

News Briefs

Diabetic shoes available

A diabetic shoe specialist will be available at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life & Conference Center Thursday, Jan. 29, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 to measure feet of persons for shoes covered by Medicare Part and provide a prescription form to be filled by your doctor.

BBQ fundraiser planned

East Gold Street Wesleyan Church, 701 E. Gold St., is having a BBQ fundraiser on January 30 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Call the church office or come by to purchase your plate. The cost is \$6 per plate. Deliveries will be made for 10 or more orders and to local businesses.

Worship service offered

Kingdom Life Covenant Ministries, 114 S. Railroad Avenue, is hosting "Can you hear Him calling?" worship service at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 30, with speaker Minister Gladys Byers of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Kings Mountain. For more information, call the Women of Noble Character ministry team at 704-734-0082.

Grief support group

"Reflections," a grief support group, meets Thursday, Feb. 22, and Thursday, Feb. 29, from 10:30 a.m.-noon at Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby. Call 704-487-4677 for more information.

Photography club shows art

The Carolina ShutterLight Society is presently displaying their photography at the Cleveland County Administration building on Marion St., Shelby.

This art show is due in part to efforts of the Southern Arts Society in Kings Mountain and the Cleveland County Arts Council in Shelby. The show will run through the first quarter of 2009. It is open to the public.

Head Start accepting applications

Cleveland County Head Start Program is accepting applications for children for the 2009-10 school year at the following schools: Bethware, East, Grover, North, Graham, James Love, Washington, Casar and Fallston elementary.

The program accepts eligible children at least four years old or who will turn four by Aug. 31, 2009. Four year olds will be given priority and eligible three year old children will fill any remaining openings. Head Start is designed for families with low to moderate income, regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, special needs or disabling condition.

For more information or an application, call Cleveland County Head Start at 704-476-8064.

Senior Center trips, calendar set

The Foothills Senior Travel Association, a coalition of the Patrick Center, the Neal Senior Center in Shelby, the Rutherford Senior Center, and Travel Lynx, is offering the following trips to seniors through March 26.

Jan. 29: "Smoke on the Mountain Homecoming" dinner theater; cost - \$73, includes buffet lunch and 1945 comedy theater with 20 Bluegrass Gospel favorites.

Feb. 13: "Country Earls" dinner and dancing; cost - \$42 per person, includes buffet dinner and country western dancing to Earl's Dance Band.

Feb. 17: BMW Plant tour and Gaffney outlets; cost - \$41 per person, includes tour, lunch and trip to Gaffney outlets.

Feb. 25: "Church Basement Ladies" dinner theater; cost - \$62 per person, includes buffet lunch and musical comedy theater.

March 16: "Ozark Jubilee" in Newberry, SC; cost - \$62 per person, includes lunch and comedy theater with Gospel and Bluegrass music.

March 26: Popcorn Farm in Yadkin Valley; cost - \$42 per person, includes tours of a cookie factory, popcorn farm, lunch and shopping trip.

The following events are planned to be held at the Patrick Senior Center through the month of February.

Feb. 13: 8:30-10:30 a.m. - Computer class I; 10:30-12:30 - Computer class II; 10:30-11:30 a.m. - Valentine's Day program in Conference rooms I & II

Feb. 17: Tax Assistance (by appointment only); 11-11:30 a.m. - Inspirational words; 12:15 p.m. - Volunteer meeting; 1 p.m. - AARP meeting

Feb. 18: 10-11:30 a.m. - Blood pressure clinic; 10:45 a.m. - East Elementary Birthday Party; 1-3 p.m. - SHIIP Counseling (by appointment only); 1:30-4:30 p.m. - Duplicate Bridge

Feb. 19: 1:30 p.m. - Duplicate Bridge

Feb. 24: 12-2 p.m. - Shopping

Feb. 25: Personal Care Services (by appointment only); 1-3 p.m. - SHIIP Counseling (by appointment only)

Feb. 26: 12-2 p.m. - Shopping

Feb. 27: Last day for computer classes; 10:45-11:30 a.m. - Senior Safety by Victoria Martin, girl scout, in dining room

School News

Inauguration week exciting for 7th grader Elaina Francis

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain Middle School 7th grader Elaina Francis texted her parents from the nation's capital so that they could enjoy the exciting festivities she attended surrounding the inauguration of America's 44th U. S. President.

Elaina, 12, was invited to attend the Junior Presidential Inaugural Leadership Conference on behalf of the Congressional Youth Council.

Her parents, Rick and Deana Francis, drove her to Bethesda, Md. Marriott on Friday and returned to accompany her home last Wednesday. Because of the crowds and heavy traffic, it took Rick 1 1/2 hours to drive 20 miles, so it was late when the family pulled into their driveway. That week he clocked 20,000 miles on his vehicle.

Elaina, no stranger to leadership conferences, attended her first conference at age 8 at Madison University in West Virginia, her second academic conference at the 4-H Conference Center at Chevy Chase, Md., her third conference at Wake Forest University and last week had the time of her life standing about two football fields back from where President Barack Obama took the oath of office.

An honor student, Francis was nominated for her first leadership conference by her teacher, Mrs. Charlene Maxey. "I got a little bit homesick," she admitted, but she was eight years old at the time. Since then there's been no time to be homesick.

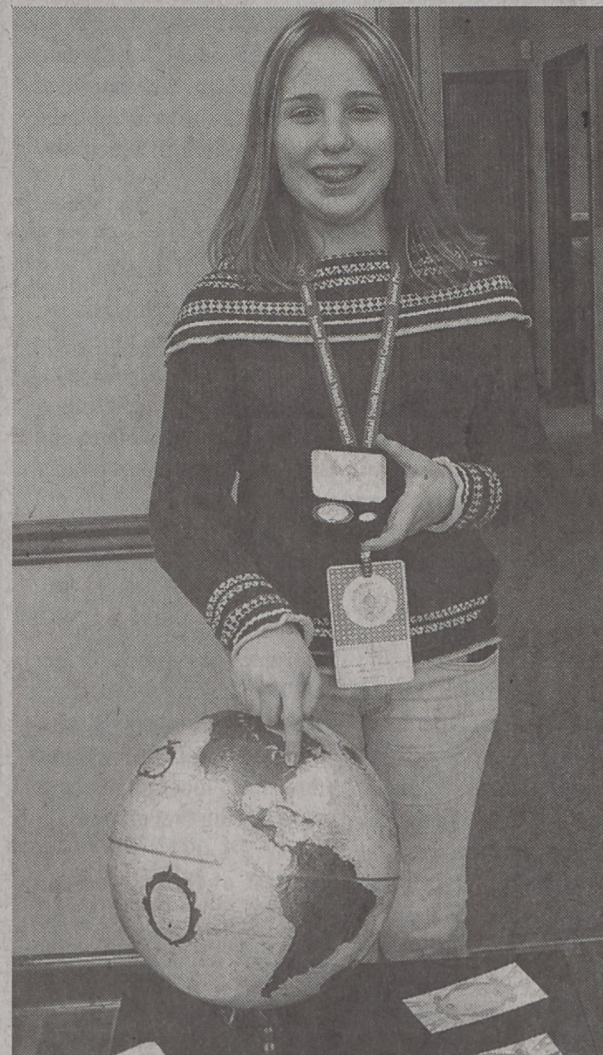
Who were her favorite speakers last week? Thrilled to meet former U. S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, she said he allowed questions from his young audience. "I liked what he said about perseverance, not giving up on goals, and his military experience," she said. "Mr. Powell was really my favorite of the three special guests," she said.

"We got up at 5 a.m. every day and didn't get to bed until after midnight," said Elaina, so the vivacious youth slept on the way home. But she didn't mind losing "a little shut eye, it was fun." The group took a river cruise on The Spirit of Washington, listened to outstanding speakers, and Elaina wore the new soft pink long formal that her parents bought her for the Youth Ball. With 2,000 young people at the conference and 8,000 in the college group, the dance floor was too crowded to shake a leg.

Rick Francis received daily pictures, including a photo of bone-chilling ice and crowds at the inauguration.

And Elaina brought home a pin and medallion, tickets, and programs to show to her friends at school and to keep in her memory book of the special events.

At KMMS, Elaina is manager of the Patriot girls basketball team. An astute reader, she loves math and history and a month ago scored in the top 20 percent of high school juniors in SAT tests conducted by Duke Univer-



ELAINA FRANCIS

sity's TIPIC program. A member of First Baptist Church, she is active in the youth group and youth choir. She is the granddaughter of Sonja and Gerald Lovelace of Kings Mountain and Barbara and Jack Hendrick and Bill Francis, all of Shelby and great-granddaughter of the late Hilda and Hag Goforth of Kings Mountain. She has been a life-long junior member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 155, signed up by her late great-grandmother.

After high school graduation Elaina plans to attend N. C. State University and later medical school. She aspires to be a pediatrician.

Someday Elaina wants to tell her children about Jan. 20, 2009 when she was a part of history.

Awards Program to be held Feb. 2

Bethware Elementary School will have its second nine weeks awards program PK-4 on Monday, Feb. 2, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in the gymnasium. Parents are invited.

Sign of times or test of times?

By EMILY WEAVER
Editor

Compared to other months from last year, fewer construction projects were listed on the end-of-December report sent in from the city's codes department.

Was the fall in building permits due to the economy? Was the decrease a result of recent layoffs? Were the figures a sign of the times?

The answer may be "yes" to all of the above.

City Codes Dir. Holly Black said that the construction of single family dwellings has decreased, but she added, that's normal this time of year.

"January and December are usually slow times for

building," she said. "Construction is weather-dependent a lot of times."

The colder weather tends to keep more people indoors. Even though a lot of new construction seems to be in hibernation this time of year, Black said that they have seen an increase in remodeling projects.

"We've seen more people try to fix up a place that they're in," she said. "That, too, usually increases this time of year because it's more indoor work."

The plumbing repairs, the electrical work, the mechanical maintenance seem to take precedence over the building permits in December, but then again those permits are generally cheaper than the ones for new con-

struction. Even aside from the economy and layoffs, money tends to be tight around Christmastime and the weeks that follow.

"People are less apt to go out and spend a bunch of money right now unless they absolutely have to," Black said. "(But)

if you've got the funds this is the time to build the way, the interest rates are."

The interest rates have fallen over the past year, partly due to federal cuts and a bailout plan, which were

implemented to encourage banks to lend again and to unslump a depressing housing market.

But December's few construction permits may not be an indicator of more doom and gloom. "The true tell will be in the spring," Black said, when the permits for new building projects usually tend to pick back up. "Will we have an increase then? Will we start seeing those permits coming back?"

That may be the true test of the building times.

42 cent forum

Letter to the editor...

To the Editor:

As you know the Shriners have been operating a network of 22 hospitals since 1922 at absolutely no charge to the parents of a burned or crippled child. We take no money from the federal or state government. Our hospitals are operated with donations from the communities that we live in.

It takes well over \$1,000,000.00 each and every day to operate these hospitals. Children receive the best care available. Fund raising goes on throughout the year in all 50 states, Canada and Mexico. Each club has at least one and sometime more than one fundraiser each year.

Getting the word out to the public is essential to our success.

The annual spring BBQ fundraiser will be held this year on April 4 beginning at 11 a.m. on the vacant lot at the corner of York Road and East Gold Street in Kings Mountain. Mark this date on your calendar.

DENNIS C. REEL

Secretary

White Plains Shrine Club

Kings Mountain

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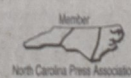
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