"Anytime Myranda is hit with an infection, the doctors must remove her from the list of possible liver transplant candidates," she said. "As soon as she is clear of infections, her name is re-entered on the list. She is in good health now; her feedings are supplemented with high protein oils."

But the cost of the liver transplant also is an ominous problem, she said.

"Children's Medical Center in Dallas, where the transplant surgery would be done, charges \$200,000 for the operation," Morris said. "The Murchisons' insurance will pay \$50,000. That leaves \$150,000 to be raised for Myranda's surgery."

Morris said she and her husband got the idea for the benefit run when they were discussing what could be done in College Station to raise money for Myranda's operation.

"The idea of a run just caught on, and I began checking with the city of College Station about what would be involved in the organization of a run," she said.

The run is scheduled for April 11 and probably will begin at Central Park, although the route has not yet been chosen, she said.

The run, which is being co-sponsored by the Coca-Cola Co. and the city of College Station, will consist of two races — a six-kilometer walk and a 10-kilometer run. A \$10 entry fee will be required, and T-shirts will be given to all participants.

A jazz festival has been scheduled at the same time as the run, Morris added.

Any organizations interested in having game booths at the jazz festival to raise money for the transplant surgery can contact Sheila Mason, program supervisor for College Station Parks and Recreation Department.

Morris said she is trying to enlist volunteers to help organize and operate the run.

Any contributions towards Myranda's operation can be made to Myrandathon, P.O. Box 9351, College Station, Texas 77840.

Barton works to raise funds for 6-year-old's transplant

By Cray Pixley
Reporter

U.S. Rep. Joe Barton announced Monday that he is working to raise \$100,000 toward the liver transplant for a 6-year-old Jewett girl.

Barton also asked citizens of Brazos County and surrounding areas to help raise an additional \$25,000 needed for Myranda Murchison's transplant.

Murchison, who suffers from biliary atresia, a chronic liver disease, will have to undergo a liver transplant if she is expected to live.

"The Murchison's insurance will pay \$50,000, and \$25,000 has already been raised from various contributions and fund-raisers," Barton said in a press conference. "I am working with the Murchisons to get Medicaid to make up the difference above \$100,000."

"There was a national organ transplant act passed in Congress in 1984, but it did not set a payment schedule for liver transplants."

The liver transplant surgery, which will be performed at Children's Medical Center in Dallas, will cost about \$200,000, Barton said.

The hospital has agreed to accept Murchison as a patient if a deposit of \$100,000 is made.

Some transplants are covered automatically by Medicaid or Medicare, but because liver transplant op-

erations are new, they do not yet have automatic coverage, Barton said.

"The bottom line is that \$25,000 must still be raised for Myranda's surgery even if we do get the money from Medicaid."

"I'm asking everybody in this area to pitch in and help Myranda and her parents to raise the additional \$25,000 as soon as possible."

Barton made a special plea to Texas A&M students to help in the fund-raising activities.

"I think this would be a great project for A&M students to undertake," he said. "It would show tremendous Aggie spirit by helping to raise money for the surgery."

Several events have been arranged in March to raise money for Murchison, Barton said.

"Myranda Murchison Day is scheduled for March 21, and there will be a barbecue at Harriman Park in Buffalo," he said. "I plan to be present at the barbecue."

Contributions toward Murchison's surgery may be sent to the Community Benevolence Fund P.O. Box 125 Jewett, Texas 75846. Contributions should be marked for Myranda Murchison.

"We are working with the Internal Revenue Service to try to qualify the contribution as tax deductible," Barton said.

Radio station asks listeners to give programming ideas

KTSR 92 changes formats from KTAW 92

By Lisa Vandiver
Reporter

First there were build-your-own salads, then build-your-own tacos and now KTSR-Star 92 FM is featuring a build-your-own radio station.

The former Bryan-College Station KTAW radio station changed ownership in February, resulting in numerous changes in the station's format.

The changes in format are coming from a "master file" created by the listeners of the station. The listeners are asked to send in their comments and suggestions pertaining to what they want in a radio station.

"This file does not necessarily mean that if I get 25 letters telling me to play Bob Seger that I'm going to be featuring Seger every hour," Famous Amos, the station's program director, said. "Basically, I'm getting the feel for the market. I think we can create a radio station which understands the complexion of the market to the point where we can get everyone to spend a little part of his day listening to us."

The response has been quite overwhelming to Amos, who refused to give his real name.

"In 16 years of doing radio, I've never, ever gotten this much mail," Amos said, as he slapped a file of letters on the desk.

The transformation from one station to another occurred Feb. 5 when the station played more than two hours of "You've Got to Fight

for Your Right to Party," the rock hit by The Beastie Boys.

At about 3 p.m., when the song played for the last time, a voice on the radio said, "Star 92. KTSR. The noise is gone."

"Basically, we have taken a lot of flack for changing the format,"

"Basically, we have taken a lot of flack for changing the format. I listened to this radio station before, and it really wasn't very much of anything."

— Famous Amos, KTSR 92 program director

Amos said. "I listened to this radio station before, and it really wasn't very much of anything."

Although he has received many complaints about the change, Amos is not worried about the new format.

"The rock 'n' roll roots the previous station had were a) not very deep, and b) had disintegrated into a kind of a nondescript Top-40," Amos said.

Star 92 is playing basically the same music, he said, but is doing it in a more professional and streamlined manner. The station is trying to change its audience to focus on more than just the 14-year-old audience targeted by KTAW, Amos continued.

"You can't exist in an economy such as this one on a diet of 14-year-old listeners," Amos said.

But the changes have created some controversy on the Texas A&M campus.

Karen Gribshaw, a sophomore business major said, "I like the music they're playing and I think it's a good change of pace for the Bryan-College Station area. It's great to have something new and different." Senior journalism major Frank Hada disagreed.

"It's typical of the redundant programming style prevalent in College Station," he said. "It's all pop-oriented garbage designed to make a profit."

But Dawn Burch, a junior recreation and parks major, likes the music.

"I really like it," she said. "It's a really great alternative to the other junk on the radio."

Mike Rhymes, a sophomore general studies major said, "I think it's sad. I wish they would do more contemporary stuff. I think they play too many oldies."

Other station changes include new disc jockeys, new owners and new staff members. Amos said the entire FM staff is new, including the news director, Gary Mason.

Mason said, "We are coming in because we want to work with Bill Hicks, the new general manager, and the assembled talent. Hicks is like the rising star in radio right now and it is a good opportunity to work for him."

Clements: Texas behind in race for supercollider research project

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas can win the competition to lure the \$6 billion "supercollider" research project, but the state is trailing now, Gov. Bill Clements said Monday.

"Our competitors are Illinois and California," Clements said. "They both have advantages over us. There's no question about that."

"They have federal laboratories that are in place. They have a head-start on us. So we're coming from behind. . . . But that doesn't mean we can't come from behind and not only catch up, but win this race."

The governor's remarks came in a speech to the Texas National Research Laboratory Commission, the panel which will write the state's formal proposal for the massive project. Designed for use in high-energy

physics, the superconducting supercollider would be the largest piece of scientific research equipment ever built, officials say.

When completed in 1996, the supercollider will be housed in a 52-mile-long underground tunnel. The project is expected to employ 3,000 people and have an annual budget of \$270 million.

Clements said the project would be bigger than the NASA operation at Houston.

"This is indeed a very, very important project," he said. "It could be the most important project that we in Texas have ever received and put into place."

"It could mean more jobs; it could bring into Texas a larger continuing investment than the NASA installa-

tion that is such an asset to the Houston area."

Clements and U.S. Rep. Jake Pickle, D-Texas, both told the panel that although several sites in the state hope to attract the supercollider, all Texas officials eventually will have to push for a single location.

"I don't know of any place in Texas that doesn't want this project," Clements said. "Every potential site at this time is still potential. Nothing has been eliminated."

Pickle said, "At some point, I think our state probably will have to come up with a site. As soon as we can, we need to concentrate."

Clements said he expects that all members of the Texas congressional delegation will join in the effort.

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