LOCAL

BRIEFS

Fairview Lodge 339 installs new officers

Fairview Masonic Lodge #339, A.F. & A.M. of Kings Mountain, held installation of officers Saturday night at the Masonic Lodge.

B. Toney Wells was installing officer.

After installation and prayer, all officers and the attending public were invited into the dining hall where tables of delicious refreshments and pick ups were served by The Order of The Easter Star, Chapter

Fairview Lodge meeting Monday

Fairview Masonic Lodge #339, A.F. & A.M. of Kings Mountain will hold an **Emergent Communication** Monday, January 17 at 7:30 p.m.

A meal will be served at

All members and qualified Mason are invited to attend.

Trash pick up delayed next week

Because of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday Monday, the City of Kings Mountain has altered its trash pick up schedule for next week.

Monday's route will be picked up on Tuesday; Tuesday's on Wednesday; Wednesday's on Thursday; and Thursday's on Friday.

For more information call the Public Works Department at 734-0735.



Amanda Waldt, left, Ronda Collins holding Karisa Waldt, Tim Collins, Logan Collins, Terri Collins and Forest Collins pose for a photo soon after Army National Guard Sgt. Tim Collins returned home from Iraq.

Tim Collins back in KM after 10 months in Iraq

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER Staff Writer

A Kings Mountain man is happy to be back from Iraq and reunited with family.

Tim Collins spent the last 10 months with his Thomasville Army National Guard Unit in Iraq. Sgt.

Collins is a gunner with the field artillery unit.

After almost a year of military food and tent-living, Collins was looking forward to real food. His first meal back in the U.S. was a sirloin steak at Logan's restaurant.

Collins describes Iraq as a nation without spring or

fall. In October the blistering heat suddenly turned cold, he said.

While there he met a few Iraqis who worked with U.S. forces as interpreters. Despite their ability with language, the barrier was still too great to truly get to know the people, Collins said.

Collins' mother Ronda said her son now seems more appreciative of what he has.

"They don't waste anything," Collins said of the Iraqi people. He has watched them reclaim discarded shoes, pillows, sheets and food.

Collins said he believes the war in Iraq is necessary. He says some villagers would clap for him and fellow soldiers as they rode down the street.

"You don't see that on TV," he said. "It helps you realize you're doing good."

The role of women was new to Collins. They worked at home and in the fields but rarely entered the community.

Both parents say they are proud of their son.

He was keeping our freedom. I prayed for him every night," Forest Collins said.

His mom also looked to

"I trusted him in the

Lord," she said.

Collins' four-year-old son Logan would look at a photo of his dad before going to sleep each night, telling him "good night" and to come home.

Collins is grateful for the support of family, friends and co-workers at FMC in Bessemer City. His dad also works there.

The 1997 Kings Mountain High School graduate has been in the National Guard for seven years.

Anyone knowing a soldier who recently returned from Iraq is asked to call Andie Brymer at 704-739-7496 or e mail abrymer @kingsmountainherald.com with contact information.

Tax counseling for senior citizens

AARP volunteers will provide free personal income tax counseling and tax form preparation assistance to middle and low income taxpayers age 60 and older at the Kings Mountain Senior Center, 909 E. King St.

Trained volunteers will be available at the Center in February and March.

Call the Senior Center at 704 734-0447 for dates and times.

Dress your bedroom in the latest style!



LUXURY LINENS FOR LESS 114 Cone Street Cherryville (Behind Medical Center Pharmacy) Monday-Friday 9:00-6:00



Fairview Masonic Lodge #339, A.F. & A.M. of Kings Mountain, held installation of officers Saturday. Left to right, Freddie Delling, Junior Warden, Past Master of 2004, Travis Hawkins, Eddie Yarbro, new Master for 2005, Keith Clark, Senior Warden, Thomas Tindall, Chaplain. Second row, John Eddie Bridges, Senior Stewart, Norman Smith, Senior Deacon, B. Toney Wells, treasurer, Bobby Rucker, Installing Marshall, Bobby Tumbleson, secretary, and Johnny Hutchins, Junior Deacon. Not pictured John Grant Jr., Tyler, and Richard Williams, Junior Stewart.

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