



STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK

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WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

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MOTHER'S DAY

FROM CHEMO TO SWINGS, SMILES



COURTESY OF SMOOT FAMILY

Katelynn Smoot holds a healthy Lilah, 2, with Tyler Smoot and baby William.

Family to celebrate with cancer-free 2-year-old

SUSIE C. SPEAR
RockinghamNow

This year, Katelynn Smoot can dare to imagine a future with her little girl.

A future in which Lilah's blonde hair inches forth into a pixie after a long assault by chemotherapy.

A future with an energetic Lilah, tumbling in the yard amid the dandelions with her baby brother, William.

And a future that has a cancer-free

Lilah singing sweet songs to her mother's tummy as she hopes for a little sister to come.

"Last Mother's Day, I was holding Lilah while she was in the middle of chemotherapy, fighting cancer," Katelynn said.

"I told myself back then, 'Just be grateful. Just be grateful that she is still here.' I didn't know what this year would look like. I was super nervous that Lilah wasn't going to be here."

The diagnosis

Just 15 months ago, on the very day Katelynn went into labor with son William, Lilah was diagnosed with a rare and often deadly brain cancer.

The family was living in Greensboro. Lilah was in the care of her grandparents that day while Katelynn checked in at Moses Cone Memorial Hospital in Greensboro to

Please see **SMOOT**, Page A6

Toxic algae spreading in Lake Norman

Public urged to 'take precautions' at sites

JOE MARUSAK
The Charlotte Observer

Toxic algae is spreading again in Lake Norman coves and along the shore of an island near the Davidson College lake campus in

southern Iredell County, according to the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality.

Algal toxins can kill fish and dogs. North Carolina has never had a documented report of a person sickened by algal blooms, according to the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

Lake homeowners said they're

taking no chances.

"My grandchildren used to run down and jump in the water," Vicki Carbone told The Charlotte Observer on Tuesday at the home where she lives with her husband, Tom, overlooking a cove infested for a third straight year with Lyngbya algae. "Not now?"

The algae reemerged during a

hot-weather spurt in April, Tom Carbone said, and clumps were visible this week. "When it's really bad, it's like a mat of hairy green plant life," he said.

The Carbones live on Bridgeport Drive off Interstate 77 Langtree Road exit 31.

Please see **ALGAE**, Page A7

2 new NCHSAA sports approved
SPORTS, B1

Inside

360	C1	Comics	D3-6
Advice	D8	Sports	B1
Business	C5	Travel	D7
Classifieds	B7	What to Watch	D8

Weather

Partly sunny
High 79
Low 53
Forecast • A8

