

LOCAL

HAMMOND From 2A

She overcame her hesitancy, going on to get contact lenses and eventually work for the Christenbury Eye Center. After a few years in

the freestanding practice, Hammond returned to the hospital environment. "I was ready to get back into the hospital. I like the comradery with other directors," she said. When she isn't working, Hammond enjoys travel.

YMCA From 1A

non-renewal option. It would have expired in five years. While the contract council approved Tuesday night will last 10 years, either party can terminate the lease. YMCA officials have said the new contract will help the organization secure more donations. Fletcher criticized the YMCA baseball program saying seven city employees were caring for the fields. Former city councilman Jim Guyton was on the agenda to speak on the contract though he was not at the meeting. Jane Martin said the YMCA should pay the city for the use of the building. The city pays the YMCA \$300,000 annually to run its

recreation program. The organization is housed in the city's former recreation building. Martin said the \$300,000 goes to Shelby. The Cleveland County YMCA, which Kings Mountain YMCA is part of, is headquartered in that city. Martin called the scholarships a "charity handout." She said the application process was degrading. Martin also charged that the city was violating the constitutionally mandated separation of church and state by paying the YMCA to run its recreation program. The YMCA is a Christian organization. A church meets in the city owned building on Sundays. Martin also cited this as a breach of the Constitution. Council member Brenda Ross thanked Kings

She has visited western Europe several times and is planning a trip to eastern Europe this summer. Hammond also likes to shop and watch movies, especially dramas and love stories. She has two dogs, rescued mutts.

Mountain YMCA Director David Ozmore for answering her questions prior to the meeting. She had strong words for people who criticize from the sidelines. "Until you get involved please don't judge other people," Ross said. Her comments drew applause from the audience. Council members Mullinax and Howard Shipp quizzed Ozmore on the percent of African-Americans on staff in Kings Mountain. According to a 2003 study, 23 percent of the staff are minorities, Ozmore said. Council member Kay Hambricht praised the YMCA for including faith in God in its program. Council member Carl DeVane praised the YMCA staff as friendly, good people.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO These KMMS students promote the CCS Character Trait of Kindness. Front, left to right, Marlin Lawrence, Daniel Luangsay, Jessica Smith, Lyndsey Batchler, Casey Stafford. Middle, Jessica Sprouse, Elizabeth Sheffield, Victoria Crocker, Jonathan Inthisarath, Clay Mitchell. Back, McKenzie Blalock, Chris McKnight, Chris Jones, Marilyn Bunch, Alex Howell. Absent, Lindsey Swafford, Megan Brown.

KING From 2A

Mecklenburg officers. "The police presence was incredible, more than New York," King said. Not everyone along the route was happy, though. King said one protester held a sign saying, "Thank God

Sept. 11 happened." He saw another being led away in hand cuffs, apparently having attempted to unfurl a banner. King got his inauguration tickets through Congressman Patrick McHenry. Parade and ball tickets came through the state Republican Party. King serves on that organizations

executive committee. This was King's first inaugural. "I took part in nominating him. I thought I might as well see him inaugurated," he said. "This capped off the election of 2004 for me." Cleveland County resident Ruth Wilson and family also attended the inauguration.

ENGINEER From 1A

to ask the city for its approval of a state Parks and Recreation Trust Fund request. Under the terms of the grant, Rotary would have been required to come up with \$20,000 of the \$40,000 grant. Mayor Rick Murphrey said Rotary asked that the request be taken off the agenda. Council met in closed session to discuss real estate

acquisition. City Attorney Mickey Corry also updated council on its case against video poker establishments. No action was taken, according to Murphrey. Council approved a budget amendment to appropriate \$40,000 from the Norfolk Southern incentive for an information technology assessment and a trash compactor. Jim and Brenda Belt were honored for their work with the Mountain Rest Cemetery

luminaries. The couple along with other volunteers have lit luminaries in the cemetery on Christmas Eve for the past decade. REACT, a volunteer group which helps with traffic and other public safety matters, was honored for their work. Mayor Murphrey proclaimed February 6-12 Scouting Anniversary Week. Andie Brymer can be reached at abrymer@kingsmountain-herald.com or 704-739-7496.

COLD From 1A

heat to circulate around pipes. No city water lines burst during the recent cold snap. Wells said the ground has not yet gone through enough freeze and thaw cycles for that to happen this year. Requests for help with kerosene, other heating fuel and utility bills doubled last week at Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry. Last Wednesday Director Becky Lineberger saw 19 clients, double the normal number. Lineberger fears the cold

weather will mean more sickness. This could result in more requests for help with medications. Clients also are requesting coats and other winter wear. These and other donations can be dropped off during normal business hours: Monday, 2 to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m.; Thursday, 2 to 4 p.m. and Friday, 10 a.m. to noon. The ministry is located at the Kings Mountain Family YMCA. While cold weather often means house fires due to faulty heating devices, none were reported last week.

COUNCIL From 1A

either adopt an ordinance specifying it will use NIMS or must sign on to the county's ordinance. Mayor Rick Murphrey appointed Councilman Houston Corn,

Proctor and Fire Chief Frank Burns to a study committee. Murphrey also asked that city emergency officials meet with Cleveland and Gaston County EMS leaders to review a service response plan for the Gaston County portion of Kings Mountain.

Revival slated at Macedonia

Revival will be held February 6-9 at 7 p.m. at Macedonia Baptist Church, 1101 S. Battleground

Avenue, Kings Mountain. The public is invited. For more information call 739-6811.

\$2,500 reward offered for information about tigers

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER Staff Writer

Two tiger cubs, abandoned along N.C. 216 earlier this month, have attracted the attention of a national animal rights organization. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals is offering a \$2,500 reward for the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for abandoning the seventh-month-old animals. Lisa Wathe, a spokesperson for PETA, said so far no one has come forward.

strictors into the everglades. Cleveland County is one of a handful of counties in North Carolina that have outlawed the private ownership of exotic animals. Across the country ordinances vary. Wathe described this as a "patchwork of laws." "The current system is not working," she said. "Private ownership of exotic animals needs to be banned, period. It's time for people to

acknowledge across the board exotic animals do not make appropriate pets." Wathe said the N.C. 216 tigers have received national attention. The group also monitors media outlets across the country for cases like this one. PETA advocates that animals not be used for food, clothing, experimentation nor entertainment. To learn more, visit www.peta.org.

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KM WEATHER REPORT

Table with weather data: Total precipitation .02, Maximum 1 day .02 (22nd), Month to date 1.69, Low temperature 14 (23rd), High temperature 58 (25th), Avg. temperature 35.5, Year Ago .54*, .54 (25th), 1.41, 19 (19th), 64 (24th), 37.9

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